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Legal clinic opens doors

By William Doyle-Marshall

WITH Ugandan-born Davies Bagambiire at its helm, Canada's first African Canadian Legal Clinic focussing on test case litigation has formally opened its doors for business.

The clinic's two primary mandates include involvement in test case litigations and acting as an instrument of social change.

Test case litigation identifies problem areas as they relate to

racial discrimination and take them through the court system even possibly to the Supreme Court of Canada to persuade judges to hand down decisions that will assist in the process of achieving equality and subsequently eliminating racism.

The African Canadian Legal Clinic has pledged itself to consult with the community and grassroots organisations irrespective of ideology. "Irrespective of any other differences, the clinic will be there

to listen to the concerns of our community," the executive director promised.

According to Bagambiire, the community should expect applications being made on its behalf to become intervenors in ongoing court cases. In addition there should be an evaluation of different situations that right now are of prime concern to the community and make attempts to give them the highest priority.

Outreach sessions in outlying

communities like Windsor, Chatham and Ottawa will carry the message that the clinic is not Toronto centred. "We want to hear their concerns on a first hand basis. You have to hear from the people on a first hand basis," the executive director stressed.

Ontario Attorney General Marion Boyd reminded the gathering of community representatives and supporters there is great support within her ministry for the clinic. She considered the clinic's

opening a moment in Ontario's history which will be a significant benchmark for human rights in the province.

The clinic's mandate to challenge systemic racism will pioneer critical race litigation in the administration and application of Canadian law, the attorney general said.

"Vigorous scrutiny of our laws and our system of justice is essential if we are going to ensure a just society," Boyd affirmed.

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

Spring Valley to be site of educational programme

By Lester Hinds

NEW YORK
THE village of Spring Valley in Rockland County has been selected as the site for New York State's first Educational Excellence for Children with Environmental Limitations (EXCELL) housing project.

This was announced by Jamaican-born Mayor, Allan Thompson recently.

A grant, totalling just over \$2.8 million has been made available by Governor Mario Cuomo and State Housing Commissioner Donald Perin to finance the scheme. Under the pilot project the housing scheme, to be built at Sneden Place, will consist of 68 housing units of one, two and three bedrooms in three, two storey build-

ing tutorial center which will house the EXCELL programme and be constructed on 3,000 feet of

land as the site for the pilot project.

"I lobbied hard for this programme because I believed it to be a worthwhile one", said Mayor Thompson.

The developer for the scheme is Sneden Place Development Corporation.

A second scheme, to be built at Prospect Gardens at a cost of just over \$1.2 million was also announced by the Mayor.

This scheme will consist of 14 units broken into one, two and three bedroom units.

The Prospect Gardens scheme, which is for people in the low or moderate income brackets, is a joint public/private venture between Monsey Lumber and Supply Corporation and the Martin Luther King Center, a community-based organisation.

Mayor Allan Thompson in announcing the two scheme said ground for the housing units will be broken in early Spring.



Doyle-Marshall photo
 Davies Bagambiive, executive director of the new African Canadian Legal Clinic, second from left, is seen with guests at the official opening ceremony on October 28. Jamaican Attorney Errol Townset and Charis Newton, a race relations specialist with the York Board of Education, were among Torontonians at the function. The clinic is located at 330 Bay Street, downtown Toronto.

Hugh Shearer's nephew in boating mishap

By Ashante Infantry

TORONTO
 OMAR Shearer, 25, nephew of former Prime Minister, Hugh

Shearer, was treated for dehydration, sunburn, and cuts to both feet at a local hospital. He is waiting anxiously in Florida along with Shearer's father and Maddott's

Friday evening.

The divers, clad in wet suits, decided to swim for a navigational platform five miles away. Strong winds and waves separated the