

NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

The Bernadette N. Swan Social Care Foundation (BNSSCF) having received financial support in 2003 from the Alberta Lottery Fund through the Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund, the City of Edmonton Community Services and the Multiculturalism and Human Rights of the Department of Canadian Heritage, took the initiative to research and to collect information about the wellbeing of Black seniors in Edmonton. (Black alludes to Canadian born, African and Caribbean Immigrants and Refugees). This research was done through the project titled "Needs Assessment/Barrier Identification for Black Seniors in Edmonton".

The BNSSCF brought together individuals and members from religious and secular organizations to discuss and investigate the barriers Black seniors face in accessing resources for their general welfare. In response, BNSSCF undertook a systematic inquiry:

- 1) To look into a variety of needs which included general health, diet, cultural comfort, as well as a community centre with a section for seniors' activities, and
- 2) To begin addressing difficulties experienced by Black seniors because of barriers to accessing services.

A response by the BNSSCF was to produce a document entitled Needs Assessment/Barrier Identification for Black Seniors in

Edmonton, with the investigative assistance of Psychotherapist Dr. Neville Case, Ed. D., RSW, who has also worked in the field of psycho geriatrics.

- This is the first Needs Assessment/Barrier Identification done for Black Seniors in Edmonton.

THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY:

Showed that they were certain issues that were significant in order of magnitude. Cultural sensitivity/Isolation 84%, Recreation 81%, Education/Information 76%, Self-worth 73%, Cultural Competency 72%, Wellness 64%, Family 61%, Accommodation 53%. Mobility 49%.