

Hello Executive Team of the Saskatchewan Library Association,

My name is Shayna Jones and I am a professional performance artist, specializing in the oral storytelling of Afrocentric folklore and contemporary experience. I am also the founder of a nationally funded artistic inquiry called *Black and Rural*. **The aim of *Black and Rural* is to gather, honour, and showcase the reflections and insights of Canadians of African ancestry tucked away on the countryside.** Individuals who live rurally at present, or who have in the past, are welcome to include their voice through the following means:

- one on one conversation with me via phone or Zoom;
- an online survey;
- and/or through submissions of their own creative choosing (poetry, short stories, music, photography, etc.).

The responses will be curated for inclusion on the *Black and Rural* legacy website and also sculpted into a theatrical performance piece that will be toured to rural and urban settings across Canada.

In partnership with HeritageSask and the Saskatchewan African Canadian History Museum (SACHM), I am also giving special focus to Saskatchewan black experience. **Between September and December 2021, I am gathering stories specifically from individuals of African descent in rural Saskatchewan.** The means of gathering will be the same as listed above. The responses will be crafted into a script, to be published by HeritageSask, and presented as a mini-theatrical performance by SACHM at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in spring of 2022.

We are actively looking for participants. Please distribute this email broadly and freely invite anyone you know who may be interested in participating. They may connect to me and learn more about the project through any of the following means:

Email: info@blackandrural.com

Web: www.blackandrural.com

Facebook: @blackandruralproject

Please reach out with any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

Shayna Jones

Black + Rural Founder

www.blackandrural.com

www.wearestoryfolk.com

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"until the story of the hunt is told by the Lion, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter." - African proverb