

Nunes, Neville  
Teacher (ret.)  
Hamilton Board of Education, Ontario, Canada

Neville Nunes immigrated to Canada in 1959 to pursue a university education. He began his teaching career in Jamaica as a “pupil” teacher in 1946 at Providence Elementary School; after graduating from Mico College in 1953, he returned to Providence in 1954 before teaching at Cornwall College in Motego Bay, where he remained until 1965. His first position in Canada was as a principal’s assistant in 1965. In 1967 he began teaching with the Hamilton board of education, and taught Special Education at Elementary and Secondary Schools (1970 – 68).

In 1978 the Hamilton and District Jamaican Association expressed their view to the Board of Education regarding problems associated with programming for students who had arrived from the West Indies. This resulted in a survey on admission and placement by the Board and a report was made to the Education Management Committee in 1979. As a result the Hamilton Board of Education established a Task Force on Special Needs in 1980. The Task Force, acknowledged that the number of visible minorities had increased during the 1970s and would likely continue, recommended that “the Board of Education provide specific in-service to assist teachers to understand the special needs of minority students”. When the Canadian Federal Government published an “Equality Now” document in 1984, Neville Nunes was invited to work on the committee that developed the Education section of Equality Now and in 1985 he proposed a Schematic Model of a Procedure Chart for English as a Second Language / Dialect (ESL/D) students, presently known as English Skills Development. It followed that Neville Nunes was appointed ESL / ESD Consultant in 1985. He supervised the phenomenal growth of this program until his retirement in 1995.

**Highlights:** he is credited with having introduced Black History Month to Hamilton area schools; he is most proud of the Underground Railway Project, a cultural / Educational exchange with the Buffalo N.Y. U.S.A. School Board, as well as his role in founding Black Youth Achievement, a group promoting excellence in schools. He established a mentorship program in which members of the African Canadian Association at McMaster University worked with at – risk students to improve their school performance.

At the Board level where he exemplified himself as a bona fide educator, He conducted workshops and made presentations at conferences, contributed educational articles on topical issues for journal publications, piloted several significant projects including the Multicultural Education Policy designed specifically for Anslie Wood Vocational School.

A summer writing team led by Neville Nunes produced multi-cultural reading package for schools, incorporating written works by Black authors. When Children’s Literature; toward understanding the Caribbean was produced, Neville Nunes introduced all Elementary teacher librarians to this Kindergarten to Eight Curriculum Guide.

In Community affairs, he has been acclaimed as one of the great contributors. He was president of the Jamaican Association, a member of the Settlement and Integration Advisory Committee, Organizational Change, a member of Cultural Interpreters Advisory Committee, a member of the Hamilton Spectator Editorial Advisory Board, and Community Editorial Board. He has continued to play an active role in the local community, and sits on the Board of directors of the John Howard Society Ontario. He is a board member of the Kiwanis of East Hamilton, currently a vice – president and member of the Board of Directors for the newly created Kiwanis Foundation, a member of Crime Prevention Ontario, Zone – 4, and a former representative of the United Way’s New Initiatives Fund. He is an active member of the Canadian Alliance of Black Educators, and has continued to be a guest speaker on anti-racism in schools. In his Church community he has been an Organist for thirty years in the Lutheran Church.

Currently he is a member of the Advisory Committee at the Workers Art and Heritage Centre which saw the development of the African Canadian Workers Project “... and Still I Rise”, a History of African Canadian Workers in Ontario 1990 to present. He is also a member of the Board for the Spelling Bee of Canada, and Chair of the Hamilton Branch.

Almost four years ago, in a Heart Health Committee discussion Neville suggested having a Festival of Hearts to promote a healthy community. The Hearts he has used to popularize his ideas are attached. Two workshops and presence at Gage Park’s Festival of Friends will be \*\*\*\*\* again this year.

**Awards:**

1995 - Per Lifetime Professional Achievement by Jamaica Foundation.  
- Recognition by the Council for Exceptional Children  
- Certificate of Merit by Mayor’s Committee Against Racism and Discrimination.

1996 - Reverend John Holland Award in Education by the Hamilton Black History Committee.

1997 - Community Service Award by the Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO).

1999 - For longstanding dedication and contribution to education by the Afro Canadian Caribbean Association.

2003 - L. Ron Hubbard Humanitarian Award.

**Reviewd In:**

The Hamilton Spectator  
The Weekly Gleaner

**Education:**

MSc. Education	Niagara University	1975
BA.	McMaster University	1962
Cert., Teaching	Mico College	1953

**Role Models:**

The Late E.A. Barrett	Headmaster Cornwall College
The Late O.A. Black	Headmaster Providence Elementary

**Motto:**

Organize to maximize : educate to liberate