



JUNE 2024 NEWSFLASH

Calgary Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi

Kwibuka 30 - Remember/Unite/Renew, was held at Mount Royal University on April 13, 2024 to commemorate 30 years since the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The event was well attended by such a variety of people. Those who are originally from Rwanda, friends and family, people who have been to Rwanda, and those who are supportive of the community here in Calgary.

The ceremony started with the singing of the Canadian and Rwandan national anthems. MLA Ric McIver gave a heartfelt welcome emphasizing the importance of the annual event and recognizing the strength of the Rwandan Calgarian community.

Each year, several stories are told by survivors of their experience during the genocide. These stories were full of incredible hope and determination, amidst the reality of the horror and grief they experienced.

A panel discussion focused on reconciliation and resilience and included two young men who were born in Canada into Rwandan families. Although these young men did not live through it and haven't lived in Rwanda, they have seen how the lasting impacts from the genocide are now being passed down to their generation. This highlights why it is so important that we support 'second generation survivors' as well as those who did live through the genocide. These future leaders are committed to carry on the momentum of the commemoration motto: 'Never Forget, Never Again'.

The tradition of placing candles at the front of the room in and around a large '30' was observed with solemn respect and remembrance.

It is a very important event in the life of this community and we would urge people to attend next year in support of our Rwandan friends.

-Diane Altwasser and Joy Reneker, INSPIRE!africa board members



Photo Credit: Rwanda Canadian Society of Calgary

Inspiring Stories of Forgiveness

In [this article](#) from The Guardian, genocide survivors and perpetrators share incredible stories about how they are now able to not only forgive, but to live in friendship with each other thanks to the therapy they have received. Their inspiring stories are quite humbling, and we could all learn from them.



Save the Date – 2024 Fundraiser!

We already planning this year's fundraiser and we hope to see you there! We had so much fun last year that we are going to host a family friendly coffee house again. And of course, our always popular African Market will be back with crafts from Rwanda for you to purchase!

Where: Scarboro Community Association: 1737 14 Ave SW, Calgary (Free parking behind the tennis courts)

When: Saturday, November 16

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