

# ACOMI 2024 Annual General Meeting

***Repositioning ACOMI for greater growth and  
impact!***





# Agenda

- **Call to Order & Welcome Remarks- Rene Tondji-Simen  
Chair ACOMI Board**
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **AGM Executive Report- Maggie Yeboah  
Executive Director**
- **Financial Report- Frank Indome- ACOMI Treasurer**
- **Motions: - Adoption of AGM Report**
  - Approval of Financial Report - Frank Indome
  - Retain Craig Ross as Auditors for 2025
- **Program Updates and Upcoming events**
  - BHM- Traditional Drumming Festival & Annual ART Exhibition
  - Folklorama 2025 - Titi Tijani
  - New Provincial Government Entrepreneurship Announcement
  - ACOMI Affiliates Benefits
  - Affordable Housing Project
- **Vote of Thanks- Rev. Wilson Akinwale**
- **AOB: - Community Announcements**
- **Closing and Adjournment**



# Board Chair Welcome Remarks

Dear friends, affiliates, donors, and community members,

I am honored to stand before you today as the new Chair of the ACOMI Board. This is my first time leading our Annual General Meeting, and I am excited to share this moment with all of you.

Our AGM is more than just a meeting—it's more of a family gathering and community town hall meeting. It is a time for us to come together as a community to celebrate our progress, talk about the challenges we still face, and find ways to make life better for everyone.

This year's AGM is a special one, not just for me; it is especially significant and extra special as we welcome our new Executive Director, Maggie Yeboah. She will be sharing with us the great work ACOMI has done in 2024. As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, it is important to recognize that none of this would have been possible without the support of our affiliates and partners, the dedication of our Board members, and the hard work of our staff and volunteers.

We are proud of what we've accomplished. ACOMI is now a strong voice for the Black community in Manitoba. With your support, we will continue to grow and make an even bigger impact.

Thank you all for being here. Welcome to this year's AGM!

# Executive Director's AGM Report

I am delighted and honoured to join the Chair of the ACOMI Board, Rene Tondji-Simen, to welcome you all to what would be a historic Annual General Meeting . Like you all know ,this will be the first AGM in my new role as Executive Director of ACOMI and it is my pleasure to share with you some of the highlights of what we all collaboratively achieved in 2024.



In 2024, ACOMI focused on building a stronger, more sustainable organization to better serve and empower Manitoba's Black community. We strengthened our leadership by welcoming a new Executive Director and Board Chair, improved our governance, and enhanced our communication efforts to increase visibility and engagement.

At the same time, we continued running programs for youth, seniors, and newcomers, expanding access to education, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and digital skills. We also formed new partnerships to reach more people and create more opportunities.

Through these efforts, ACOMI has repositioned itself as a leading Black-led organization in Manitoba. I will share with you a little more details of our programs and accomplishments in 2024.

# Institutional Strengthening and Organizational Capacity Building

Our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan guided our efforts to strengthen ACOMI. We focused on three key areas: funding, advocacy, and capacity building.

We began the reorganization of our governance structure and the enhancement of our leadership capacity. To improve leadership, as mentioned earlier, ACOMI now has a substantive Executive Director and a new Board Chair. We also built a stronger communications team and strengthened our media and communications engagement by constituting a 5-member media team headed by ACOMI’s Board Member, Rev Wilson Akinwale. This has helped to revamp our newsletter and improve how we share information with the community.

As part of our rebranding, we redesigned our website, newsletter, and other materials to better connect with our community and stakeholders.



# **ACOMI Resource Centres: *Creating Safe spaces for Community Interactions***



ACOMI's two program locations in Winnipeg continue to be important community assets.

The ACOMI Resource Centre on Kennedy Street offers free income tax services, computer access, and supports Manitoba Housing tenants in six buildings ( 355, 357, 388, 400, 401 Kennedy and 475 Sargent) with activities like tenant meetings, holiday celebrations, field trips, summer BBQ, bingo, movie nights, and sports outings.

The ACOMI Cultural Centre on Nassau Street hosts programs for youth and seniors, digital literacy classes, summer programs, and town hall meetings. For the second year running, this Centre hosted over 50 events, serving more than 4,000 people across both locations.

As demand grows, we are working towards building a larger African Centre with more space for programs and affordable housing for the Black community in Manitoba



# Cultural Programming

One of ACOMI 's mandates is the preservation and promotion of African culture. As part of our 2024 Black History Month initiatives, we held the second edition of the Traditional Art and Storytelling exhibition titled "Black History through Art,“. We also hosted traditional Board games and drumming events.

The high point of our cultural programming has also always been the Africa Pavilion at the Folklorama festival. Unfortunately , due to logistical challenges, we could not host the event in 2024 but we organized a tour of some of the pavilions for seniors in our community. However, we will be making an announcement on the 2025 edition at this meeting.





# Financial Literacy and Economic empowerment

Our financial literacy program, supported by SEED Winnipeg, helps low-income families, newcomers, youth, and seniors gain essential financial skills for employment and money management. We offer free tax filing services, helping community members receive over \$1.5 million in benefits annually, with over 1,000 filings for the fourth consecutive year. In 2024, our records show that 1167 individuals filed their taxes through ACOMI's free income tax clinic.

ACOMI also provided financial literacy workshops and entrepreneurship support, empowering individuals to secure jobs and start businesses. In 2025, we aim to expand our entrepreneurship initiatives to create more opportunities for our community members to start and successfully run their own businesses.

**ACOMI**  
AFRICAN COMMUNITIES OF MANITOBA INC.

Protect Yourself from Scams  
and Online Fraud this Season!

FINANCIAL LITERACY SESSION

TOPIC:  
**SCAM & ONLINE FRAUD  
AWARENESS**

MONDAY  
**25**  
NOV. 2024

TIME:  
**6:00PM  
(EST)**

LOCATION:  
**ZOOM**

Learn how to spot, prevent, and protect yourself from online scams!

In this virtual workshop, you'll discover:

- Common online fraud schemes and scams to watch out for.
- Practical tips for safeguarding your personal information.
- Steps to take if you or someone you know becomes a victim of fraud.

This is a free session!  
All are welcome to attend.

R.S.V.P.:  
Register now to receive  
your Zoom link

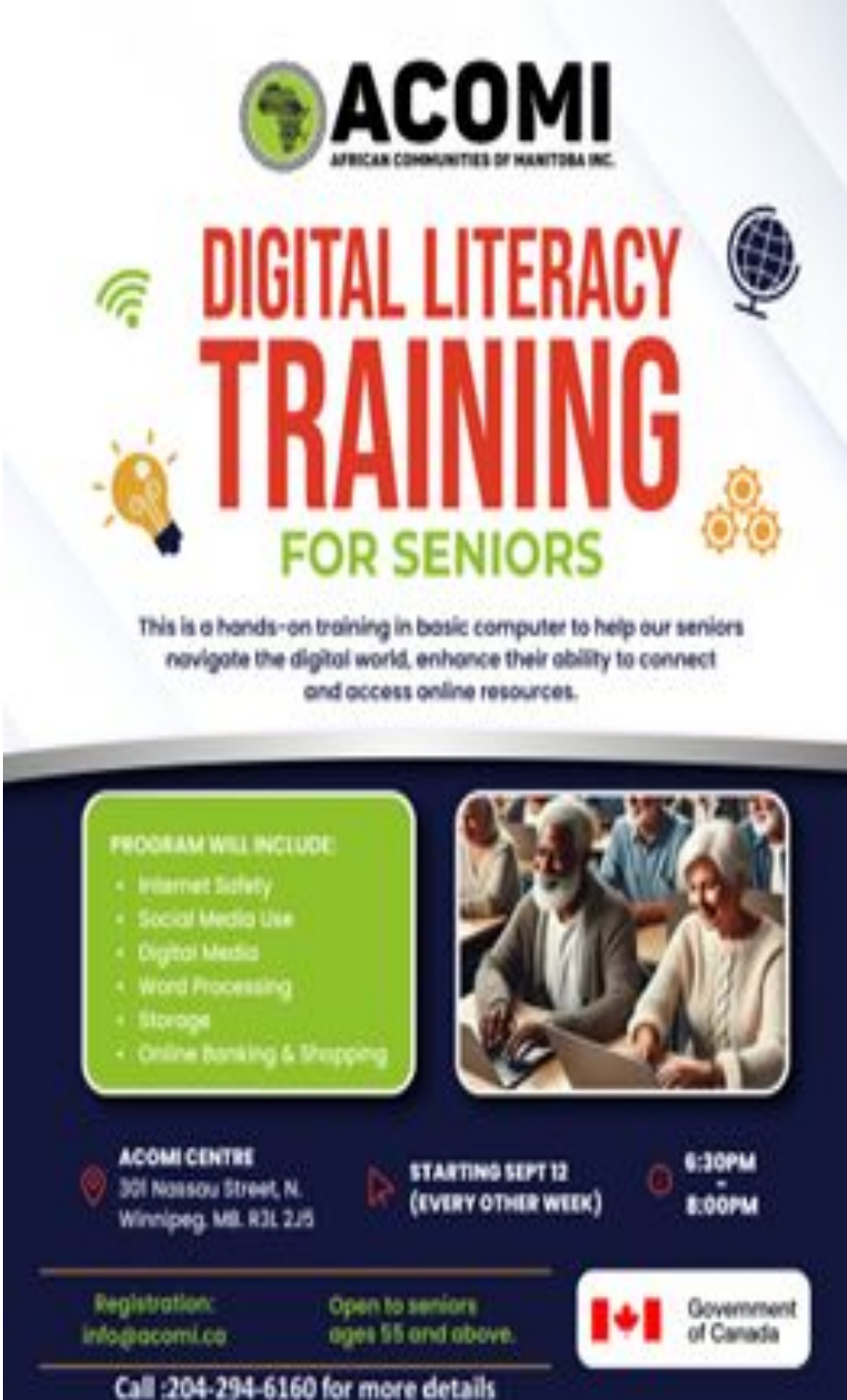
STAY INFORMED, STAY SAFE

# Promoting digital inclusion for Youth and Seniors

Our Digital Literacy Program helps Black, African, and Caribbean youth, as well as other visible minorities, gain essential digital skills. It promotes digital inclusion and empowers young people to explore coding, website development, and game creation through our summer coding bootcamp.

We also ran a Seniors Digital Literacy Program, offering hands-on training in basic computer skills to help seniors navigate the digital world. They learn about internet safety, social media, word processing, online banking, and more.

This year, 40 youth and seniors participated in our coding camp and Computer training classes.



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**DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING**  
FOR SENIORS

This is a hands-on training in basic computer to help our seniors navigate the digital world, enhance their ability to connect and access online resources.

**PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE:**

- Internet Safety
- Social Media Use
- Digital Media
- Word Processing
- Storage
- Online Banking & Shopping

**ACOMI CENTRE**  
301 Nassau Street, N.  
Winnipeg, MB. R3L 2J5

**STARTING SEPT 12**  
(EVERY OTHER WEEK)

**6:30PM - 8:00PM**

Registration: [info@acoml.ca](http://info@acoml.ca) Open to seniors ages 55 and above.

Call :204-294-6160 for more details

Government of Canada

# ACOMI Seniors Program

In 2024 we sustained our seniors' program to provide opportunities and safe spaces for seniors to meet, socialize and engage in physical and social activities.

During this period more than 125 seniors participated in activities that included Folklorama Tour, board games, free tickets to sports games, financial literacy sessions and computer training. We received Funding from **Canadian Women Foundation for Manitoba Women For Women of South Sudan Inc.** We also partnered with **Pan African legacy organization** to reach more seniors through the help of the funding we received from **Winnipeg Foundations Community Impact Committee** grant to support senior program

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**SENIORS FOLKLORAMA TOUR**  
Experience the Magic of Folklorama!

Are you a senior looking for an unforgettable cultural experience?  
Join us for the ACOMI Seniors Folklorama Tour!

**FREE**

**ACOMI Seniors Folklorama tours-Aug 15, 2024**

At the Latin American Pavilion  
At the Egyptian Pavilion

**ACOMI Seniors Folklorama tours-Aug 16, 2024**

Ethiopian Pavilion  
The Caribbean Pavilion

<b>What's Included:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Free Entrance</li><li>Transportation</li><li>Dinner at Selected Pavilions</li></ul>	<b>Tour Dates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1st Tour: Thurs, August 15   5:00PM</li><li>2nd Tour: Friday, August 16   5:00PM</li></ul>	<b>How to Book Your Spot:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Email: <a href="mailto:info@acominc.ca">info@acominc.ca</a></li></ul>
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**ACOMI**  
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**SENIORS GAME NIGHT 2024**

**Free Tickets to Watch the Winnipeg Goldeyes vs Lincoln**  
Join us for an exciting evening at Blue Cross Park!

**BLUE CROSS PARK**  
Winnipeg, Canada.

**FRIDAY 30TH, AUGUST, 2024**

**7:00PM**

Don't miss this chance to cheer on the Winnipeg Goldeyes with friends and fellow seniors!

Limited Tickets Available - Act fast!  
Email: [info@acominc.ca](mailto:info@acominc.ca) to secure your tickets today!

# ACOMI Youth Program: Empowering the Next Generation

ACOMI's *All-That-Kids-Can-Be* program funded by **United Way** helps young people develop leadership skills, adopt healthy lifestyles, and navigate integration challenges. It provides mentorship, summer job opportunities, and financial aid through bursaries and scholarships.



In 2024, 275 youth participated in Summer programs, coding classes, excursions and cultural events. We offered 5 young people paid work experience and awarded 8 bursaries through the Andre Doumbe Award. As a community partner for the RBC Future Launch Scholarship, ACOMI has helped one young person from our community secure \$40,000 scholarships for the past two years—this year, we are delighted to announce that two of our nominees have been selected as recipient of the award.

Another significant development in our youth program is that we are expanding our reach by reintroducing school-based after-school programs at Grant Park High School. ACOMI remains committed to supporting and empowering youth for a brighter future

These and many more accomplishments would not have been achieved without the support and funding from our ever increasing number of donors. We are gradually expanding our donor base and working to get large long term funding that would allow us to expand our programs. We would like to express our appreciation to all our funders.

These include:

Federal Government - ESDC

(SBCCI, Africa Center)

- Culture and Heritage
- Canada Summer Jobs
- New Horizon for Seniors
- Income Tax Program

Manitoba Government - Culture and Heritage

Manitoba Housing- Kennedy Street Tenants Program

Canadian Women Foundation

Seed Winnipeg

United Way

Winnipeg Foundation



# Conclusion

These reported accomplishments represents only the highlights of some of our programs carried out in 2024. We were also at the forefront of Protest rallies for justice, community town halls on mental health, policy advocacy and several partnerships and collaborations too numerous to mention here.

There is no doubt that we have grown as an organization, reaching and empowering more individuals in our community. But our work is far from over. Everything we achieved was possible because of the support of our community, partners, donors and affiliates. With your continued support, we will keep making a difference in our community and together we can and will build a united and prosperous community.

Thank You.





# FINANCIAL REPORT



I humbly move a motion for the approval of this AGM report.



**ACOMI**

TRADITIONAL  
**AFRICAN  
& DRUMMING**  
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Rhythm with Meaning: Discover the powerful stories behind every beat



ENTRANCE:  
**FREE**

SUNDAY  
**23**  
FEB. 2025

TIME:  
2PM - 5PM

Scan to  
Register



Guest Artists:

Drum Café\*\*\*KB\*\*\*Amara Conde\*\*\*

Highlights of the Event

- Traditional African Drumming from West, East and Central Africa.
- Storytelling that celebrates Black culture and resilience.

For enquires or RSVP:

**204-808-6649**

 Council of Caribbean Organizations of Manitoba  
1100 Fife Street, Winnipeg

Organized by:



in celebration of Black History Month 2025

Come and let the drums take you on an exciting journey of Black history, creativity and heritage.

Annual General Meeting



**THANK YOU**

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