



Executive Director, Michaëlle Jean Foundation

Edward Matwawana has spent most of his career as a Community Economic Developer focused on social justice, training, youth development, arts and entrepreneurship education. Ed has worked in various leadership roles in Nova Scotia for community organizations such as the Black United Front of Nova Scotia, the African Nova Scotian Training Centre, the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development, and the Black Business Initiative. Ed continued with his passion for community development and capacity building in Ottawa, through the Catholic centre for Immigrants and the World Skills Employment Centre, before joining the Michaëlle Jean Foundation.

Ed served on several boards and committees such as Music Nova Scotia, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Talent Trust, the Portia White Prize, the African Heritage Foundation, the North End Community Health Clinic, the Crieghton/Guerrish Affordable Housing Association, the Brothers Reaching Out Society, the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute, and Corrections Canada’s National Ethnocultural Advisory Committee.

As a founding member and past president of the African Nova Scotian Music Association, Ed helped develop, profile, and promote many Black artists locally, nationally, and internationally. Amongst many music industry awards and nominations, Ed was honoured by the Urban Music Association of Canada, with a Special Achievement Award for his work in promoting urban music in Atlantic Canada. Ed also received the prestigious National Humanitarian Griot Awards for his work with the youth, arts, social justice, community movement and the enhancement of African countries’ education and health systems.

In January 2009, Ed was featured on the CBC TV program “Living Halifax” as one of Halifax’s Heroes for his involvement in community economic development, entrepreneurship education, work with troubled youth and his contribution to Canada’s musical Mosaic. Ed currently serves as board member for organizations such as Mindtrust Youth Development, the Centre d’établissement, de soutien et d’orientation communautaire, and the International Black Economic Forum. Ed also serves as a member of the Faculty of Education’s Advisory Board at McGill University.

Considering his work and experience, Ed now finds himself inside a quadrant that summarizes the four areas for which he has been most passionate – youth, social justice, arts, and entrepreneurship – four pillars that also define the mandate of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, where he now serves as Executive Director.

To-date, Ed's life can be summarized in these words: **True leaders spend their energies nurturing other leaders.**