

‘The i2i Intergenerational Society of Canada: The Meadows School Project’-Diane Olivia Meyia Mengue, Dec. 2011 a Graduate Research Paper at Athabasca University, Canada

About the author and this research paper

Diane wrote this paper as a final requirement for an Athabasca University graduate course in Community Development. The purpose of the paper was to examine a not for profit organization practicing community development. Diane chose to focus her research on the i2i Intergenerational Society of Canada because it promotes an intergenerational orientation in community life, and provides tools and resources to help youth, educators, and health officials to create intergenerational programs. She was impressed by the work of the organization as it works to create strong interpersonal relationships between the youth and the older adults across Canada.

Diane Olivia Meyia Mengue was born in Cameroon, the third child of five. In the fall of 2005, she moved to Ottawa, Canada to further her studies and now resides in Aylmer, Quebec. Married, she is the mother of two young boys.

In 2008, Diane graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Mass Communication and a Minor in Law at Carleton University. She is currently doing a Master of Arts degree in Integrated Studies – specializing in Cultural and Community studies at Athabasca University. She is hoping to finalize her graduate research project by the end of 2012. Her areas of interests are new technology, communication, media, community development, culture, and the West African film industry.

Diane brings a cross-cultural intergenerational experience to her work, having lived in both Cameroon and Canada. In Cameroon there are few retirement facilities because older people live in the same home with their children or other family members. In Cameroon, it is ill thought of for family members to put an older adult relative in a retirement home. However, in Canada it is becoming more the norm to have active younger people situating older adult family members in care outside the home.

Her research has left the author reflecting on several questions:

Could it be the way our society is designed? Is it because people are so busy working that they do not have the time to take care of their aging parents? In isolating older people from young people are we creating the perception that older adults are a threat to society? Has it therefore become a norm to have older citizens isolated from the working Canadian society, but why not so in Cameroon? Is the workforce responsible for such isolation? Or is the Canadian society drifting away from an intergenerational society?

If you will like to contact the author for further information on her research, you can e-mail her at meyia_mengue@hotmail.com or contact i2i at i2i@intergenerational.ca. Diane’s languages are English and French.