



'BA THARI' BLACK WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE .

'Ba thari' is a collective of Black women, in and around Toronto, who welcomed an idea by the Black Women's collective to establish an International Black Women's day in Canada. The history of Black Women's contribution in Canada and elsewhere is our starting point; our goal is to imprint these and other achievements in the minds of our youths. None but us will re-write our history or keep our heritage alive.

The women involved are from various geographic areas of the globe, with varying backgrounds, and this enriches the collective experience and therefore the programme for the day. The central theme is 'women and youth' with workshops and other activities depicting our lives, and seeking co-operative solutions to common problems.

'Ba thari' translated means 'Ba'- those of, and 'Thari'- the membrane, sac or placenta that gives the child its first home of existence. Thari also means 'the cloth, skin or blanket that is used to carry a baby on the back or the side of the mother.' The concept and phrase derive from a

S.African language Sesotho. Symbolically, we are referring to the strength and role of women who provide an important tie between past and future generations.

Ba thari is looking into possibilities of continued program activities around our issues. This will only become a reality with your active support and contribution. A great beginning needs great backing to further its cause. We cannot be a 'once a year' event because the urgency of our situation as a community demands that we measure up to the role of being the givers of life itself. Our contributions therefore have to be a process if our youth and the Black community are to benefit from this.