



HAROLD BRATHWAITE

Currently Executive Director of the Retired Teachers of Ontario, Harold Brathwaite is an outstanding educator and a Barbadian role model of excellence.

Mr. Brathwaite was born and raised in St. Michael, Barbados and received his elementary schooling at St. Giles Boys' School and secondary education at Combermere School and Harrison's College in Barbados. He completed his undergraduate degree at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and at l'Universite de Lyon in France. His postgraduate studies brought him to Canada where he obtained a Masters Degree in French from McMaster University.

He has taught at the elementary, secondary and university levels and served on several professional associations and Ontario Ministry of Education committees.

Harold's career culminated in his promotion to Director of Education for the Peel District School Board in 1994. On the way, Harold was a department head, vice-principal, administrative assistant to the Superintendent of Program of the Halton Board, and was Principal of M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington. In 1984, he became Superintendent for French Language Schools in the Toronto Board of Education and Associate Director of Education in 1991. In 2002 he retired from the position of Director of Education of the Peel Board. He came out of retirement in January 2003, to take up the position of Senior Advisor to the President of Seneca College. In September 2004 he assumed his current position of Executive Director of the Retired Teachers of Ontario.

He has been a member of both the Board of Governors and the Advisory Council of the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, from 1994-2002, and was Chair from 2001-2002.

Mr. Brathwaite has received numerous awards for his contribution to the community and to education, including: The Peel Board's Education Champion Award, Distinguished Alumnus Scholar Award - McMaster University, the 1995 Canadian Black Achievement Award - Education, the Harry Jerome Award, UNICEF Volunteer Award, the Urban Alliance on Race Relations Award, the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto, the first Egerton Ryerson Award from People for Education, and in 2006 The Order of Ontario.

He has been a vocal champion for public education, for issues of equity, and for building capacity in communities. He continues his community involvement as a Trustee of the Art Gallery of Toronto, a member of the Board of the United Way of Peel Region, and as Chair of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Canada).
