

**McLAUGHLIN
COLLEGE**

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Dear Omekongo Dibinga,

On behalf of H2ocongo and the Congo Committee at York University, I would like to thank you for participating in our annual Congo Conference called "How much do you know about the D.R. Congo?". Your poems, thoughts, speech and song had a great influence on the York and Toronto Community. The York University staff, students and members of the Toronto community have expressed great appreciation for your presentation and would love to welcome you back. Your artistic talent will truly be remembered and we look forward to working with you in the future.

A survey conducted last year by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) puts the death toll in the Democratic Republic of Congo at 5.4 million since 1998, with some 45,000 people still dying every month as a consequence of ongoing strife and disease. "How Much do you Know about the D.R. Congo?" is a one-day conference hosted by H2ocongo and York University once a year featuring several prominent speakers from around the world who address the current situation in the African country.

The Second Annual Congo Conference brought together Congolese and students, academics, business, politicians, international organizations and institutions, NGO's, artists and others interested to learn, share and act to end the ongoing crisis in the D.R. Congo.

You had a great impact on the audience of the conference. One individual expressed that you gave him hope and motivation to never give up in life as he quoted your expression "Free your mind". Another individual has expressed to me that after meeting you, he looked up a graduation speech that you gave online and said "I listen to his speech at least 3 times a day as it gives me inspiration". In addition, one of York's Masters who attended the conference underlined that "Omekongo needs to come back to York" and that "He is an amazing artist".

We thank you for your dedication, ambition, sincerity and love for art and human kind. May you continue to use your art as a tool to bring awareness about the crisis in the Congo and to inspire people to make positive change in the world. We support you one hundred percent and wish you all success in the future.

Yours Truly,

Nancy-Josée Ntumba Ciakudia
President of H2ocongo-bringing water to the Congo
Congo Conference Coordinator
"Be anxious for NOTHING"

