



Christopher R. Ashley is a Secondary History & Social Science Teacher and the Department Head of History at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute with the Waterloo Region District School board. He is a descendant of West Africa with a strong Jamaican heritage and is a first generation born Canadian.

Chris is a graduate of the University of Windsor where he obtained his Bachelor of Social Science - History (1995). He completed Teachers College at D'Youville College in Buffalo New York (1996). He began full-time teaching with the WRDSB in 1998 and has since continued various AQ qualifications in Special Education - Specialist, Family Studies, Information Technology, and the History Specialists. To further his love of education and skill development, Chris has completed various history and social science courses at the University of Waterloo.

As a valued staff member within the WRDSB, Chris has collaborated with colleagues to focus, support, and enhance the educational learning environment through extra-curricular initiatives, specifically the creation of his school's - KCI (Kitchener - Waterloo Collegiate Institute), "African Heritage Club", which drove the development of the WRDSB's board-wide - "Black Brilliance Initiative" - which supports students of African Diaspora and provides for the education of all students and staff by expanding and strengthening academic and social relations.

Chris and his colleague **Carol Pinnock**, were awarded a \$5000 grant by the "African Community Wellness Initiative", for their efforts to support Black Youth Mental Wellness. This grant seeded the development of the "Peprah-George African Heritage Award" which it goes to a student of African-Caribbean descent who is pursuing post-secondary training, college or university goal.

Chris has been featured in 2021's CBC's - Being Black in Canada series with multiple interviews and panel participation. Along with CTV's exposes on representation and the expansion of Black History in the school curriculum.

In addition to education, Chris has worked alongside his wife Gita Schuster-Ashley with her company Growing in The Arts - School of Dramatic and Cinema Arts, where the education and development of personal and performance skills is the primary goal. In conjunction with this, Chris had the opportunity to perform with the cast of "To Kill a Mockingbird" during the Stratford Festivals 2018 season.

Chris is currently a team member on three other Black history-related curriculum projects. He is the father of three children who have all pursued post-secondary education accreditation.