The cover art is a vibrant collage. At the top left, a young man's face is shown in profile, looking thoughtfully to the side. To his right is a large, stylized red maple leaf. On the top right, a young woman is depicted wearing a gold headband and a patterned headscarf. The title 'BASODEE' is written in large, bold, yellow 3D block letters with black outlines across the center. Below the title, there are several other figures: a young man in a dark suit looking upwards, a young woman with a large, ornate headpiece, a young man with a beard looking down, and a young woman with a large afro hairstyle smiling. The background consists of a brick wall with colorful graffiti, including a blue and red swirl design. The overall style is graphic and celebratory.

# **BASODEE**

**An Anthology  
Dedicated to Black Youth**

Edited by Fiona Raye Clarke

# BASODEE

An Anthology Dedicated to Black Youth

## WHAT IS 'BASODEE'?

Basodee is a collective of youth writers and artists dedicated to bringing authentic diversity to the Canadian cultural space. The term 'basodee' is a Trinidadian creole word meaning "disoriented" and "half-conscious" and is used in an attempt to represent the experience of Black Canadian youth today affected by stereotypes, culture-shock, poverty and crime. Members of the collective - composed of youth of all ethnicities, social backgrounds, religious affiliations, and sexual orientations, some of whom are in care and have had experience with the criminal justice and mental health system - have come together to share their stories and amplify their voice, in an attempt to alleviate the stigma around the realities they, and youth all around the country, face.



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## WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

Basodee hopes to make a positive difference to youth of African Canadian decent and the youth of other ethnicities. With hope, it will become an accessible resource for youth about Black History and other social concerns within the community.



Rather than having youth feel ostracized by their difference, Basodee wishes to create a cultural space where difference is truly celebrated.



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## HOW IT STARTED

Basodee began in the midst of a search for places to submit writing on Black History Month in Canada. Disappointed by the few opportunities available, a collective was formed to publish work in honour of Black History Month and diversity. The collective approached the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth (Advocate's Office) for support and the Office enthusiastically agreed. Thus, in cooperation with the Advocate's Office and General Store Publishing House, the members of Basodee were able to produce an anthology of their writing, essays, stories and art on what it is like to be young, Black, and Canadian.



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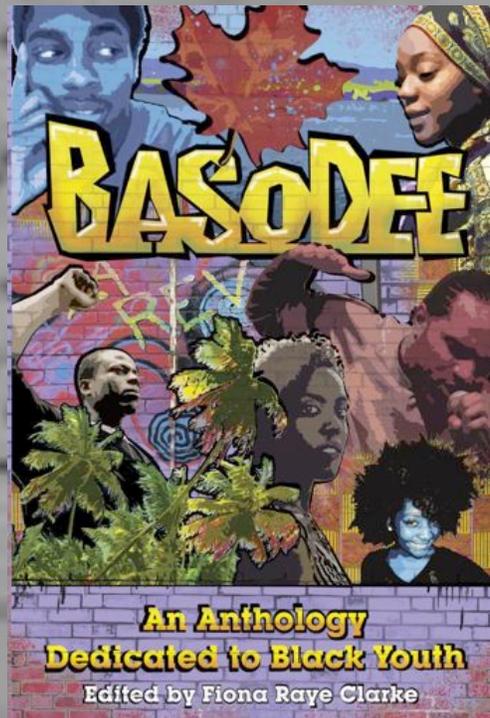
An Anthology Dedicated to Black Youth

Basodee: An Anthology Dedicated to Black Youth  
edited by Fiona Clarke  
ISBN#9781771230117

Are you curious about what it means to be young, Black and Canadian today? Tired of being a stereotype in the media?

Whether you're a Black youth in Canada or just interested in learning more about the Black experience, means to be young, Black and Canadian, Basodee is an honest portrayal of Canadian-Black relations and one of the few published collections of Black youth stories in Canada.

In this varied anthology, such topics as the Canadian system of (mis)educating Blacks, integrated vs. non-integrated schools, Black identity, and fitting in with a different culture are covered in poems, essays, and stories. There are remembrances of "back home"—about places like Haiti, Somalia, Kenya, Burundi, and Trinidad; experiences of culture shock and solutions for remembering where one came from; stories of family and finding one's own voice; facts and fictions about Black Canadian History.



Are YOU feeling Basodee?



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## ABOUT THE EDITOR



Fiona Raye Clarke is a graduate of the University of Toronto. She is passionate about Black History and Afrocentrism and is a dedicated volunteer in the Black community. She has researched and delivered Black History Month talks for hundreds of elementary and high school students throughout the GTA and has presented at international and local conferences on various topics. Fiona seeks to be a role model in her community and is committed to increasing awareness of the struggles and contributions of African Canadians to Canada and youth interest in these achievements. She is currently coordinating a forthcoming book on African-Canadian religion for the Ontario Black History Society and is working on a novel based on one of her short stories.



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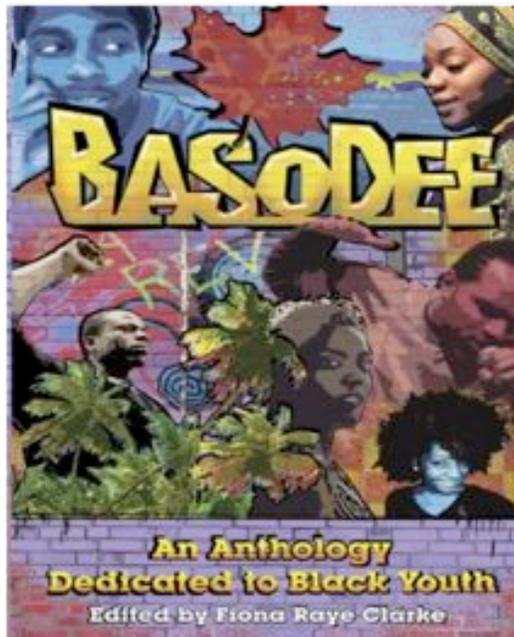
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## Provincial Advocate for Children & Youth

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## BOOK LAUNCH

**Date:** Friday August 24, 2012

**Location:** Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth  
401 Bay Street, Suite 2200  
Toronto ON M5H 2Y4

**Time:** 6-9pm

To RSVP email [fiona.r.clarke@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.r.clarke@gmail.com) or call 416-325-5985

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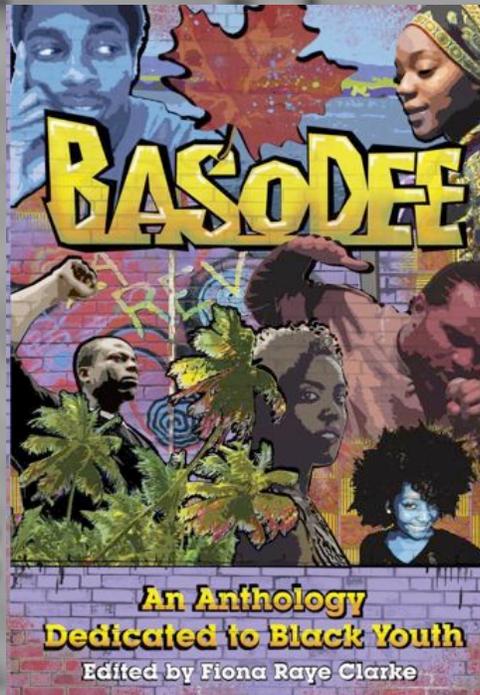
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