

*André Doumbé*

1949 – 2017

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

— Rev. 14:13

## Biographie André

André Doumbè est né le 24 Septembre 1949 en banlieue d'Ébolowa, une ville du sud du Cameroun. André était marié à Rose Makolle Sengue, qu'il a épousée en décembre 2013. Lui survivent sa mère, son épouse, un fils, deux filles, deux frères et deux sœurs, ainsi que de nombreux parents au Cameroun, en Europe et au Canada.

André a fait une bonne partie de ses études au Cameroun. Au milieu des années 70, il est recruté par la compagnie aérienne Cameroon Airlines où il devient responsable à la direction en charge de la comptabilité. Très vite remarqué par ses supérieurs pour son sens de l'organisation et son leadership, il est envoyé au Ghana comme représentant de la compagnie aérienne dans ce pays. À 29 ans (1978), il devient malgré lui la plus haute autorité camerounaise au Ghana. Sans allégeance politique, André Doumbè côtoie beaucoup de gens parmi lesquels les opposants au régime de Yaoundé. Ce qui lui vaut des menaces des services secrets camerounais. En mai 78, aidé par un ami pasteur canadien, il fuit le Ghana pour atterrir à Vancouver. Commence alors une période de petits boulots, d'anxiété et de d'incertitude qui va durer deux ans et demi avant l'obtention de son statut d'immigrant. C'est la période au cours de laquelle André prend conscience de la précarité et de la vulnérabilité de l'immigrant. Deux faits qui vont marquer son engagement communautaire.

Au début des années 80, André aménage à Montréal. Il travaille pour la compagnie Mother Tuckers qui, en 1986, l'envoie à Winnipeg comme gérant des achats. Il rencontre Emmanuelle Abelé en 1989; puis ils se marient en 1996. Leur fille Eyala-Dipita vient au monde en 1998. À partir des années 2000, André commence à travailler pour divers départements du gouvernement fédéral : Revenu Canada, le Bureau de la Traduction et enfin, Agriculture Canada qu'il intègre en 2006 comme Agent d'information sur les marchés. Poste qu'il occupera jusqu'à sa mort le 12 septembre 2017.

Parallèlement à sa carrière professionnelle, André a été un entrepreneur communautaire prolifique. African Communities of Manitoba Inc (Acomi), Sous le Baobab, African Center, Afro-fonds, African Investment Club, Youth Investment Club, Folklorama, le Conseil de l'immigration du Manitoba, la Commission des droits de la personne du Manitoba, Centraide de Winnipeg, Cancer Care, la Coalition des parents francophones du Manitoba, etc. sont quelques-unes des organisations qu'André a marqué de son empreinte.

Leader incontesté, André Doumbè savait transmettre à ceux et celles qui étaient proches de lui sa passion et son engagement pour l'autre. Son leitmotiv était «on avance!» et sa devise, «une action vaut mieux que mille mots». André savait tirer le meilleur de ceux et celles qui l'entouraient.

Africain d'origine, André incarnait à merveille le Baobab, ce grand arbre tutélaire qui fournit à tout le monde, quelle que soit sa provenance, son ombre (le réconfort), ses fruits (de l'aide), ses feuilles pour manger et se soigner, et son ombrage pour la convivialité.

Aujourd'hui un Baobab est tombé mais il n'est pas mort. Il nous laisse un patrimoine immense : des œuvres qui ne demandent qu'à être préservées, dans des actions qui nous inspireront sans cesse. «si le grain ne meurt, il ne saurait germer» (Jean, 12 :24). André s'en va pour que germent de nouvelles graines de Baobab... pour le bien de l'humanité!

## André Biography

André was born on September 24th, 1949 in Ebolowa, a Southern Cameroonian city. André was married to Rose Makolle Sengue, whom he married in December 2013. He is survived by his mother, wife, two brothers, two sisters, a son, two daughters and many extended family relatives in Cameroon, Europe and Canada.

André's education mainly took place in Cameroon. In the mid 70's, he started working for Cameroon Airlines in the Accounting Department, and thanks to his remarkable sense of organization and leadership, was soon posted to Accra, Ghana. In 1978, at 29, he became the highest ranking Cameroonian representative of the airline in Ghana. While in Accra, he mingled with a lot of people, including opponents of the Cameroonian regime. He received threats from the Cameroonian Secret Services. In May '78, with the help of a Canadian pastor in Ghana, he fled to Canada, arriving in Vancouver. For the next two years, he lived by doing small jobs while waiting for his immigrant status with anxiety and uncertainty. That period of his life determined who he will become in his community work for the rest of his life as he experienced vulnerability and precariousness.

In 1980, André moved to Montreal where he started working for Mother Tucker's and the company sent him to Winnipeg in 1986 as a Purchasing Manager. He met Emmanuelle Abelé in 1989 and they got married in 1996. Their daughter Eyala-Dipita was born in 1998. From 2000 on, André worked for several federal departments, Revenue Canada, the Translation Bureau and Agriculture and AgriFood Canada in 2006. He was still working there when he passed away on Sept. 12, 2017.

Beside his work life, André was a very active community entrepreneur. He was involved with several organizations including being the President of the African Communities of Manitoba Inc. (Acomi), founding member of Sous le Baobab, Afro-Fonds, the African Center, the African Investment Club, the Youth Investment Club, Folklorama, le Manitoba Immigration Council, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, United Way Winnipeg, Cancer Care and la Coalition des parents francophones du Manitoba among others.

A great leader, André knew how to communicate his passion to others and never ceased to work for and with the community. His motto was "Let's move forward" and "Action is louder than words". André knew how to get the best out of the people he was working with. A life well lived, a man well loved!

As an African, André was the incarnation of the famous baobab tree: a huge tree that provides shade (comfort and conviviality), fruits (help), and its leaves to eat and heal those that need them, no matter where they came from.

Today, a bigger than life baobab fell but he is still with us, providing a heritage to preserve and actions that are inspiring to all of us: "...unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds". John 12:24.

André had to leave us to be able to produce many seeds, for the good of Humanity!

## Celebration of Life

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Praise & Worship

Bible Reading — The Psalms 23: The LORD Is My Shepherd

Sermon

Prayer for the Family

Eulogies, Testimonies, Tributes, etc.

Vote of Thanks

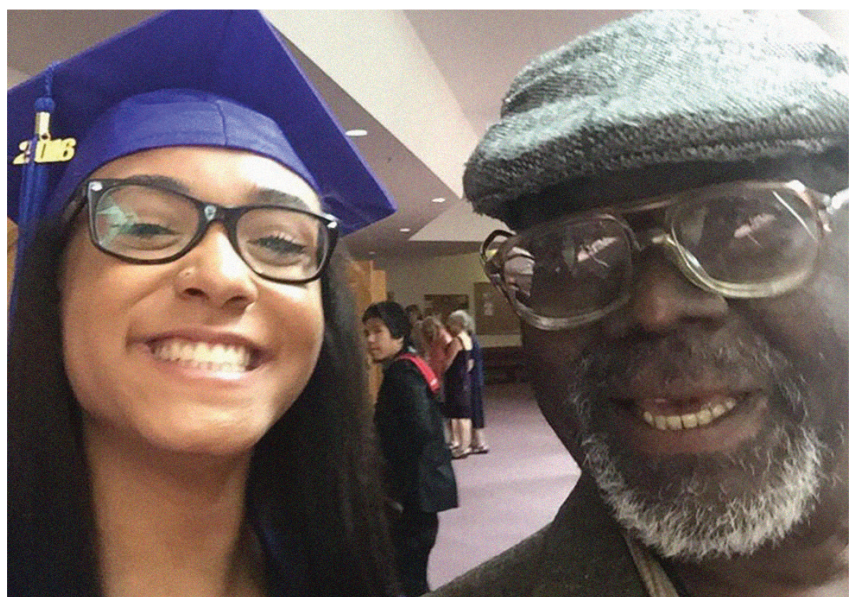
Closing Prayer

Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to René Tondji-Simen by Interac at [info@souslebaobab.com](mailto:info@souslebaobab.com) or direct transfer to Scotiabank Account # 4536000478489201. Account # 4536000478489201.

Mr. André Doumbè, President of African Communities of Manitoba Inc. (ACOMI), Pillar of the Association Sous le Baobab and a great builder of the African Community in Manitoba. André was born on September 24, 1949 and he is survived by his mother, a wife, two brothers, two sisters, a son, two daughters and many extended family relatives in Canada, Europe and in Cameroon.

Uncle André as he was affectionately called dedicated all of his life to the people of his community including the African community at large. He was known for his qualities of unity, integrity, listening and respect. A life well lived, a man well loved!





Andre with daughter, Eyala-Dipita

On behalf of the entire members of the African Communities in Winnipeg, we send our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the Doumbè Family in Canada, France and Cameroon. We share in your loss and pray that the Almighty God will give you the fortitude to bear this great loss.

Mr. Doumbè was an exceptional and prominent community leader, who for decades led a monumental crusade to unite people of African heritage in Manitoba. As one of the founding fathers of the African Communities of Manitoba Inc. (ACOMI), Andre worked tirelessly to bring Africans together by showcasing the African Culture during Folklorama with Manitoba's longest running cultural festival.

Andre's vision was for every African to live to his/her full potential. Andre's accomplishments included the creation and acquisition of the ACOMI Resource Centre, a space for affiliate community organizations to meet and call their own as well as the acquisition of the ACOMI Charitable Status to provide support to meet the needs of our youth.

Andre believed in the development of our youth to become leaders of tomorrow. Andre was instrumental to the development of the 'All That Kids Can Be' Program focused on mentoring vulnerable African youths to transition into the Canadian society, the provision of educational bursaries to post-secondary students, provision of vocational training to youth through the sewing program and drumming classes.

An exceptional person he was, he had the will to live; but he was taken from us too soon. Andre will be remembered favorably for his unwavering smile and love for people. His death is a great loss to the African Community.

His wonderful and gentle soul will forever remain in our hearts. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Adieu Andre!

**Titi Tijani, Vice-President, ACOMI**  
**On behalf of African Communities of Manitoba**

"We would like to extend our deepest condolences to you and the families and relatives of Uncle Andre. May the Almighty God give us courage and strength as we go through this loss. His death is a loss to the entire African Communities of Manitoba. He was a true son of Africa. We will continue to miss and remember him forever. May his soul rest in perfect peace."

**All That Kids Can Be Program**

"M. André Doumbè, President d'Acomi, Pilier de l'association Sous le Baobab et Grand bâtisseur de la communauté africaine. André était reconnu pour ses qualités de rassembleur, d'intégrité, d'écoute et de respect."

**Association Sous le Baobab**

"It is a big loss for Cameroon, but for Manitoba as well. He gave his life to help others, both children and adults in the community. André Doumbé has made Manitoba enjoyable, livable and attractive to Cameroonians, Africans and all who have arrived here. "

**René Tondji Simen**

"André was and personified the Francophone Home even before the creation of the Home. He went to the airport for new arrivals, especially from Africa, because he knew that without a warm and fraternal welcome, their new life would have difficulty getting off to a good start. "In Canada we have oaks, in Africa, baobabs. Between the two, we have men like André who had a heart big enough to bring everyone together."

**Jacqueline Blay,**

**President of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine.**

"Having known and worked for many years with Mr. Andre Doumbe in the trenches of leadership and volunteering for the African Community, as others have, we were all inspired, supported and comforted by Andre's dedication and commitment to improving the lives of our refugees, immigrants, expatriates and community. He was always available, always jovial, and always energetic on community issues. For all ages, for all walks of life. His passing is a great loss, and Andre will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences to Andre's family." R.I.P.

**Kennedy Mang'era, Former President,  
African Communities of Manitoba Inc.**





Leader incontesté, André Doumbé savait transmettre à ceux et celles qui étaient proches de lui sa passion et son engagement pour l'autre.

A great leader, André knew how to communicate his passion to others and never ceased to work for and with the community.

