Manitoba

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Private Members Statement by Rochelle Squires, MLA for Riel.
As read before the House of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
on the 12th of April 12, 2018.

I rise today to recognize one of my amazing constituents from Riel. Yisa Akinbolaji is a local, national and internationally renowned artist. He was born in Ondo, Nigeria and practised art in Lagos before immigrating to Canada in 1997. His career achievements, spirit of volunteerism and youth engagement continue to inspire many new comers to our great province
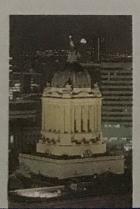
For over 30 years Yisa has engaged in extensive art practise working in a variety of media. He works in oil, acrylic, metal sculpture and print making. Yisa has been featured on the cover of Art Business News, New York in 2011 and his incredible work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in Canada, the United States and Nigeria.

Yisa is the founder of the Creative Foundation Inc., an organization that he established in Manitoba in 1999. This organization enlists professionals in the arts, sciences, technology and the humanities to engage and mentor young people to promote creative thinking, art appreciation and foster harmony among youth of all cultures.

Yisa has received numerous awards and appointments in Canada as well as internationally. In 1993 he was recognized with his inclusion in Nigerian Artists: A Who's Who and Bibliography. He was elected president of Manitoba Society of Artists in 2001, and was appointed to the board of the Manitoba Arts Council in 2010 where he has received two reappointments to serve until October 2018.

Yisa has shared and used his artistic talents to foster understanding and inclusion in our multicultural community. He has been selected to receive the 2018 Premier's Volunteer Service Award to be presented on April 19,2018.

I am so pleased to acknowledge and honour Yisa Akinbolaji, a man who shares his immense artistic talent to enrich and enhance our community.

Rochelle Squires, MLA
Riel Constituency