

Stephen "Buddha" Leafloor



Steve@BluePrintForLife.ca

Stephen is an internationally recognized and awarded social worker, celebrated dancer and founder of BluePrintForLife. His company has brought empowerment, hope and real social change in Canada's north and urban centers.



"I really enjoyed working with Stephen...His nature and involvement in Hip Hop makes it easy for him to reach youth. His training as a social worker makes him a safe person to lead discussions on serious issues and his leadership ability and follow-through ensure the project stays on target. From our experience, I can say that he delivered above our expectations, and the project had an impact on youth that was beyond our hopes." Gillian Corless Nunavut Promise to Children & Youth Coordinator



THE GLOBE AND MAIL



FREEDOM TO CREATE

Social Innovator

With a Masters in Social Work and over 27 years of experience as a social worker, Stephen has pioneered highly accessible programs that truly empower and effect change in individuals and communities.

Artist

Stephen is the founder of the Canadian Floor Masters, (Canada's oldest B-Boy / breakdance crew circa 1983). He has performed for James Brown, Ice-T, Grandmaster Flash, Blackeyed Peas, George Clinton and privately for the Kirov Ballet of Russia. His dancing has been featured on Much Music, in music videos and in several documentaries. He turned 53 the summer of 2012, is a proud father of three and he still gets down in the Cypher!

Educator

Stephen is a published author- "Therapeutic Uses of Rap and Hiphop", has guest lectured at universities and is often a keynote speaker at conferences including:

- International United Nations youth conferences
- On behalf of Justice Canada at international conferences on crime prevention
- National chiefs of police conferences
- National conferences on education, bullying, Social Work, and First Nation topics

Programs

Since 2005, Stephen and his team have worked with more than 4,500 youth in Inuit and First Nations communities and in Canada's inner cities through 67 projects to date. Nunavut's government officials commented after the flagship workshops in Iqaluit that Stephen's model was, "**the most substantial youth engagement programming in 20 years**".

BluePrintForLife has launched a youth prison program for incarcerated youth. This program has been described by corrections administrators as "**the most intense and healing program they have ever seen**", leading the Calgary Young Offenders Center to receive a minister's award for the program and its innovation. When he first piloted this model in one of Alberta's maximum-security youth prisons, 86 percent of participants deemed that after participating they had more strategies and abilities to deal with their anger and emotional issues.

A multiyear program with the Kativik Municipal housing board is underway to reduce vandalism in social housing.

BluePrintForLife has partnered with the National Inuit Women's Association (Pauktuutit) on truth and reconciliation projects, to bridge generations who suffered trauma from the residential school system.

Accolades

Appointed as an "**Ashoka Fellow**" for Canada (One of the world's most prestigious organizations for international outreach)

Appointed to represent Canada as a "Making More Health" Fellow to an international working group on health – Ashoka / Boehringer Ingelheim

BluePrintForLife received an award from Canada's former Governor General (Michaëlle Jean) for outstanding achievement and outreach

2012 he was selected as one of Canada's "Top 45 over 45" for Zoomers magazine

Globe and mail feature page on "Action Figures"

Freedom to Create Youth Prize - Finalist 2010

Readers Digest feature profile story