

Granville Johnson, B.Ed. (UVic), Assoc Diploma, Writing in New Media (CNC), living with a Vascular Dementia diagnosis since 2016 and Converted Disorder since 2010. Granville is a Black dual citizen of Canada and America, and a two tour Viet Nam War veteran (combat medic), the beginning of a life direction dedicated to service.

A life-long artistic career was enhanced by attaining his Bachelor of Education at University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in 1986, leading to seven years teaching in the Northern British Columbia Public School system, from Primary, Intermediate, Secondary, through Adult Basic Education.

He danced professionally for ten years after multi-disciplinary dance training in Modern, Contemporary, Jazz, Afro-Jazz techniques and Choreography, for four years. His artistic evolution involved into musicianship as a percussionist specializing in improvisation drumming and storytelling using the Djembe, an African hand drum (45yrs).

To promote his performance events, he developed his interest with multimedia digital collage to create and produce media materials.

His inherent literary interest and a need to document his life's journey as a survivor of long term sexual and physical abuse, led him to enroll in the Writing in New Media Program at the College of New Caledonia (CNC), to graduate with an Associate Diploma (2yr.). After which he went on to further develop his skill set writing fiction: poetry, short story writing, and as a novelist:

Backstory: *The Many Lives of Granville Johnson*, his first novel, first volume of a four-volume series, has been published by FriesenPress, of Canada and is now available online through the bookstore (#1 on the Best Seller's list), <https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000328684655>

Information about the novel and its author can be found at:
<https://www.granvillejohnson.ca/backstory.html>.

Granville is the lyricist and band leader of Autumn Rose, whose debut album, *The Day Will Come*, has been published on Bandcamp:
<https://granvillejohnsonautumnrose.bandcamp.com>

“I feel that my varied creative experience has greatly infused the self-awareness of my inner topography, that is being affected by the Vascular Dementia and the Converted Disorder, in real time. While my extensive teaching and performance experience, has enhanced my ability to communicate effectively to others how the realities of living with dementia are experienced. Thus, I can facilitate awareness and the understanding of the changes within someone living with dementia, particularly in early onset and/or pre-diagnosis, as well as work to counter-act stigma within society.”

Granville, with his wife, Birgit Luesgen, discovered their journey toward self-advocacy and dementia community by participating in a month-long support group for people living with dementia and their care-person(s). The group was facilitated and moderated by the Alzheimer's Society of British Columbia, in Prince George, Northern BC. The group met on four consecutive Wednesdays. From that modest beginning, Laurie Decroos, Alzheimer Society of BC – Northern Resource Centre, suggested that Granville join the Action Group, Flipping Stigma Project. It was with that group that Granville began his transition toward advocacy.

The creation of the resource, flippingstigma.com, catapulted the project's People Living with Dementia (PLWD) membership into high demand, within the expanding participatory partners in research trend. As with many of the Action Group. Members, Granville began receiving many invitations to work with committees on other research projects. Some of the national and international project groups have included: The National Dementia Guidelines (NDG) Black Community Working Group, The Alzheimer's Society of Canada, The I'm Still Me Project: Brella Society, Reimagining Dementia: A Creative Coalition for Justice, The-End-of-Life Project, Univ. of Waterloo, Ontario, University of Ottawa – Air Travel dementia - friendly project, Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia (CRPiD).

Granville has co-written, w/ Karen Wong and Deborah O'Connor, PhD., RSW “**Living with Dementia: Exploring the Intersections of Race, culture and dementia stigma**.”

Granville, continuing to answer his calling of service, has been an outspoken Dementia advocate for six years, and research partner, building resilience within the dementia journey. Facilitating Ethno-Racial Inclusivity in Dementia Research.