**Welcome to the 2020 Edmonton Heritage Festival Ethiopian Pavilion*!***

**Did you know that...?**

* Sometimes called the Roof of Africa, the country of perennial spring, and the land of 13 months of sunshine, Ethiopia is known for its vibrant culture and traditions, along with an ancient history unique in the World.
* The area of Ethiopia is 1,104,000 square kilometres, which is as big as France and Spain combined. With over 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the second-most populated country in the Africa and the twelfth in the world.
* More than 70% of Africa's mountains are found in Ethiopia. Its capital city, Addis Ababa, has an altitude of 2,355m (7,726ft), making it the 5th elevated capital city in the world. Ethiopia is the source of the Blue Nile – the longest river in the world.
* There are more than 80 distinct ethnic groups in Ethiopia, with as many languages and over 200 dialects are spoken throughout the country.
* Ethiopia is linguistically unique, being the only country in Africa with its own alphabet, known as Geez, which consists of 209 symbols and 25 letter variants. This has allowed the recording of Ethiopian history by Ethiopians themselves dating back millennia.
* Ethiopia is home to the world's major religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism that existed for thousands of years in harmony to form a cultural environment unique in the continent. Ethiopia is believed to hold the Ark of the Covenant (the relic that contains the 10 Commandments).
* Ethiopia is one of the few countries in the World mentioned in both the Bible and the Koran. It is the 2nd most mentioned country in the Bible – a total of 40 times. Ethiopia adopted Christianity in the 4th century, making it one of the oldest Christian nations in the world. Islam appeared in Ethiopia in the 7th century, when the followers of Prophet Mohammed fled persecution in Arabia and sought refuge in Ethiopia.
* Ethiopia is the only African country that remained independent, defeating a European superpower – Italy – that attempted to colonize it during the European scramble for Africa in the late 19th century and later during the Second World War. As a result, Ethiopia served as a beacon of freedom, a moral support and refuge during the long struggle for independence in Africa.
* Ethiopia is credited as the origin of coffee, where it has been consumed dating back to the 9th century. It wasn’t until the 17th century that knowledge of Coffee spread to Europe.
* Ethiopia is known for its long-distance runners. The first Ethiopian marathoner, Abebe Bikila, was also the first African Olympic gold medalist. He won the gold medal back to back at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, where he completed the race barefoot, and then at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Dozens, both men and women, have followed in his footsteps, making Ethiopia one of the most decorated countries in the world in long-distance track and field competition.
* Ethiopia has nine UNESCO world heritage sites and is one of the founding members of the League of Nations - the predecessor of the United Nations - and the African Union.

For more information about Ethiopia, check out the following websites:

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/ethiopia-facts.html>

<https://www.international.gc.ca/cil-cai/country_insights-apercus_pays/ci-ic_et.aspx?lang=eng#popupSettings>

<https://absoluteethiopia.com/10-facts-about-ethiopia-you-probably-didnt-know-about/>

Ethiopian Canadian Community Association of Edmonton (ECCAE)

Cultural Village Initiative Committee