



Step Up Anti-Racist Association

Presents



Black Canadian Resilience

+ Resources



Land Acknowledgment

At Step Up, we recognize and acknowledge the privilege we have in conducting our work and initiatives on stolen land. We acknowledge that we are settlers on Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton), located on Treaty 6 territory and that our presence here stems from historical injustices and ongoing displacement of Indigenous peoples, including their genocide. These are not issues confined to the past, the effects still persist today. The systemic and intergenerational trauma is still a burden on the shoulders of Indigenous communities. We embrace our responsibility as settlers to address the effects of colonization, to honour this land and show respect and solidarity with Indigenous communities. Despite our participation in colonial institutions, we are committed to fostering decolonization and bring forth Indigenous ways of knowing. At Step Up, we strive for an anti-racist society, and we recognize that this aspiration would not be possible without working towards Truth and Reconciliation efforts. We are dedicated to bringing forth awareness and action that supports the decolonization of education and contributes to the healing and empowerment of Indigenous peoples.



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Black Canadian Resilience

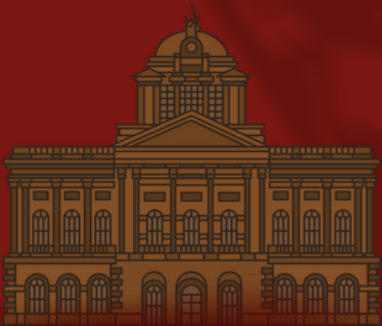
Black Canadians have a rich history and heritage in Canada. Their contributions and impact need to be celebrated and recognized. This book highlights some of the many key historical events and figures throughout our history. Books and movies are also included to show ways you can further your knowledge on black history. Lastly, Black Canadian creators and businesses are featured so you can support local talent and help empower others.



Black Canadian Figures



Rosemary Brown



1956- Rosemary helped found the British Columbia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, which helped open up housing and employment for Black people.

1972- she became the first Black woman to sit in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

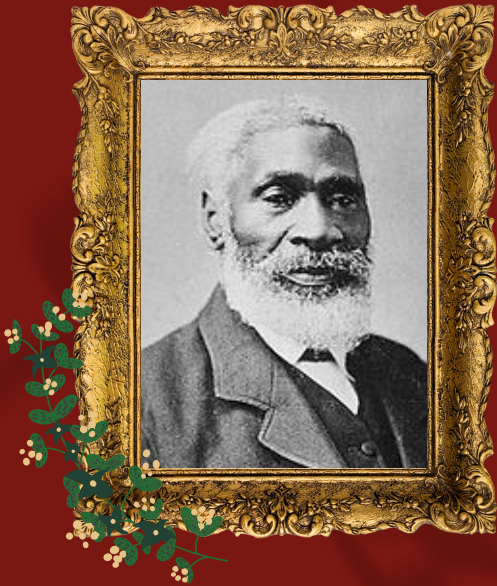
Black Canadian Figures

Carrie Best

Carrie was a co-founder of **The Clarion**, which was one of the first Black owned newspapers. She challenged segregation herself by sitting in the Whites-only section at a theatre. She made use of her platform by advocating for Black & Indigenous rights.



Black Canadian Figures



Josiah Henson



Josiah Henson founded a settlement and labourer's school for other fugitive enslaved people. He played a key role in the enslaved peoples' growth and created a self-sufficient community for them. He also conducted many excursions back to Kentucky to guide more of the enslaved to freedom.

Black Canadian Figures

Mary Ann Shadd

Mary Ann was the first Black woman to become a publisher in North America and the first woman in Canada. She initially came to Canada when enslaved people from America were escaping to freedom using the Underground Railroad.



Black Canadian Figures



Willie O'Ree

Willie O'Ree was the first Black player in the National Hockey League. His debut was made with the Boston Bruins in the 1957-58 season. Then, Willie spent the rest of his years playing in the Western Hockey League.



Resources

- <https://bcblackhistory.ca/rosemary-brown/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Josiah-Henson>
- <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/carrie-best>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/black-history-month/>

RACIAL SEGREGATION OF BLACK CANADIAN STUDENTS

Warning: The following pages contain quotes with offensive language.
It was included to convey the weight of the message.

Queen's University

Kingston, Ontario

Research for info below was done by Edward
Thomas, a cultural studies Ph.D. candidate at Queen's

1918-1965

- Black students were denied admission into Queen's University Med School.
- Around half of the currently enrolled Black students left from the pressure from other medical students and racism (white students from the student government put on a minstrel show).
- The American Medical Association (AMA) stated that Black students were better suited to learning basic personal hygiene than becoming doctors. The AMA's stance against them lead to the ban of Black medical students as universities wanted to be in good standings with the AMA.

2018

- The ban was found to never be taken off the books.
It was finally officially repealed in fall 2018.

2019

- A formal apology was issued by Queens University .

Dalhousie University

Halifax, Nova Scotia

1911-1931

- Other than Black students who were British subjects, all Black students were barred from Dalhousie Medical School.



McGill University

Montreal, Quebec

1916

- The hospital attached to McGill (Montreal Maternity Hospital) prohibited Black male students from being admitted.

1920-1930s

- Black medical students were restricted from attending McGill University

1930-1940s

- Montreal barred Black students from completing their internship in Montreal hospitals. They had to go to Washington DC to complete it.
- Black medical students were restricted from attending McGill University (1945-1960s)

University of Toronto

Toronto, Ontario

1920s

- Black students' Med School applications were denied.
- "Coloured students are a problem when they get to the hospital"- Assistant Dean and Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine Edward Stanley Ryerson.

Sources

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/racial-segregation-of-black-students-in-canadian-schools> <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/content/african-heritage-month-narratives-week-three>
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/racial-segregation-of-black-people-in-canada> <https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/when-black-medical-students-werent-welcome-at-queens/>

TED KING'S FIGHT AGAINST CALGARY MOTEL'S DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Ted King was a Calgary-born Black Canadian civil rights activist (amongst other significant roles) who became the **president of AACP** (Alberta Association for the Advancement of Coloured People) in 1958.

As he advocated for **equal rights** and provided services for Black Canadians who faced discrimination.



Fun Fact: He is the brother of Violet King, who was the first Black person admitted to the Alberta Bar and the first Black female lawyer in Canada!!



Ted King was discriminated against by Barclay's motel owner who said: "they don't allow coloured people" to stay there. He took his case to court to fight against the Motel's racist policy on the grounds that according to the *Innkeepers Act* all travellers had the right to receive service from Innkeepers.

Unfortunately, Ted King lost his case on April 7th, 1960 as loopholes such as Inns were only places that served food and King wasn't a traveller, were used as evidence to prove that the Innkeepers Act did not require Barclay Motel to provide him service. He again took this case to the supreme court where the same loopholes were used to rule against Ted King's case.

Despite Ted King's loss in his cases, in 1961 the Alberta Legislature changed the *Innkeepers Act* by removing the clause that said Inns are only places that served food.



King's effort led to the exposure of loopholes that were closed which eliminated the main reason for his loss. This is a major contribution as now the Innkeepers Act can be used as grounds to protect against unlawful discrimination in Motels.

Sources

<https://www.bashirmohamed.com/blog/2018/7/29/ted-king-a-civil-rights-hero>
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ted-king>

Picture Credits: Glenbow Archives/NA-4987-5

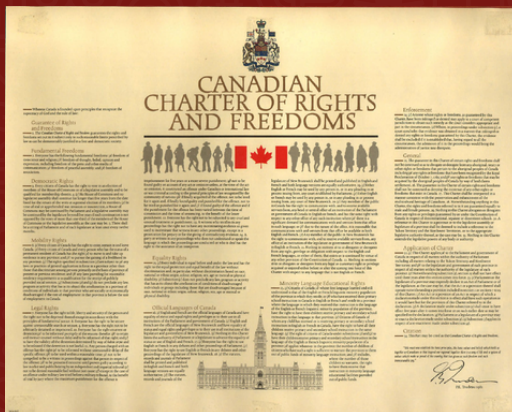
Research Credits: Bashir Mohamed

<https://www.bashirmohamed.com/>

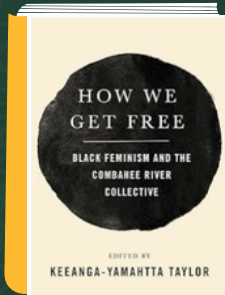
Ontario passes Racial Discrimination Act

Ontario became the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation that was greatly dedicated to anti-discrimination in 1944 with the Racial Discrimination Act.

- This legislation prohibited the display or publication of any kind that expressed ethnic, racial, or religious discrimination.
- In 1947, Saskatchewan passed the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights.
- Following this, lawmakers across Canada started to create comprehensive human rights regimes such as the Human Rights Code, Ontario Human Rights Commission, and later the Canadian Human Rights act in 1977.



Books



How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective

by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

[Amazon Hardcover Link](#)

[Free PDF Link](#)

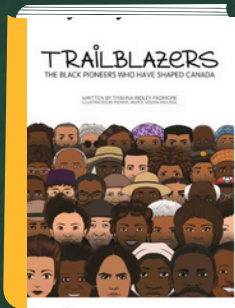
Things Fall Apart

by Chinua Achebe

[Amazon Hardcover Link](#)

[Free PDF Link](#)

[Indigo Hardcover Link](#)



Trailblazers: The Black Pioneers Who Have Shaped Canada

by Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore and Merryll-Royce Ndema-Moussa

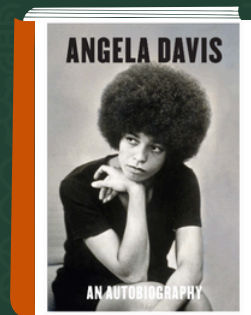
[Indigo Hardcover Link](#)

Angela Davis: An Autobiography

by Angela Davis

[Amazon Hardcover Link](#)

[Free PDF Link](#)



Books

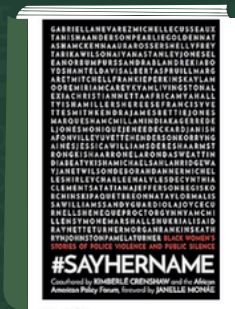
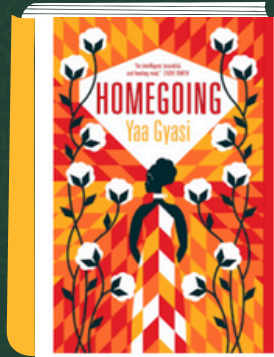
Homegoing

by Yaa Gyasi

[Amazon Hardcopy Link](#)

[Free PDF from Oasis Academy](#)

[Free Student Access Ualberta Library](#)



#SayHerName: Black Women's Stories of Police Violence and Public Silence

by Kimberle Crenshaw

[Amazon Hardcopy Link](#)

[Indigo Hardcopy Link](#)

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race

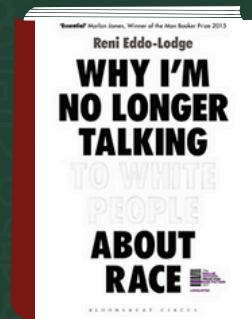
by Reni Eddo-Lodge

[Amazon Hardcopy Link](#)

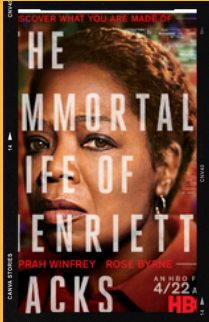
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[Free Ualberta Student Access](#)

[Free MacEwan Student Access](#)



Movies



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

by George C. Wolfe

Available on:

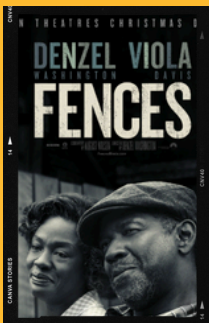
HBO Max | Crave | Hulu



Descendant

by Margaret Brown

Available on: Netflix



Fences

by Denzel Washington

Available on:

Amazon Prime | Rent/Buy on Youtube



13th

by Ava Duvernay

Available on: Netflix

Movies



The Color Purple

by Steven Spielberg

Available on:

Amazon Prime | Crave



The Hate you Give

by George Tillman Jr.

Available on:

Amazon Prime | Disney+ |

Buy/Rent on Youtube



Race

by Stephen Hopkins

Available on:

Amazon Prime | Apple TV |

Buy/Rent on Youtube



12 Years a Slave

by Steve McQueen

Available on:

Amazon Prime

Buy/Rent on Youtube



Creators

Black Talk

by Andy Knight and Zack Penddah

Website- <https://blacktalk.ca/>

Google Podcast- [Black Talk- Google Podcast Link](#)

Apple Podcast- [Black Talk- Apple Podcast Link](#)



Tanya Turton

Website:

<http://tanyaturton.com/>

The Saidat Show

Website: <http://saidat.ca/>

Music: [Saidat Youtube Music](#)

Instagram: [thesaidatshow](#)



Layered

Instagram: [@layeredbyrissa](#)



Brianne Gabrielle Cakes

Website: <https://briannegabriellecakes.com/>

Flava Cafe

Website: <https://flavacafe.square.site/>

Order on Skip the Dishes & Uber Eats



Buff Wax Spot

Website: <https://buffwaxspot.com>

About Us



Step Up Anti-Racist Association is an organization aimed to take action against racial injustices within our community. We do this through initiatives that educate, engage and empower.



CONTACT US



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Scan for
E-Copy of
all our
booklets



stepupaa.org/resources/