



# HISTORY MONTH

---

## **Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; Future to Build**

The Erb Group is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of Black individuals throughout history while also recognizing and reflecting on the modern harm of overt and systemic racism. We are committed to taking action by honouring their contributions and amplifying their stories for a more just future.

*Scan the QR code to discover and celebrate the remarkable contributions of Black Canadian throughout history.*



Shortened link

# CELEBRATING REMARKABLE BLACK CANADIANS



## Hal Johnson - 1956 - Present

Hal Johnson is a television host and athlete best known for the late 80s and early 90s television show called Body Break. Hal was the first Black Canadian to have a health television show that aimed to encourage Canadians to lead healthy lives.



## Hodan Nalayeh - 1976 - 2019

Hodan was a Somali Canadian, journalist and businesswoman who fought to change the narrative of the Somali community that is often portrayed in the media. She created Integration TV, the first English-language online platform for Somalis around the world. Hodan began sharing positive stories about a community that is so often maligned and quickly became a household name. Watch her documentary here.



## John Ware - 1845 - 1905

John is legendary in the history of Canada for his strength, farming techniques and horsemanship. Born enslaved, he became a successful rancher who settled his first ranch near Calgary, Alberta. Despite widespread anti-Black racism and discrimination, he was widely admired as one of the best ranchers and cowboys in the West.



## Mary Ann Shadd - 1823 - 1893

Mary Ann was an educator, publisher, lawyer, and abolitionist. Mary Ann became the first Black woman in North America to publish and edit a newspaper, The Provincial Freeman. She promoted the abolition of slavery and the emigration of African Americans to Canada. She also advocated on behalf of women's rights.



## Michaëlle Jean - 1957 - Present

Michaëlle is a social activist, journalist, documentary filmmaker, governor general of Canada from 2005 to 2010. She was the first Black person to serve as Governor General and is the first woman and Canadian to be appointed Secretary General of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

The Ontario Black History Society is created and began to make Black History Month official in Canada.

The first Black History Month in Nova Scotia takes place.

The Ontario Black History Society successfully petitions to officially declare February as Black History Month.

The House of Commons officially recognizes February as Black History Month in Canada. The decision was unanimous.

The first official Black History Month takes place in Canada.

Senator Donald Oliver introduces the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month.

1978

1988

1993

1995

1996

2008



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

## **Anti-Slavery Society in Canada – Canadian Encyclopedia**

The Anti-Slavery Society of Canada, formed in 1851, promoted the global abolition of slavery and provided relief to African American refugees seeking freedom in Canada.

## **Black History Canada Portal**

An annotated guide to online resources on the history of Canada's Black communities.

## **Canadian Encyclopedia: Black History in Canada**

The Canadian Encyclopedia plays an essential role in providing Canadians and others with accurate, updated information about Black Canadians and their communities.

## **Underground Railroad – Historica Canada**

The acclaimed Historica Minutes (and specifically, the Underground Railroad) are one-minute movies that portray exciting and important stories from Canada's past.

## **Joseph Christopher Harrison contributions to Stratford's during the late-19th century**

Joseph was described as a “respected and public-spirited citizen” who was “a man of progress (with) considerable taste and good judgment, combined with great industry.” He and several other family members are buried at Avondale Cemetery in Stratford.

# SUPPORTING BUSINESSES, BOOKS & MEDIA

## Businesses

AFROBIZ - Discover Local Black Owned Businesses & Black Entrepreneurs. AFROBIZ is the most recently updated and most comprehensive directory of Black owned businesses & Black entrepreneurs in Canada. Discover the world of Black entrepreneurship from community events to great products and services.



### Books

Goodreads - Black History Month  
Innocence Project - 15 Books to Read



### Podcasts

I Am Black History – Our Stories, Our Voices



### Films

Celebrating BHM with a Look Back at Three Pioneering Filmmakers  
Black Communities in Canada: A Rich History



### Events

Eventbrite - Black History Month  
City of Toronto – Black History Month Events  
Montreal – Black History Month Events  
Black History Manitoba – Events