

# Canadian Black History 101

Did you know...?

## The theme for Black History Month 2025 is:

Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations. [Source](#)

## Black railway employees called “sleeping car porters” are credited for bringing Negro History Week to Canada.

- Through their Canada-US border Crossing, the porters learned of the significance of Negro History Week in the United States. [Source](#)

## In February 1937, the Sunday School at Bethel AME in Winnipeg held a program to honour “Negro History and Education Week

- Stanley G. Grizzle organized Negro History Week an eight-day symposium, held at Christ Church in Toronto on February 13, 1950. [Source](#)
- Dr. Daniel G. Hill and Wilson O. Brooks, founding members of the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS), formally petitioned the City of Toronto to proclaim February as Black History Month in 1979. [Source](#)

## Nova Scotia was the first province to observe Black History Month in 1988.

- February is Black History Month and African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia. [Source](#)

## Following a motion introduced by Dr. Jean Augustine, The House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada in December 1995. [Source](#)

- “Black history is not just for Black people. Black history is Canadian history” -Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine, the first Black-Canadian woman to be elected to Parliament in 1993.
- “An understanding of Black history was required in order to grasp the extent of prejudice and discrimination faced by Blacks.” - Senator Donald H. Oliver, the first Black Canadian man elected to the Senate in Canada, in 1990 after Ann Cools in 1984. [Source](#)

