

The PSAC BC Racially Visible Caucus and the Union of National Employees BC and Yukon invite you to

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

with a series of posters, facts, and bookmarks that commemorate our heritage.

Historic Black Communities in Canada

Black people have lived in Canada since the beginnings of transatlantic settlement. Although historically very few have arrived directly from their ancestral homeland in the continent of Africa, the term "African Canadian" became increasingly popular in the 1990s to identify all descendants of Africa regardless of their place of birth.

The earliest arrivals were slaves brought from New England or the West Indies. Between 1763 and 1865 most blacks migrating to Canada were fleeing slavery in the US. The US remained the main source of new black immigrants until the 1960s, when large numbers of West Indians began arriving.

Today African Canadians constitute about 2% of the Canadian population.



Alberta

A number of African Canadians lived on the Prairies, including Alberta, early in the 19th century. John Ware is one of the best known; arriving in 1882 from Texas, he was among the first cowboys in Alberta.

The first significant Black migration into Alberta took place with the arrival of the "Exodusters." They had fled the Southern States in 1879.

A small group came to Alberta to investigate the potential for a good home and sent back favourable reports in 1910. Everything short of passing laws to exclude Black immigration to Canada was carried out, but the Exodusters were determined, in excellent health, and possessed the basic funds required by law. They eventually settled in communities stretching from western Alberta to the Thunder Bay area.

Find out more at <http://bit.ly/bhm-alberta>



The Union of National Employees



✂ cut here for your black history bookmark!

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