

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

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

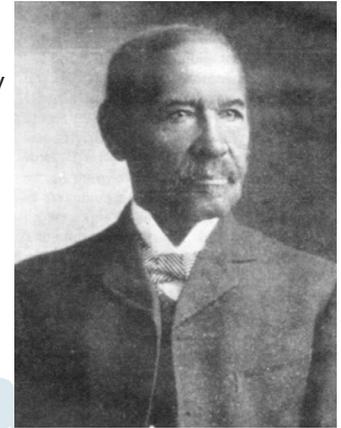
with a series of posters, facts, and bookmarks that commemorate our heritage.

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.



British Columbia

In 1858 the Black community of California sought to move on due to increasingly violent discrimination.

They were not "runaway slaves" arriving in Canada by an "underground railway" but free men and women seeking a place where they could raise their families without fear, educate their children, practice their professions, enjoy the results of their hard work and receive justice under the law.

Many settled on farms, others developed local businesses, while some were "firsts" among teachers, lawyers, and dentists. Their endeavours stabilized those early communities.

Find out more at <http://bcblackhistory.ca>



The Union of National Employees



✂ cut here for your black history bookmark!

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