



Black History Month

FEBRUARY

Origins of Black History Month

In 1926, Black American historian Carter G. Woodson founded 'Negro History Week' to honour the accomplishments of the Black people. He chose the second week of February because it marked the birthday of Frederick Douglass, a black Activist during the American Civil War; and former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln.

The week was later renamed to Black History Week and in 1976, it was expanded to Black History Month.

In December 1995, Ms. Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian MP, introduced a motion to officially recognize February as Black History Month in Canada. The House of Commons passed this motion by a unanimous vote.

How did Black History Month get started in Manitoba?

In 1981, the Black History Month Celebration Committee (BHMCC) hosted the first Black History Month event in Winnipeg. The inaugural event was a church service at Pilgrim Baptist followed by an Awards Banquet.

In 1990, BHMCC's role expanded to include programming which creates an awareness of the history of Black people, their contributions in Manitoba, Canada and elsewhere; and celebrates the historical achievements of Black people in arts, education, government, sports and science in Manitoba and Canada.

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month is dedicated to celebrating the history and accomplishments of the Black community in Manitoba and Canada.

Every year in February, events are planned throughout the month to honour the many contributions Black people have made to our province.

Manitobans are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events which honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

To find out more about what events are planned in Manitoba for Black History

Month, visit www.gov.mb.ca/chc/multi_sec/index.html

Why is Black History month important?

There are over 300 different ethnocultural organizations in our province and over 100 different languages are spoken in Manitoba.

The many contributions made by ethnocultural communities have helped shaped Manitoba into the province it is today.

Black history is Manitoba's history and Black History Month provides an opportunity for all Manitobans to learn more about the history and achievements of the Black community in our province.

What is the rest of Canada doing for Black History Month?

Visit the Government of Canada website to find out what the rest of Canada has planned to commemorate Black History Month:

www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black/index.asp

Did you know...?

Mathieu Da Costa was the first Black man to arrive in Canada over 400 years ago.



Famous Black Canadians throughout history

William Hall was the first Black Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross Medal in 1857. The Victoria Cross is the highest honour for bravery given to any soldier.

Harry Jerome won the gold medal for the 100 metre sprint in the Commonwealth Games in 1966. He eventually



went on to set the world record for completing the 100m sprint in 10 seconds flat. In total, he set seven different world records for track and field running.

Jackie Robinson, the first black Major League baseball player, got his start playing for the Montreal Royals.

Willie O'Ree was the first black player in the National Hockey League.

Rosemary Brown became the first Black woman to be elected to political office in Canada in 1972.



Multiculturalism
Secretariat

Manitoba The word "Manitoba" in green, followed by a black silhouette of a bison.