

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

RCSU Northwest

February 2021



Photo credit: Capt Richard Novak, Calgary 1 Zone UPAR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BY SGT J DAQUIGAN

Every year in February is Black History/African Heritage month in Canada. This year's theme in Canada is, "The Future Is Now", where we recognize all Black Canadian's contributions for the development of their communities and for Canada over the years. This year's focus is to acknowledge Black Canadian's efforts in the present day in building a better life for all Canadians for years to come.

Canada's participation in Black History/African Heritage month is relatively young, only to have started in 1979 in Toronto. It later expanded throughout Canada throughout the years and finally receiving official Senate recognition in March 4th, 2008 for all of Canada.

Each province, city and community offers a wide variety of events and exhibitions that showcase Black Canadian's history, their culture, their unfortunate struggles as well as their extraordinary achievements to the success of today's multicultural society in Canada.

It is highly encouraged for everyone to explore and participate in Black History/African Heritage Month within your community by visiting your local events and exhibitions guides.

Here are some notable Black Canadians who have made humanitarian, social justice and entertainment impacts on today's society.

The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean - *Governor General of Canada from 2005 to 2010*

The Honourable Jean Augustine - *Trailblazing politician, social activist, and educator*

Viola Davis Desmond - *Businesswoman who paved the way to social equality*

Willie O'Ree - *First black NHL player*

Donovan Bailey - *1996 Olympic gold medalist*

Aubrey "Drake" Graham - *Singer/Songwriter and actor*

Black Cross Nurses of Canada - *Black Canadian female health care providers for Black Communities*

Notable mentions from our military family:

William Hall - *Victoria Cross Recipient*

2 Construction Battalion - *All Black Canadian Service Personnel WWI*

Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps - *All Black Force*

Jeremiah "Jerry" Jones - *WWI Recipient of the Distinguished Conduct Medal*

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RESOURCES FOR FURTHER LEARNING

Books

- Viola Desmond's Canada - Graham Reynolds
- Blacks in Canada, A History, second edition - Robin W. Winks
- North of the Color Line: Migration and Black Resistance in Canada 1870-1955 - Sarah-Jane Mathieu
- They Call Me George: The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada - Cecil Foster.
- The Book of Negroes - Lawrence Hill

Podcasts

- Black History for White People
- Black History Moments, Shaakira White
- 1619, The New York Times
- The Secret Life of Canada, CBC Podcasts
- The Pulse, Episode Feb 11 2020: Black History in Canada
- On Race, #CitylineReal. Tracy Moore

Online

- [An open letter to the youth of the Defence Team: Black History Month](#)
- [Government of Canada Black History Month](#)
- [Black History in Canada](#)
- [Historica Canada Black History in Canada Education Guide](#)
- Manitoba: [Black History Month Winnipeg](#) Saskatchewan: [Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan African-Canadian Black History Month](#)
- Alberta: [Alberta Black History Month](#)
- Yukon: [Yukon Black History Month](#)

Use hashtag #BHM2021 to join the conversation

PINK SHIRT DAY

In 2007 two brave high school students in Nova Scotia initiated Pink Shirt Day to support a fellow student who had been bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. With the support of a teacher, they purchased pink shirts and distributed them to their fellow students to show solidarity and to stand against bullying behavior in their school. Pink Shirt Day has been commemorated since to show support to youth who experience bullying and to encourage youth to practice kindness and generosity of spirit to their fellow youth. Lift each other up is the motto of the movement.

The CO RCSU (NW) LCol Letellier has authorized the wearing of a pink shirt on **24 Feb 2021** to promote an anti-bullying message for all youth in our program and he encourages all corps and squadrons to participate in this most worthy cause. Corps not parading on 24 Feb, may wear pink shirts on their parade night that week.

Pink shirts are not to be worn with uniform, but with civilian attire for the occasion. Learn more at www.pinkshirtday.ca



Upcoming Monthly Focuses

- March: International Women's Day and The Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- April: Ethics
- May: Aboriginal Awareness Week
- Jun: Pride Month and National Indigenous History Month

RCSU NW Diversity Committee

- Employee Equity: Capt M Blue Ext 5183
- Ethics Coord: Capt C Babcock Ext 5278
- Women's Advisory: PO2 J Thom Ext 4868
- Visible Minority : Sgt J Daquigan Ext 2404
- Aboriginal Advisory: WO L Paquette Ext 6374
- Persons with Disability: Mrs L Stetina Ext 2307

Newsletter: Capt M Arnott Ext 4941

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Photo credit: Lt(N) Bob Newton, Lethbridge Zn Trg O