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Blacks in Canada



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Black history in Canada dates back to the early 1600's in New France when African slaves were used by the French as translators in their dealings with the various native tribes. Their status as slaves continued on in what is now Canada for the next 200 years or more, despite the false promise of freedom and equality for all.

It was only after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833 that emancipated Blacks began settling, clearing, building, and farming in this country. Families settling in Nova Scotia and Upper Canada were followed by the arrival of fugitive Black slaves with the Underground Railroad, refugees from the post Civil War, a consistent trickle for the next 100 years, and finally by the massive wave of immigration from the West Indies and Caribbean in the 1970's.

Yet, despite a long, rich history dating back some 400 years, people of African descent are conspicuously absent from Canadian history books.

The observance of Black History Month as officially launched by the Parliament of Canada in 1995 was designed to address this omission. It was intended to raise the awareness of all Canadians in celebrating the many achievements and contributions Blacks have made to the very rich social, economic, and cultural fabric of our country.

The purpose of this brochure is to celebrate Canadian Black history and culture. The list of titles is meant to reflect some of the material that Winnipeg Public Library carries, including books and audio-visual materials from the Adult Department on this topic.

BLACK EXPERIENCE IN CANADA:

A Place Called Heaven: The Meaning Of Being Black in Canada by Cecil Foster (305.896071 FOS)

Discusses the gap between what Canada promises to its black immigrants, and what it delivers, leaving Black Canadians to ponder the subsequent decision that must be made - to either seek integration quietly, or defiantly stay apart.

Being Black by Althea Prince (305.896071 PRI)

A collection of essays culled from thirty years of life experience is the backdrop for the author's tackling the complacency she sees in some manifestations of Black Canadian culture.

Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black And White in Canada by Lawrence Hill (305.8044 HILL)

The author bases this title on the old adage his relatives always taught him, that "The blacker the berry, the sweeter the juice", and its relevance to his own experience and that of countless other Black Canadians.

Black Canadians: History, Experiences, Social Conditions by Joseph Mensah (305.896071 MEN)

Explores the history, geography, experiences, and social conditions of Canada's diverse Black population. Covers discussions on concepts like ethnicity, race, and racism.

The Black Experience In Manitoba: A Collection Of Memories by various authors (LOCAL HISTORY 971.2743004 Blacks)

Reference only

This collection of interviews with numerous Black Manitoba citizens was intended to foster a general understanding of the historical and contemporary Black experience in Manitoba. The interviews serve as a record of Black roots and achievements in this province dating back to the fur trade of the early 1800's.

Black Like Who? Writing Black Canada

by Rinaldo Walcott (305.896071 WAL)

This collection of essays tells how Black Canadian culture is conceived and lived out in ways that are both radically un-American and ultimately, un-Canadian.

Black Presence In Multi-Ethnic Canada

by Vincent D'Oyley (305.896071 BLA)

A collection of essays, reports, and tables on Black history, demographics and policies over the years.

Growing Up Black In Canada by Carol Talbot (305.896071 TAL)

The author uses vivid anecdotes to speak to the issue of the Black presence in Canada.

Identity: The Black Experience In Canada

by James W. St. G. Walker and Patricia Thorvaldson
(971.00496 IDE)

An excellent source for students and teachers that outlines important events in Canadian Black history, gives a fair sampling of current Black perspectives by both Canadian-born and immigrant Blacks, and offers listings of available support material.

Racial Discrimination In Canada: The Black Experience

by James W. St. G. Walker and Canadian Historical Association
(971.00496 WAL)

Traces discrimination against blacks by whites within a historical setting.

Rude: Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism

by Rinaldo Walcott (305.896071 RUD)

An anthology of critical writing that attempts to open debate among and across Black communities in Canada to uncover the complexities and realities of Black living and life.

Silenced by Makeda Silvera (305.4364 SIL)

Talks with working class Caribbean women about their lives and struggles as domestic workers in Canada.

The Skin I'm In: Racism, Sports And Education

by Christopher Michael Spence (796.08996 SPE)

Dr. Spence discusses the role that sport participation plays in the lives of Canadian Black male high school students at the expense of academic achievement.

PROFILES OF BLACK COMMUNITIES:

Caribbean Community Millennium Project: Impact of Caribbean Immigration on the Development of Manitoba, 1950-2002 (971.270049 CAR)

This study shows the significant impact West Indian immigrants had in Manitoba. A listing of notable Caribbean-Manitobans and an overview of major Caribbean organizations are also covered.

Caribbean Immigrants: A Demo-Economic Analysis

by Anthony H. Richmond (305.8969 RIC)

Using data from the 1981 Census of Canada, this study looks at immigration characteristics that impacted on the life immigrants led in Canada.

Crossing The Border: A Free Black Community in Canada

by Sharon Hepburn (971.30496 HEP)

This study describes how Reverend William King and fifteen of his former slaves founded the Canadian settlement of Buxton.

A Profile Of The African Community Of Manitoba

Multiculturalism Secretariat (971.27004 BLACKS)

The background experiences, problems, skills and the adaptation process of African immigrants to Manitoba are examined.

A Profile Of The Caribbean Community of Manitoba

Multiculturalism Secretariat (971.27004 WEST INDIANS)

The social, cultural, educational and economic profiles of Caribbean immigrants are outlined.

The West Indians In Canada

by James St. G. Walker (971.004969729 WAL)

Outlines the history of West Indian people, immigration statistics and how they adapted to life in Canada.

BIOGRAPHY:

Anderson Ruffin Abbott: First Afro-Canadian Doctor

by Dalyce Newby (610.92 ABBOTT)

Tells of Abbott's career as a physician, surgeon, Canada's first African Canadian coroner and the accompanying racial prejudice that was never far below the surface.

Austin C. Clarke by Austin C. Clarke and Stella Algoo-baksh (BIOGRAPHY B CLARKE)

This is a well-balanced biography of one of Canada's most significant Black writers.

Being Brown by Rosemary Brown (328.7110092 BROWN)

The author writes about the people and events she has known and witnessed - from her childhood in Jamaica and the family life that helped shape her rise within Canada's social fabric, as a politician and concerned citizen.

Family Secrets: Crossing The Colour Line by Catherine Slaney (971.300496 ABBOTT)

We follow Slaney as she narrates her journey along the trail of her family tree, back through the era of slavery and the plight of fugitive slaves, the Civil War, the Elgin settlement near Chatham, Ontario, and the Chicago years.

“Go To School, You’re A Little Black Boy”: **The Honorable Lincoln M. Alexander: A Memoir** by Lincoln M. Alexander (BIOGRAPHY B ALEXANDER)

Born in Toronto in 1922, the son of a maid and a railway porter, Alexander embarked on an exemplary life path that has involved military service for his country, a successful political career, a thriving law career, and vocal advocacy on subjects ranging from antiracism to the importance of education.

The Hanging Of Angelique: The Untold Story Of Canadian Slavery And The Burning Of Old Montreal by Afua Cooper (971.428014 COO)

Following extensive research, Cooper presents a compelling look at the oldest slave narrative in North America. Marie-Joseph

Angelique, a rebel slave who refused to accept her bondage was accused and convicted of starting the devastating fire of 1734 that burned 46 buildings.

John Ware's Cow Country by Grant MacEwan
(BIOGRAPHY B WARE)

The story of the legendary John Ware who was born a slave in the United States and rose to become one of the most famous cowboys in Canadian history.

The Keystone Legacy: Recollections Of A Black Settler
by Gwen Hooks (971.2004 BLACKS)

Lured by the prospect of cheap land, this book tells the story of some 50 Black families from Kansas and Oklahoma who settled in the forested wilderness of northern Alberta in 1905.

Millennium Minds: 100 Black Canadians
by W. P. (Wilma Patricia) Holas (971.004 BLACKS)

A beautiful photographic essay of dozens of Black Canadians, from the famous to the completely unknown.

My Name's Not George: The Story Of The Brotherhood Of Sleeping Car Porters In Canada: Personal Reminiscences Of Stanley G. Grizzle by Stanley G. Grizzle and John Cooper
(331.8811 GRI)

"My name's not George" was the sleeping car porter's response to being called the demeaning "George" by some uncaring passengers on the CPR. This is the story of the struggle and establishment of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in Canada, the first trade union of its kind for Black men.

A Narrative Of Thomas Smallwood
by Thomas Smallwood (973.7115 SMALLWOOD)

A leading member of the Black community in Southern Ontario in the mid-1800's, Smallwood writes of his experience of slavery, and his work in helping escaped slaves arrive safely in Canada.

Shadd: The Life and Times of Mary Shadd Cary
by Jim Bearden and Linda Jean Butler (370.924 BEA)

This book documents the extraordinary life of the famous 19th cen-

ture newspaper woman/educator/abolitionist /lawyer/mother Mary Shadd Cary.

Some Black Women: Profiles Of Black Women In Canada

by Rella Braithwaite and Tessa Benn-Ireland (305.48896 BRA)

Is a unique and diverse collection of profiles and photographs compiled to document the many contributions Black women have made to Canadian society.

Who's Who In Black Canada: Black Success and Black Excellence In Canada: A Contemporary Directory, 2002

by Dawn P. Williams (REFERENCE 920.009296 WIL)

Biographical profiles of over 700 Blacks in and from Canada.

BLACK HISTORY IN CANADA:

Africville: The Life And Death Of A Canadian Black Community

by Donald H. Clairmont (971.6225004 BLACKS)

The 3rd edition of this classic book is a sociological account of the forced relocation of the inhabitants of one of the worst city slums in Canada in the mid 1960's. It tells of the social injustice that marked both the life and death of this Black community that existed in Halifax for some 150 years.

Black And Bluenose: The Contemporary History Of A Community

by Charles R. Saunders (971.6004 BLACKS)

Documents the recent history of Canada's oldest and largest indigenous Black community in Nova Scotia with the insight of a journalist who knows all too well the roller-coaster ride its inhabitants have been on.

The Black Battalion: 1916-1920: Canada's Best Kept Military Secret

by Calvin W. Ruck (940.41271 RUC)

Tells the story of the overt racist treatment of some 600 Black volunteers in a segregated non-combatant battalion who served, fought and died on European battlefields during World War I.

Black Fugitive Slaves In Upper Canada by Linda Bramble
(973.7115 BRA)

Discusses the status and condition of slavery in North America in segments, pre and post 1833, the year Great Britain passed a law that freed all slaves throughout British colonies. Specifically this book focuses on the era of the Underground Railroad when both Black fugitives from the US and the whites who chose to help them showed enormous courage, resourcefulness and strength.

Black Geographies And The Politics Of Place by Katherine McKittrick (305.89607 BLA)

The history of Black people cannot be told without addressing powerful geographical shifts: massive forced migrations, land dispossession, and legal as well as informal structures of segregation. From the Middle Passage to the “Whites Only” signposts of US apartheid, the Black Diaspora experience is rooted firmly in the politics of place.

The Black Loyalists by James W. St. G. Walker
(966.4004 BLACKS)

A sensitive interpretation of the back-to-Africa movement from Canada to Sierra Leone.

Black Nova Scotians by John N. Grant (971.6004 BLACKS)

This short concise history of Blacks in Nova Scotia also includes mini biographies of several of the province’s better-known citizens.

Black Then: Blacks And Montreal, 1780-1880’s

by Frank Mackey (971.428004 BLACKS)

Mackey presents arresting tales of slavery, liberation, skullduggery, licentiousness, and a rich parade of characters, heroes, heroines, and scoundrels (White and Black).

The Blacks In Canada: A History

by Robin W. Winks (971.004 BLACKS)

This is a chronological history of Blacks beginning with slavery in New France in the 17th century and continuing on to the wave of immigration from the West Indies and the Caribbean in the 1960’s and 70’s.

Blacks In Canada: In Search Of The Promise

by Francine Govia and Helen Lewis

(ADULT STACK REFERENCE 971.004 BLACKS; *reference only*)

The books that are cited in this bibliography discuss the lure of freedom that has been repeatedly promised to Blacks immigrating to this country from the 18th century to the present.

Blacks In Deep Snow: Black Pioneers In Canada

by Colin A. Thomson (301.45196 THO)

An account of the white racism that accompanied the presence of Blacks in Western Canada is the major theme of this work.

From Midnight To Dawn: The Last Tracks Of The Underground Railroad

by Jacqueline L. Tobin (973.7115 TOB)

Tobin presents compelling portraits of the men and women who established the Underground Railroad and traveled it to find new lives in Canada. True stories of historic events linking American and Canadian history cover the lives of Harriet Tubman, John Brown, Mary Ann Shadd and Osborne Perry Anderson.

The Freedom-Seekers: Blacks In Early Canada

by Daniel G. Hill (971.00496 HIL)

A fascinating study of Canadian Blacks from the French regime to the post-American Civil War period, and of how, in the face of every kind of difficulty and discouragement, they were determined to make a better life for themselves and their families.

A History Of Blacks In Canada: A Study Guide For Teachers and Students

by James W. St. G. Walker

(ADULT STACK REFERENCE 971.00496 WAL)

This study presents a concise account of the presence of Blacks in this country paying great attention to the various waves of Blacks entering Canada.

The Spirit Of Africville

by Africville Genealogical Society

(971.6225004 BLACKS)

Recollections and accompanying photos of life in Africville by a number of its former residents make for a poignant account of Black history in Nova Scotia.

Towards Freedom: The African-Canadian Experience

by Ken Alexander and Avis Glaze (971.004 BLACKS)

Traces the 400-year-old Black struggle for freedom, justice, peace, and equality in Canada.

The Underground Railroad: Next Stop, Toronto by Adrienne L. Shadd (971.3541 BLACK CANADIANS)

This richly illustrated book examines the urban connection of the clandestine system of secret routes, safe houses and 'conductors'. Not only does it trace the story of the Underground Railroad itself and how people courageously made the trip north to Canada and freedom, but it also explores what happened to them after they arrived.

LITERATURE:

Childhood: A Novel by Andre Alexis (FICTION ALE)

A coming-of-age novel about a Canadian boy, abandoned by his mother, who travels to Ottawa where he meets an eccentric scientist who fires his imagination. The love affair between a young Black boy's wayward mother and a man who may or may not be his father forms the intriguing background to this enormously appealing first novel by Alexis, a Trinidadian-Canadian author.

Consecrated Ground by George Boyd (819.254 BOY)

In 1965, Africville, the infamous community in Nova Scotia (having been initially settled by the black refugees of the War of 1812) was bulldozed. This play retells the struggles of Africville's residents to save their homes and their dignity.

No Language Is Neutral by Dionne Brand (819.154 BRA)

Dionne Brand understands the role of the past, the strength of ancestral voices and integrates these in poetry astonishing in its ability to move and sing to us.

Polished Hoe by Austin Clarke (FICTION CLA)

When Mary Mathilda of the West Indies' Birnshire Island confesses to killing a powerful sugar plantation owner, whom she has served for more than thirty years and who is the father of her

grown son, she sets off a devastating all-night vigil. This novel won Canada's prestigious Giller Prize.

What We All Long For by Dionne Brand (FICTION BRA)

All four characters navigate the ethnic and cultural tensions of the city. Brand evokes both the merits and the problems of Toronto's cultural richness, in language that is celebratory without being sentimental.

Dry Bone Memories by Cecil Foster (FICTION FOS)

This novel opens with Edmund the narrator flying away from Barbados and into an American witness program. He is driven by guilt and grief to try to understand how he has come to this pass and the novel unfolds as layers of memory reveal the story.

Sleep On, Beloved by Cecil Foster (FICTION FOS)

Leaving her Jamaican home and baby daughter to start a new life in Canada, a determined woman is plunged into an alien culture and a painful struggle to build a new life for herself and the daughter she longs for.

Drawing Down A Daughter by Claire Harris (819.154 HAR)

Speaking to her unborn child through journals, letters, stories and imaginings Harris' narrator calls up a cast of expressive characters as she travels from West Indies to Canada.

Any Known Blood by Lawrence Hill (FICTION HIL)

This epic story, ranging from 1820's Virginia to 1990 Ontario and Maryland, is about the descendants of Black slaves who followed the "underground railway" north to the relative freedom of British Canada in the years preceding the U.S. Civil War. There is not a lot of fiction about the history of Black people in Canada, therefore this book is a valuable contribution to Canadian historical fiction.

Someone Knows My Name: A Novel by Lawrence Hill

(FICTION HIL) (published as *Someone Knows My Name* in the US, and appears in Canada as *The Book of Negroes*)

Hill's third novel, a Canadian best-seller, is a masterful example of historical storytelling, one both heartbreaking and hopeful. Stunning, wrenching and inspiring, the novel by Canadian novelist Hill

(Any Known Blood) spans the life of Aminata Diallo, born in Bayo, West Africa, in 1745.

Brown Girl In The Ring by Nalo Hopkinson (FICTION SCI HOP)

This novel is a winner of Warner Aspect's first Novel Contest. An outstanding science-fiction by a Jamaican-born novelist. The setting is post-modern Toronto.

Midnight Robber by Nalo Hopkinson (FICTION SCI HOP)

As the beloved daughter of the mayor of Cockpit County on the planet Toussaint, Tan-Tan grows up spoiled and cherished until her father's crime leads to her exile with him to the prison planet of New Half-Way Tree.

Salt Roads by Nalo Hopkinson (FICTION SCI HOP)

This blend of historical fiction, fantasy, and folklore intertwines the lives of three women of African descent.

Skin Folk by Nalo Hopkinson (FICTION SCI HOP)

These stories further illustrate the author's broad range of subjects, from a Web designer who discovers an unusual ability to alter the pixels of real people to a young girl struggling to survive in a post apocalyptic world where the very air and water are suffused with ground glass.

A Drifting Year by Dany Laferriere (FICTION LAF)

A semi-autobiographical chronicle of day-to-day events as experienced by a Haitian immigrant during his first year in Canada. The text is written in poetic fragments which catalogue the speaker's daily encounters and activities throughout the year.

This Body by Tessa McWatt (FICTION MCWA)

A moving novel of love, loss and family set in London, Toronto and Guyana. The two narratives in the book complement one another nicely, weaving a warm but unsentimental tale of family relationships.

Venomous Hum by Suzette Mayr (FICTION MAYR)

A brash satire about two best friends, who decide to plan a twenty-year class reunion after hearing of the death of an old high school

acquaintance. What they didn't plan on was racial and sexual tensions, extramarital affairs, and cannibalistic, undead vegetarians.

The Unfortunate Marriage Of Azeb Yitades by Nega Mezlekia
(FICTION MEZLEKIA)

This work is possibly not like anything you've encountered. Mezlekia tells his story with wit and insight. He engages deeply and leaves you feeling richer for the experience. It's the story of a country and a young woman coming painfully to adulthood, the story of modern Ethiopia and, somehow, the universal story of childhood lost that we'd recognize no matter where it was set.

Kipligat's Chance by David Nandi Odhiambo (FICTION ODH)
Living in a grim Vancouver housing project with his family, John "Leeds Kipligat," a seventeen-year-old Kenyan emigré, and his best friend, Kulvinder, try out for a local track club, an opportunity that could provide help to gain a college scholarship and to escape the poverty, family strife, hardships, and the mind-numbing routine of their lives.

Passages by Emile Ollivier (FICTION OLL)
In Passages all the characters are immigrants and exiles and the book stands on three geographical legs: Haiti, from where miserable boat people seek to escape; Miami, which some of them actually reach; and Montreal, where a species of new identity is being forged.

The Sweet Spot by Kayla Perin (FICTION ROM PER)
Brown, the ace wide receiver for the Oakland Raiders, finds his career in trouble after meeting Zoe Andrews, an ambitious broadcast journalist out to make her mark on the world of men's sports.

She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks
by Marlene Nourbese Philip (819.154 NOU)
This collection of poetry is an extended jazz riff on the themes of language, racism, colonialism and exile.

Sisters Of Theta Phi Kappa by Kayla Perrin (FICTION PER)
This is not just a story of female bonding and friendship but a skillfully written combination of romance and mystery. After four

young women from totally different backgrounds pledge the Theta Phi Kappa sorority at Howard University, a friendship and sisterhood is forged forever.

No Crystal Stair: A Novel by Mairuth Sarsfield. (FICTION SAR)
Follows the life of Marion Willow, a Black widow in Quebec during the 1940's, who attempts to raise her three daughters with dignity despite the limitations placed on her due to segregation.

The Heart Does Not Bend by Makeda Silvera (FICTION SIL)
The story opens with the reading of Maria Galloway's will. The powerful and domineering matriarch of a sprawling Jamaican family takes a final swipe at her relatives, just to show she can be as bossy and manipulative in death as she was in life, when she leaves her considerable inherited property to her worthless and sociopathic grandson.

Riverlisp by Frederick Ward (FICTION WAR)
There were once dozens of Riverlisps in America consisting of Black communities that grew up after 1900 on the edge of nearly every northern city. Ward tells of them the only way possible, in their own words and stories.

AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES

BLACK HISTORY – THE EARLY YEARS OF SLAVERY:

Fields Of Endless Day (NFB 971.004 FIE)

Public Performance Rights

The film seeks to uncover the “roots” of Canada's Black population, tracing the history of their struggles and triumphs over a period of almost three hundred and seventy-five years.

Hymn To Freedom (VHS 971.00496 HYM) *Public*

Performance Rights

Volume 1 - **Slavery: A Canadian Story, The Packwood Family**

This video features the history of slavery in Lower Canada, Using illustrations, maps, archival documents and photographs,

narrator/host Fil Fraser guides the viewer through the centuries. From the first documented slave sale of Oliver Le Jeune in 1626 to the present day Black community of Montreal.

Volume 2 - Nova Scotia: Against The Tides

The Nova Scotia story speaks to the waves of immigrants who eventually contributed to the formation of the province. The population ebbed and flowed from the major wars that shaped Canada and the United States.

Volume 3 - Ontario: A History Buried

Reta's story represents the lives of many of the people who came to Ontario to freedom (following the passage to the U.S. of the Fugitive Slave Act) along the Underground Railroad. However there were already 25,000 black people in Canada when the Underground Railroad began.

Volume 4 - British Columbia The West: On This Rock

The program features the Collins family and examines the early history of the area and the way in which Blacks influenced British Columbia to join the Confederation of Canada instead of becoming a part of the United States.

Loyalties (NFB VHS 305.896 LOY)

Closed Captioned/Public Performance Rights

This documentary is the story of two women whose meeting brought together two halves of a whole story: that of slave owner and slave.

Ship Of Slaves: The Middle Passage

(VHS 380.14409 SHI) *Public Performance Rights*

Produced by Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks, *Ship of Slaves* is a searching look at the history and legacy of slavery in the New World. Dramatic re-enactments filmed aboard a preserved slave ship show the horrific conditions the slaves endured.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY:

Canada: A People's History (DVD & VHS 971 CAN v. 08)

Closed Captioned

The Great Enterprise 1850 to 1867

Series 2, Volume 8

The remarkable start of Confederation, its passionate supporters and its bitter foes is a story of risk, suspicion and seduction which unfolds against a foreboding backdrop of civil war in the United States and colonial disengagement in Britain

Freedom's Land: Canada And The Underground Railroad
(DVD 973.7115 FRE)

This is the story of how Canada and the Underground Railroad became the focal point of the anti-slavery movement in the tumultuous decade leading up to the American civil war.

Race To Freedom: The Story Of The Underground Railroad
(VHS FILM\TV RAC)

Moving and exciting historical drama, which follows the escape of four slaves through Harriet Tubman's "Underground Railroad."

Roots Of Resistance: The Story Of The Underground Railroad (VHS 973.7115 ROO)

In the mid-1800s, black men and women traveled a network of escape routes known as the Underground Railroad. This program recounts the little-known story of Black America's secret railroad to freedom through narratives of escaped slaves.

Safe Harbor (DVD 973.7115 SAF)

Safe Harbor follows the Underground Railroad through a little-known passage to freedom. The filmmakers step into uncharted territory as they explore the Great Lakes region and its role in America's anti-slavery movement.

Underground Railroad (VHS 973.7115 UND & DVD 973.7115 UND) *Public Performance Rights*

This is the thrilling story of a 200-year-old struggle to break the bonds of slavery in the American South. A story of secret codes, hidden way-stations and clandestine "conductors" a story not of a railway, but of loosely organized network of runaway slaves, freed

Blacks and anti-slavery Whites, all willing to risk their very lives in the name of liberty.

Voice Of The Fugitive (NFB VHS 973.7115 VOI)

Public Performance Rights

This intense drama follows the journey of four escaped slaves as they travel the Underground Railway in 1851 from Earnest County, Kentucky, to Canada.

Whispers Of Angels: A Story Of The Underground Railroad
(DVD 973.7115 WHI)

Long-format interviews with prominent historians blend with dramatic reenactment to create a powerful story about the fight to end slavery.

CANADAIN BLACK HISTORY IN THE 20TH CENTURY:

Ame Noire = Black Soul (NFB VHS 305.896 AME)

Public Performance Rights

Black Soul is an exhilarating immersion into the heart of Black culture via a whirlwind voyage through the defining moments of Black History. As an old lady initiates her grandson into his past, a series of perpetually transforming images painted directly under the animation camera unfolds before our eyes.

Brother 2 Brother (DVD 305.896 BRO)

This film revolves around Corey, the father of a three year old son, as he tries to reconcile his urge to be a hustler with his need to be a responsible father and a supportive partner. Central to the film is the transformative power of a weekend retreat for young Black Males, organized by BROS (the Brothers Reaching Out Society).

Home Feeling: Struggle For A Community

(NFB VHS 307.1416 HOM) *Public Performance Rights*

The Jane-finch “Corridor” is an area of six square blocks in Toronto’s North York. To the residents the corridor evokes images of vandalism, high-density subsidized housing, racial tension, despair and crime. By focusing intimately on the lives of several of the residents, many of them Blacks or members of other visible minorities, and their relationship with agencies and major institu-

tions that affect their lives, the film provides a powerful view of a community that, contrary to its popular image, is working towards a more positive future.

Journey Of Lesra Martin (NFB VHS 340.092 MARTIN)

Public Performance Rights

Lesra Martin was poor, illiterate and struggling on the violent streets of Brooklyn when a chance encounter with a group of Canadians shattered the confines of his life. He was pulled from the chaos of the inner city and given a fresh start in Canada. Lesra is now a lawyer and motivational speaker on the world stage.

Journey To Justice (NFB VHS 305.896071 JOU)

Closed Captioned/ Public Performance Rights

Focusing on the 1930s to the 1950s, this film documents the struggle of six people who refused to accept inequality.

Older Stronger Wiser (NFB VHS 305.40971 OLD)

Public Performance Rights

This video focuses on five rural and urban Black women who speak compellingly of what life was like for them in the 1920s, 30s, 40s, and 50s.

Prairie Dreams: Blacks In Western Canada

(VHS 971.2004 BLACKS)

In the early 1990's, hundreds of newly freed slaves came to Canada from Oklahoma. They built lives, homes and communities here, but also found discrimination.

Remember Africville (NFB VHS 971.6225 REM)

Public Performance Rights

Africville, a small Black settlement, lay within the city limits of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the 1960s, the families who lived there were uprooted and their homes demolished in the name of urban renewal and integration. Former residents, their descendants and some of the decision-makers speak out and, with the help of archival photographs and films, tell the story of that painful relocation.

The Road Taken (NFB VHS 971.004 BLACKS)

Public Performance Rights

A nostalgic ride through history, *The Road Taken* documents the experiences of Blacks who worked as sleeping-car porters on Canada's major railways from the early 1900's through the 1960's.

Speakers For The Dead (NFB VHS 305.896071 SPE)

Public Performance Rights

In the 1930s in rural Ontario, farmer Bill Reid buried the tombstones of a black cemetery under a pile of broken rocks to make way for a potato patch. *Speakers for the Dead* reveal the turmoil stirred up by desecrated graves and underlines the hidden history of Blacks in Canada.

PERSONAL STORIES & CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN HISTORY:

A Scattering Of Seeds: The Creation Of Canada

VHS 325.71 SCA

Volume 5 - **Breaking The Ice: The Story Of Mary Ann Shadd**

An evocative, thought-provoking film, Sylvia Sweeney's *Breaking the Ice* spotlights Mary Ann Shadd, abolitionist, suffragette and integrationist. Living in Windsor, Ontario, she fought heroically for education for Blacks, battling the segregationists and starting the first integrated school in Canada. Shadd later went on to become the first female newspaper editor and the first female black lawyer in North America.

Volume 20 - **Voice Of Freedom**

Jacques Holender's voice of freedom captures the voice of Ugandan refugee Opiyo Oloya as a broadcaster, teacher and writer. It also reveals the existence of a vibrant African culture in Toronto.

Volume 26 - **The Haitian Heart Of Love**

Carlos Ferrand's *The Haitian Heart of Love* weaves a portrait of a man defined by contradictions. Priest and bon vivant, philosopher and karate aficionado, a man of privacy and a radio host, Karl

Leveque came from bourgeois origins and dedicated his life to the poor.

A Woman Called Moses (VHS FILM/TV WOM)

A feature film of the life of Harriet Ross Tubman, founder of the Underground Railroad, who led hundreds of slaves to freedom in the North before the Civil War.

Imprints: Caribbean People In Manitoba (VHS 971.27004 WEST)

What do you know about the Caribbean? Beautiful beaches, sun and sand, rum and reggae are all wonderful things, but just small aspects of a much larger, more vibrant culture. For over fifty years, Caribbean people have been living and thriving here in Manitoba. Join Eleanor Coopsammy as she explores how Caribbean people contribute to our province and economy.

Jeni LeGon: Living In A Great Big Way (NFB VHS B LEGON)
Public Performance Rights

Meet Jeni LeGon - a talented and passionate dancer who became the first Black woman to sign a long-term contract with a major Hollywood studio. A warm and vibrant storyteller, she reflects on her 82 years of life, sharing her dreams and struggles.

Long Time Comin' (NFB VHS 709.22 LON)

Closed Captioned/ Public Performance Rights

In "Long Time Comin'" two African-Canadian lesbian artists give back to art it's most urgent meanings – commitment and passion.

Sisters In The Struggle (NFB VHS 305.40971 SIS)

Closed Captioned / Public Performance Rights

Sisters In The Struggle features black women who are active in community organizations, electoral politics, and labor and feminist organizing. They share their insights and personal testimonies on Canada's legacy of racism and sexism.

YOUTH:

Black, Bold And Beautiful (NFB VHS 305.40971 BLA)

Public Performance Rights

Afros, braids or corn-rows - hairstyles have always carried a social message, and few issues cause as many battles between Black parents and their daughters. This film celebrates the bonds formed as women attend to each other's hair, while exploring how every-day grooming matters tap into lively debates on the position of Black people in Canada.

Black Mother, Black Daughter (NFB VHS 305.509716 BLA)

Public Performance Rights

Black Mother, Black Daughter explores the lives and experiences of Black women in Nova Scotia, their contributions to the home, the church and the community and the strengths they passed on to their daughters. Some of the women appearing in the film are Edith Clayton, a basket maker; Pearleen Oliver, a historian; Dr. Marie Hamilton, an educator and community leader; and Daurene Lewis, a weaver and politician.

Making It: The Real Story: Career Profiles Of Black Youth

(VHS 650.1408996071 MAK)

Presents interviews with Black Youth in Manitoba who speak of their careers and how they reached their goals. They describe what their work entails, how they came to choose their careers, and what training and skills are required in their professions.

Sitting In Limbo (NFB VHS FILM/TV SIT)

Public Performance Rights

Full of gentle warmth and humor, and with an upbeat reggae score, this feature provides an intimate look at the lives of four Black teenagers in Montreal. Some of the issues examined include poverty, teenage pregnancy, racism, and the importance of having a community.

Speak It: From The Heart Of Black Nova Scotia

(NFB VHS 305.896071 SPE)

Closed Captioned / Public Performance Rights

Shingai, Tandi, Shawn and Krista are Black high school students

with something to say. Their message speaks to the essence of the experience of being young and Black today.

Follow The Drinking Gourd: A Story Of The Underground Railway (J VHS FILM/TV FOL)

Based on the traditional American folksong, this compelling tale recounts the daring adventures of one family's escape from slavery via the Underground Railroad. This touching story captures all the drama of a perilous flight to freedom.

Harriet Tubman (J VHS FILM/TV HAR)

"The Moses of her people" – that's the honored name by which Harriet Tubman is still remembered today. From 1849 to 1860, in 17 dangerous missions to the Confederate South, she helped more than 300 slaves escape to freedom in the North.

MUSIC, DANCE AND CANADIAN CULTURE:

Show Girls (Celebrating Montreal's Legendary Black Jazz Scene) (NFB VHS 781.65092 SHO)

Closed Captioned/Public Performance Rights

"Show Girls" celebrates Montreal's swinging black jazz scene from the 1920s to the 1960s, when the city was wide open. This video chronicles the lives of Bernice, Tina and Olga, who started dancing for a living as teens – mixing their memories with rarely seen footage of the era.

The JVC/Smithsonian Folkways Video Anthology Of Music And Dance In The Americas (VHS 780 JVC)

Volume 1 - **Canada and the United States: includes African American Secular and Sacred Music**

African American music and dance are expressions of a culture born out of the experiences of West African slaves and their descendants on United States soil. From the early 1600s to the early 1800s millions of West Africans were transplanted to the Americas to serve as slaves of European settlers.

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West End	999 Sargent Avenue	986-4677
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