

1793

LIMITED SLAVERY

Upper Canada passed the Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada. The Act did not free any enslaved people but prohibited the importation of enslaved persons into the province.

1834

ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY AND BLACK MEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Enslavement was abolished in most British colonies, including Canada. Black men now entitled to vote.

1916

BLACK WOMEN'S VOTE

Some Black Women in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta earned the right to vote and hold provincial Office.

1917

ORDER OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

The Order of Sleeping Car Porters (OSCP), the first Black railway union in North America, is established in Winnipeg by John Arthur Robinson, J.W. Barber, B.F. Jones, and P. White. By 1919, OSCP is successful in negotiating contracts with Canadian Northern Railway and Grand Trunk Railway that provide better pay and job conditions for Black employees.

1917-1918

WOMEN'S VOTE FEDERAL

Some Black women got the right to vote in the 1917 Federal Election. Some Black women got the right to vote in all Federal Elections in 1918.

1944

ONTARIO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT

Ontario was the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation solely dedicated to anti-discrimination.

1947

SASKATCHEWAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Canada's first bill of rights protected traditional democratic civil liberties such as speech, assembly, religion, association, and due process. It also prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, religion and national origin.

1955-1967

WEST INDIAN DOMESTIC SCHEME

The scheme encouraged women from the Caribbean to migrate to Canada, where they would become domestic workers in the homes of white families. After working for one year, these women would be granted permanent residency and could bring other family members to Canada. The rate of Caribbean migration to Canada further increased a few years later, after the implementation of new immigration regulations in 1962.

1960

CANADIAN BILL OF RIGHTS

Parliament passed the Canadian Bill of Rights. It protected freedom of speech, freedom of religion and equality rights, among others.

Celebrating our past and honouring the present

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023: A TIMELINE TO JUSTICE



RACIALIZED WORKERS
COMMITTEE
CUPE BC



1967

IMMIGRATION POLICY CHANGE

Canadian immigration policy changed. Immigrants were assessed in terms of education, skills and employment prospects, regardless of race, ethnicity or nationality.

1971

CANADIAN MULTI-CULTURALISM POLICY

The objective of the multi-culturalism policy was to maintain the cultural freedom of different peoples in Canada and to celebrate the cultural contributions of various ethnic groups to Canadian society. Subsequently, Black immigrants, no matter their origin, were able to practice, promote and celebrate their cultural traditions in their new home country.

1977

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Statute passed with the express goal of extending the law to ensure equal opportunity to individuals who may be victims of discriminatory practices based on a set of protected grounds.

1982

CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is embedded in the Constitution Act.

1996

FIRST BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN CANADA

Black History Month in Canada was introduced by Jean Augustine to the House of Commons in December 1995. It was first celebrated across the country in February 1996.

1998

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

Amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act permanently establish the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in its current form.

2004

BLACK VOTE CANADA

Operation Black Vote Canada is established.

2017

ANTI-RACISM ACT

Ontario becomes the first province to create an Anti-Racism Act. In 2018 The Anti-Racism Data standard was created.

2014

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The first Black Lives Matter chapter is established in Toronto.

2016

POPULATION

According to Statistics Canada, there were about 1.2 million Black people living in Canada in 2016. Black Canadians formed about 3.5 per cent of the total population.