

# ATN NEWSLETTER

**Black Brilliance and Joy is part of Canadian History!**



## FEBRUARY MARKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**From the desks of the Antiracist Teachers Network:**

Moving into Black History Month, it is important to pause and recognize how the African diaspora spans many countries across the globe with over 300 million residing in the United States alone. Considering this fact, the impacts of diaspora on identity are ongoing and need to be recognized along with the intersectionality of those in your classroom.

As educators, we also cannot shy away from the ongoing impacts of diaspora, how it is embedded into our society's systems, and how it impacts the students we teach.

When exploring the important information of this month we encourage you to open up the conversation in your classrooms with a poem shared by The **Black Student's Union** (or **BSU**) at Sir Winston Churchill High School titled **(An Invitation to) Brave Space** by Micky Scottbey Jones. This poem will help open up your students to having conversations about the realities of Black History in Canada and globally.

We have also included a page for this issue focusing on Black Wellness Resources that can help support educators and students alike when exploring topics of systemic racism and ongoing trauma.

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### DATES OF NOTE FOR FEBRUARY

**All Month: Black History Month** (Theme: Black Resistance)

**Feb 1st** - World Hijab Day, Imbolc

**Feb 3rd** - Guru Har Rai Jayanti

**Feb 5th** - Tu BiShvat, Lantern Festival

**Feb 11th** - International Day of Women and Girls in Science

**Feb 14th** - Valentine's Day

**Feb 15th** - Parinirvana Day

**Feb 18th** - International Asperger's Day, Isra and Mi'raj, Maha Shivaratri

**Feb 19 to 25th** - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week

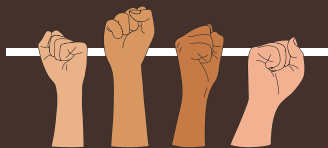
**Feb 20th** - Family Day, World Day of Social Justice

**Feb 21st** - International Mother Language Day, Losar

**Feb 22nd** - Pink Shirt Day, Ash Wednesday

**Feb 25th to March 1st** - Ayyam-i-Ha

**Feb 27th** - Clean Monday



# SOME PODCAST RECCS

From the ATN  
Resource Bank!



**The Secret Life of Canada** has a variety of podcast episodes highlighting Black Canadian history:

**Season 2: Shout Out to John Ware**

**Season 2: The Province of Jamaica** (with [teaching guide](#))

**Season 3: Crash Course on Black Nurses**

**Season 3: What's the deal with blackface?** (with [accompanying article](#))

Porter Primers Series

**Season 4: Crash course on Mary Ann Shadd**

**Teachers Off Duty** has their **first Black Educator Takeover** focusing on Race, Equality and Equity in the classroom and school.

**The Africas VS. America** is **Matthew Amha's** investigation into the targeting of the Black radical group MOVE who were leading Philadelphia's Black Liberation Movement.

# ATN PD OPPORTUNITIES

\*You must be an ATN  
Member to access these PDs

**Thursday March 16th - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Workshop** with [Dr. Andrew B. Campbell \(Dr. ABC\)](#).

**Thursday March 23rd - Islamophobia in Canadian Schools** with [The National Council of Canadian Muslims](#)

## COOL STUFF!

- **The CBC** provides Black Perspectives in all fields through their series [Being Black in Canada](#). We recommend checking out the sub series [Dreams in Vantablack](#) which highlights poetry created by Black youth across Canada and [Black on the Prairies](#) which draws historical and current perspectives of the contribution and experiences of Black Canadians in the prairie provinces.
- **STORYHIVE** presents [Secret Alberta: The Former Life of Amber Valley](#) one of the first all Black settlements in Canada.
- **UNILEARNAL** has developed the video series [28 Moments of Black Canadian History](#) highlighting prominent Black figures, historical moments and Black Canadian settlements from the voices of Black Canadians. [You can find the full playlist here](#) and we recommend reviewing this resource before presenting it in a 9-12 classroom.
- The **Ontario Black History Society (OBHS)** has developed [#ShareTheirStory](#) highlighting five Black Canadians with a video series and other interactive elements
- **Kimiko Shibata (@ESL\_fairy)** has developed [Black Brilliance Announcements](#) that are easily accessible for schools and highlight Canadian Black History.
- **Bashir Mohamed** is an Edmonton-based writer and historian focusing on Alberta's Black Civil Rights Movement with his work freely accessible [on his website](#) along with his analysis on [Edmonton's SRO Program](#) recommended for Grades 9-12 or a Legal Studies Class.
- **KAYAK Magazine** re-released their [2018 Black History Month issue as an expanded \(and free\) educational package](#) which is a great read for all classrooms!
- Looking for an online exhibit to explore? Check out the [National Women's History Museum's Standing up for Change: African American Women and the Civil Rights Movement](#) to highlight the pivotal role African American Women had in the fight for Civil Rights
- [@AfricanArchives](#) highlights Black History daily and we recommend you check out their thread on [Inventions by Black Inventors](#) as a starting point for any STEM explorations
- From [Anti-Racism Daily](#) comes the third annual [28 Days of Black History](#) which will highlight a moment of Black History along with actionable steps and discussion questions to use with your colleagues or classroom setting.
- [AMPLIFIER.ORG](#) invites you and your students to be amplifiers for a message by using downloadable picture files from a collective of artists covering a wide range of topics such as: Black Lives Matter, Voting Rights, Indigenous Resistance and many more.



## AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

**Khodi Dill** is a Bahamian-Canadian teacher with a passion for language.

A spoken word artist, he wrote his first children's book [Welcome to the Cypher](#) to share his love of rap with his children. In his second book, [Little Black Lives Matter](#) introduces fifteen important Black history-makers, while reminding the reader that these inspiring adults were once children, too.

Dill's next book [Stay Up: Racism, Resistance, and Reclaiming Black Freedom](#) invites young adults to reclaim pride in their identity and is coming out later this year

Dill will be speaking at a Black History Month event hosted by the University of Saskatchewan called [Soul's Poetry: Affirming Black Identity Through Art on February 15, 2023 from 6-7:30pm on Youtube](#) and you can sign up for the event [here](#).

Interested in joining the ATN?  
Email: [local38atn@gmail.com](mailto:local38atn@gmail.com)  
for more information!

# OUR MONTHLY BOOK RECCS

From the ATN Resource Bank!

**K to 4** - **I Sang You Down from the Stars** by Tasha Spillett-Sumner, **Hockey Night in Kenya** by Danson Mutinda, **I Promise** by Catherine Hernandez, **All Because You Matter** by Tami Charles, **Sulwe** by Lupita Nyong'o, **Trailblazers** by Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore, **Something Happened in Our Town** by Marianne Celano and Marietta Collins, **The Talk** by Alicia D. Williams, **Sarah Rising** by Ty Chapman, **Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman** by Louise Borden  
**5 to 9** - **Charming is a Verb** by Ben Philippe, **Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy** by Emmanuel Acho, **From the Desk of Zoe Washington** by Janae Marks, **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwame Mbalia, **Genesis Begins Again** by Alicia Williams,  
**10 to 12** - **Facing the Sun** by Janice Lynn Mather, **Punching the Air** by Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam, **Felix Ever After** by Kacen Callender, **Black Enough**, edited by Ibi Zoboi, **The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas, **I Rise** by Marie Arnold, **You Truly Assumed** by Sarah Everett, **When You Look Like Us** by Pamela N. Harris,  
**For Teachers** - **Black Lives Matter at School** Edited by Denisha Jones & Jesse Hagopian, **Pushout** by Monique W. Morris, **The Skin We're In** by Desmond Cole, **We Want to do More Than Survive** by Bettina L. Love, **Teaching to Transgress** by bell hooks, **Policing Black Lives** by Robyn Maynard

\*Looking for a way to diversify your shelf? Check out **Call Number**, a Black Owned book service that focuses on highlighting Black Literature.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS IN CALGARY

- **A Conversation: Alberta's Priorities and Black Representation** from Alberta's Black Progressives is on **February 1st, 2023 at Art Commons**
- **The Annual Black History Month Dinner** presented by the Calgary Black Chambers and Heritage Park is on **February 10th, 2023**
- **Black History Month - An Immigrant Story in the Canadian Army** is being hosted by **The Military Museums on February 16th, 2023**
- **Black Heritage Family Day** is being presented by Realize Your Potential Youth Society **at Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association on February 18th, 2023**
- **ActionDignity** is bringing back their **Black History Month Film Viewing on February 24, 2023**
- **The Ethnik Festival of Arts and Culture 2023** will be taking place at the **Telus Convention Centre on February 24th & 25th**
- **UNGANISHA: Explore. Connect. Dance.** will be running at **Contemporary Calgary on February 25th, 2023 with showtimes at 2:00 & 7:00 PM**
- **The University of Calgary** is hosting the **"Ours To Tell" Black History Month 2023 Series** with events occurring throughout the month
- **Calgary Public Library** is hosting **Black History Month series with Bashir Mohamed** throughout the month.

ALBERTA'S PREMIER ALL-INCLUSIVE BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

SHOWCASING THE BEAUTY OF AFRO CANADIAN/HERITAGE & CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

**ETHNIK FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE 2023**

**FEATURING**

- DONALD RAY JOHNSON (CALGARY JAZZ ENSEMBLE ARTIST)
- ALISON HINDS (COMPOSER, COUNTRY OF SOCA)
- SAMINI (DANCEHALL SENSATION)
- ROGER MOORING (CELEBRITY CHEF)

**LOCAL ARTISTS**

- MARQUESS BROWNE
- RAJNA NASH
- TITULOPE SONIKA
- RAIP ANIEL
- SABINA NAZ
- HONEL ROBERTS BAND
- GRAND KOMARIA
- PEPHTAL ADE
- KTHCHNGEN
- CHARITA CHANDON
- ALIST OF POTTERY
- N. DUNE
- ROBSON MAURICE
- SASHAE SPOONK
- KATHINA & MUSIC BAND
- SACD
- FRISCHIE BURKHA
- TOBI

**FEB 24 12 NOON** CALGARY FOOD WAR (CARYA VILLAGE COMMUNITY'S 610 8 AVE SE, CALGARY, AB T2G 0M1)

**FEB 25 12 NOON** MAIN FESTIVAL (MCLEOD HALL TELUS CONVENTION CENTRE 138 8 AVE SE, CALGARY, AB T2P 0A6)

**\$25 TICKET COVERS THE 2 EVENT DAYS** (FREE ENTRANCE FOR CHILDREN AGES 12 AND BELOW)

GET YOUR TICKETS AT [BIT.LY/EFAC2023TICKETS](https://bit.ly/efac2023tickets) OR [WWW.ETHNIKFESTIVALS.COM](http://WWW.ETHNIKFESTIVALS.COM)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Black Identity and Resilience

ActionDignity Black Heritage Month Celebration and Movie Screening

I Can't Breathe Movie | Filmmaker: Love Nwagwu

Friday, February 24 2023  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Centre for Newcomers

Scan the QR Code to Register

**The Annual Black History Month Dinner**

PRESENTED BY THE CALGARY BLACK CHAMBERS & HERITAGE PARK

**MEMBERSHIP ADVOCACY SCHOLARSHIP ADVOCACY**

**CALGARY BLACK CHAMBERS**

**RYP Black Heritage Family Day**

A Celebration of the Black Diaspora

At the Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association-5600 Centre St N, Calgary, AB

Join us as we highlight the unique talents, art and businesses from the local Black community.

An event for families to gather and create lasting memories and experiences, pass along tradition, have fun and EAT good food! This one-day celebration will showcase Black designers, artists, entertainers and businesses as they proudly display, engage and educate the community on the beauty of Black culture.

Each ticket includes admission to Black Heritage Family Day and Heritage Brunch with our unsung Heroes/Sheeros community leader

Ticket: \$20 - Adult, \$10 - child



# FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS

*Happy Black History Month! The beams of recognition shine bright, as we illuminate the astonishing achievements of Black Muslims.*

## Classroom Learning Activity #1

### Spoken Word Performance by Mustafa the Poet

\*Think about conversations around **meaningful allyship** and **intervention** as you approach Mustafa the Poet's spoken word performance.

Engage students in thinking of **practical strategies** around allyship **within the classroom** and **their communities**.



If you are interested in learning more about the intersections of being Black and Muslim and the work being done to challenge Islamophobia and Anti-Black Racism, check out The **Black Muslim Initiative**, a Canadian grass-roots organization dedicated to understanding and addressing issues at the intersection of Black & Muslim experience.

## Classroom Learning Activity #2



### Black Gold by Timaj Garad

\*An effective **ART AND POETRY** Exploration

#### Instructions

1. Watch the "Black Gold" music video by Timaj Garad
2. **Choose one quote** from the quote bank below or another line in the song that resonates with you.
3. **Write a short reflection:** What message is the artist trying to convey through this line? What connection can you make to your own life or community?

#### Quote Bank

- "There is nothing tragic about you. The tragedy is living in the kind of world that brings you the kind of grief that has you digging the earth with your teeth"
- "Duality wrapped up in your tongue as you code being Black and Muslim but rarely at the same time"
- "Your spine is a site of intergenerational trauma, and they mine your back until it cracks and exposes the black gold from your backbone that was sought"
- "Black Muslim girls you are more than magic, you are powerful, they can't even imagine"
- "Black Muslim girl, with the brilliance of many suns and the wisdoms of many moons. Where every phase is a better you. Look at the divide at work while they deny our worth"

#### Educator Highlights

- Reflect on intersectionality as you approach conversations around "Black Gold". How might being Black and Muslim impact one's experience of the world? How does this song broaden our understanding of Black identity and community?
- Consider the impact of representation and affirmation. If students continue to see particular communities through the lens of trauma/struggle how might that impact their understanding of a particular community? This song celebrates and affirms Black Muslim identity, an intersection that is often overlooked.

## CHALLENGING ANTI-BLACK ISLAMOPHOBIA AND ANTI-BLACK RACISM SCHOOL WIDE

### Guiding Reflection Questions

Consider the five reflection questions below to get you and your staff started:

1. How do we ensure learning and representation of **Black Muslim identities and communities** is **meaningfully infused** every month of the school year?
2. What **identities, stories, communities** are **missing** from the curriculum?
3. Is **classroom learning** around Black history framed as something that is **static**? Can students make connections on how Black history has shaped and continues to impact their own lives today?
4. Are conversations around **Black identity and history centred solely around struggle** (e.g., the civil rights movements or slavery)? If so, how do we honour this history (while recognizing that ongoing forms of racial inequity still exist today) but also **celebrate, affirm and acknowledge** the vibrant histories of Black communities in Canada beyond these narratives?
5. What **policy or practices** are in place that may **uphold or perpetuate** anti-Black racism and anti-Black Islamophobia within our schools?

# WELLNESS RESOURCES



BRIDGING CULTURES | REACHING YOUTH | IMPACTING CHANGE

Website: [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca)

Phone (Toll Free): 1-833-294-8650



Website: <https://blackmentalhealth.ca/>



Website:

[albertablacktherapistnetwork.com](http://albertablacktherapistnetwork.com)

Phone: 1-587-400-7300

Email:

[Info@Albertablacktherapistnetwork.com](mailto:Info@Albertablacktherapistnetwork.com)

## THERAPY *for* BLACK GIRLS

Website:

<https://therapyforblackgirls.com/>

Black History Month  
is approaching.

How do you plan to:

Honor Black history?

Celebrate Black contributions?

Uplift Black resistance?

Increase your awareness of issues  
impacting the Black community?

