



EMANCIPATION DAY: FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

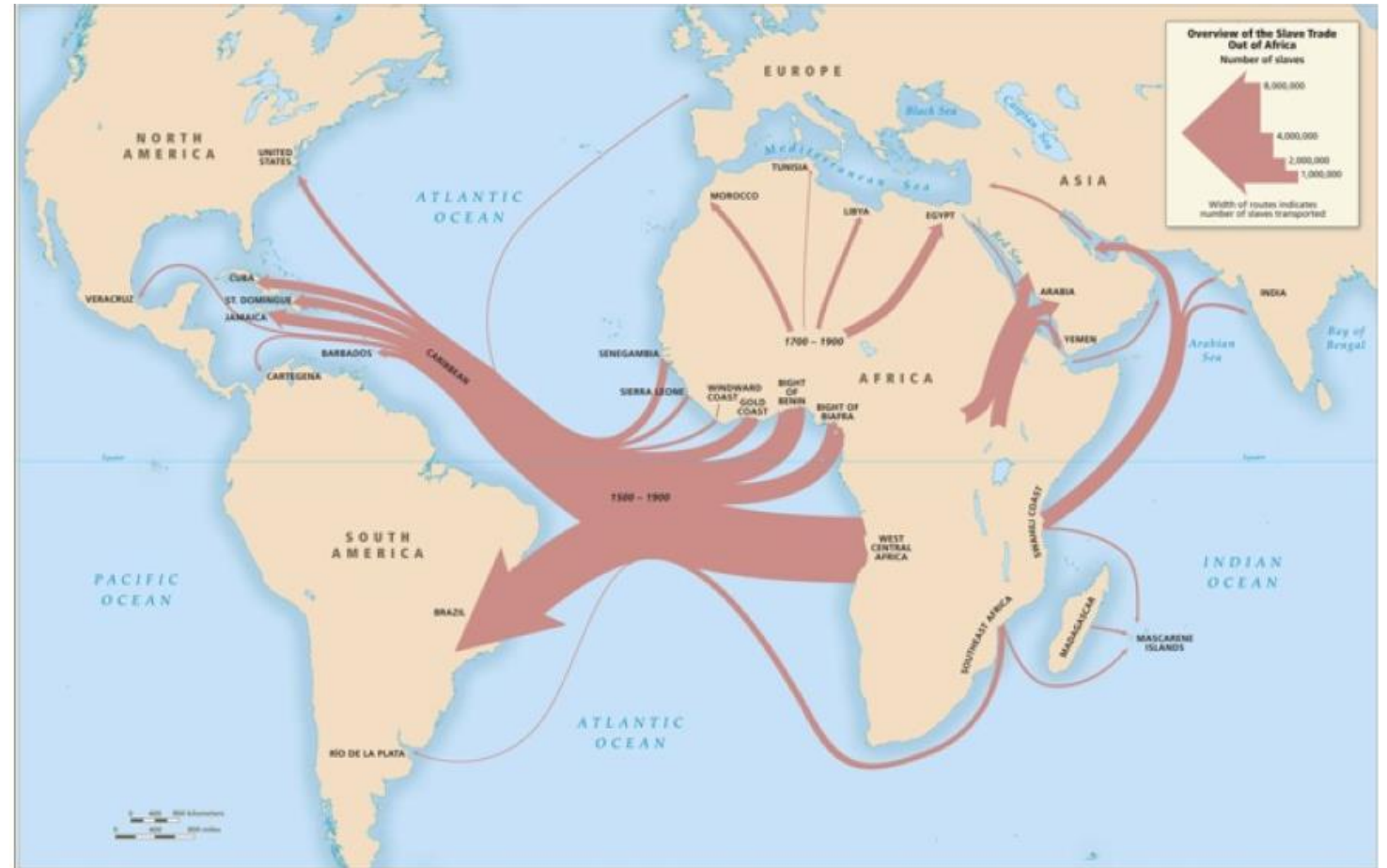
**THE HONOURABLE WANDA THOMAS BERNARD, PHD, C.M., O.N.S.
SENATOR - NOVA SCOTIA (EAST PRESTON)**

- Slavery in Canada
- Decade for People of African Descent
- Emancipation Day
- Reparations
- Creating Social Change
- What's Next



AGENDA

TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



**ANTI-BLACK
RACISM**

SLAVERY

SEGREGATION

MARGINALIZATION

The Past
Informs the
Present

SURVIVAL,
RESILIENCE
& STRENGTH

SLAVERY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- 2,683 Indigenous people were enslaved
- Similarly to Africans, bought and sold for domestic and manual labour
- Estimated 57% of these people were young women and girls



VIDEO: WE ARE ONE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp68aZ7FsFc&feature=youtu.be>

3 PILLARS OF THE DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT 2014-2024

1. RECOGNITION: acknowledge the multi-generational harms caused by enslavement.

2. JUSTICE: Government of Canada to take accountability for Canada's roots in Anti-Black Racism to bring justice to our ancestors.

3. DEVELOPMENT: creating a space for healing: a necessary element for development.





EMANCIPATION DAY

AUGUST 1st

- In Canada, Africans were trafficked for domestic and manual labour
- August 1, 1834
- Slavery Abolition Act came into effect
- Slavery was abolished in Canada and across the British Empire

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF EMANCIPATION DAY IN CANADA

Ontario

2008

Nova
Scotia

2021

Canada

2021

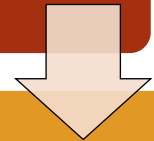
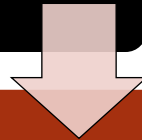
HOW DO WE CREATE CHANGE

Personal

Professional

Policy

Political



IMPORTANCE OF EMANCIPATION DAY

Exposing the myth that
Canada was exclusively
the 'Promised Land'

Recognizing the
existence of slavery in
Canada

Creating an opportunity
for African Canadians to
learn about and honour
their ancestors

Creating an opportunity
for non-Black people to
understand the historic
significance of slavery in
Canada

Promoting
understanding of the
origin of anti-Black
racism in Canada

Opportunity for all
Canadians to take
meaningful action

REPARATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OPPORTUNITIES

APOLOGY

FINANCIAL

RESOURCES

REPARATIONS...

...for the exploitation of
our ancestors...

ENSLAVEMENT
SEGREGATION
RELOCATION
VIOLENCE
MURDER

...accounting for
consideration of current
circumstances...

POVERTY
VIOLENCE
INCARCERATION
CHILD WELFARE
HEALTH
HOUSING
EDUCATION

...to build better
futures...

FREEDOM
SAFETY
WELLNESS
FINANCIAL SECURITY
STRONG FAMILIES
RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES

FOR DISCUSSION

What is one thing that you can do to create change?



HOW CAN YOU BE A CHANGEMAKER?

Ask Questions



Be Creative



Use Social Media



Use your Voice & Talents



Get Involved in your community



EMANCIPATION DAY ACTIVITIES

- A Family Walk and Talk of Remembrance of the lives lost
- A service project in the local community - as a form of paying it forward
- Attending an online event or a local event
- Having a courageous conversation about why Emancipation Day is important
- Sharing on social media what Emancipation Day means to you
- Suggest a book relating to Emancipation Day for your book club

SO... WHAT'S NEXT?

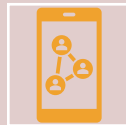
- Inclusion in elementary, high school and post-secondary curricula in all provinces
- Apologies for historic harms
- Reform existing policies, and introduce new policy measures
- Reparations in different contexts – different places and spaces
- **REFLECT, EDUCATE AND ENGAGE**

Q&A

Send photos of your emancipation day activities to:



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