

COMMUNITIES

There are a few Community Organizations that black people have created/spearheaded for the betterment of our community in Canada. These organizations have been integral in spreading education and awareness about the issues that plague our society. Although there are many wonderful causes, the ones we will highlight are the Black Methodist Episcopal Church and Ribbon Rouge.

Here is a list of activities you will work on:

- KWL Chart
- Reading
- Listening / Video
- Summary
-

KWL Chart

Complete the KWL chart below. What do you know and what do you want to know?

K	W	L
What I know about Black Methodist Episcopal Church and Ribbon Rouge.	What I want to know about Black Methodist Episcopal Church and Ribbon Rouge.	What I learned about Black Methodist Episcopal Church and Ribbon Rouge.

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READING

The British Methodist Episcopal Church was first established in 1854 in Canada after separating from American Methodist Episcopal Church. Reverend Willis Nazrey of Virginia was its first Bishop. The original building was a wooden structure in Windsor. Two years later, church members built one of brick on the Westside of McDougall Street near Assumption. These churches were a chance for the early blacks to retain their cultural characteristics and create a distinct community. Styles of worship, music and speech, family structures and group traditions developed in response to the conditions of life in Canada. The chief support was usually the Baptist or Methodist Church. The church's influence pervaded daily life, and inevitably assumed a major social and political role and the clergy became natural community leaders. In fact, in the 20th century, the churches led the movement for greater educational opportunity and for civil rights. The church was integral in maintaining unity and keeping the community together in the face of racial discrimination.



Bishop Willis Nazrey

Photo Courtesy of the BME Church Windsor / McCurdy Collection at the Archives of Ontario taken from <http://www.windsor-communities.com/african-religion-britishepis.php>

Black residents in the 1830s were not permitted to worship with white residents or afforded the same privileges white Christians enjoyed within the white churches in Canada. Notably, black members could attend church, but could not sit with white parishioners, nor could black pastors preach. For this reason, new settlers created their own churches. The Baptist and Methodist churches were popular especially amongst fugitives because they were simply required to accept Christ as their savior as a precursor to membership. In the first half of 19th century, 5 founding churches of the African Canadian community were established to help provide religious solace:

British Methodist Episcopal Church

-First Baptist Church

-Mount Zion Full Gospel Church

-Sandwich First Baptist Church

-Tanner African Methodist Episcopal Church

REFERENCES

This is for additional information only. You do not have to study the references for

the quiz.

1. <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/black-canadians/>
- 2 <http://www.windsor-communities.com/african-people-religion.php>

READING



Ribbon Rouge

Ribbon Rouge Foundation is an organization that "raises funds to get to zero HIV infections

locally and internationally, by supporting local emerging talents in the arts, fashion, and music." It seeks to "de-stigmatize and educate" whilst working with organizations "who pledge zero new infections and transmissions." Founded by Morenike Olaosebikan, a Nigerian student studying at the University of Alberta at the time, Ribbon Rouge has gone on to raise over \$40,000 "for HIV relief to HIV Edmonton, The Stephen Lewis Foundation, and the Joint United Nations AIDS program." Ribbon Rouge utilizes music, fashion and arts to bring awareness, education and infuses social activism within these mediums. Notably, Catwalk For the Cure is a night hosted at the Red Piano where "local designers and models showcase clothing and crafts made in Alberta. It shares messages for progress,

and uses [this] night of fashion and music for public health promotion to spread messages for public education and stigma reduction." Additionally, there are other events hosted: How to Have Sex—a night of comedy and poetry to share stories with the hope of reducing stigma through education; the Gala, a showcase of fashion, fine art and music. It has been hosted since 2006, and shines a spotlight on HIV globally and spreading relevant social justice messages, promoting education to de-stigmatize and support steps toward Zero infections.

DID YOU KNOW?



Morenike Olaosebikan founded Ribbon Rouge whilst a student at the University of Alberta? She used to host events and used arts to showcase and raise awareness. She came to Canada seeking to be physician, but as international students weren't permitted to enroll in that program, she enrolled into Pharmacy instead! She is an Associate Owner of a Shopper's Drugmart (on Wayne Gretzky Drive); and was the

owner, creative director and manager of Arewa, a fashion art, and lifestyle corporation which supplies one-of-a-kind and beautiful African inspired clothing and art."She has also taught at the Bredin Institute, and helps foreign-trained pharmacists to get integrated into the Canadian workforce.

VIDEO

Information from the videos and audios will also be included in the quiz. This is a link to a short video of the founder, Morenike, speaking on Ribbon Rouge and a brief history of herself. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgkKxJVqhp0>

SUMMARY

In this module you learned about how important the Black Methodist Episcopal Church was important to the Black pioneers in Canada, and the contributions of Morenike and her organization, Ribbon Rouge! Go back to the KWL chart and revisit everything that you have learned in this module!

REFERENCES

<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/morenike>

<http://blackcanadians.com/morenike-olaosebikan>

