

History

Settlements

What do you know about black settlements in Canada - where do you think black people live or have lived historically?

In this module you will learn about the historical settlement patterns of black people in Canada, as well as some present day information about where black people typically live. Although many Black Canadians live in integrated communities, a number of notable Black communities have been known, both as unique settlements and as Black-dominated neighbourhoods in urban centres.

Here are some of the activities you will work on

- KWL Chart
- Reading
- Listening/video
- Summary
- References

KWL CHART

K	W	L
What I know about black canadian settlements	What I want to know about Black canadian settlements	What I learned about black canadian settlements

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READING

Alberta settlements/ Shiloh baptist church

In the early 1900's, the Canadian government advertised for settlers to purchase 160 acres for \$10.00 or a quarter section of land and homestead in Alberta. Invited black settlers came by train from Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Mississippi and other southern states between 1908 and 1914.

The main reasons for leaving were "because of adverse legislation, 'Jim Crow' work and depot laws, the 'grandfather clause' act that prohibits them from voting, separate school laws and others." One spokesperson for a group entering Canada said,

*"The people of Oklahoma treat us like dogs. We are not allowed to vote and are not admitted to any of the theatres or public places. They won't even let us ride the streetcars in some of the towns."*¹

Between one thousand and fifteen hundred Blacks came to Canada, settling in Saskatchewan and Alberta. They were attracted by the image of "free lands [in

¹ http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/200/301/ic/can_digital_collections/athabasca/html/amber/index.htm

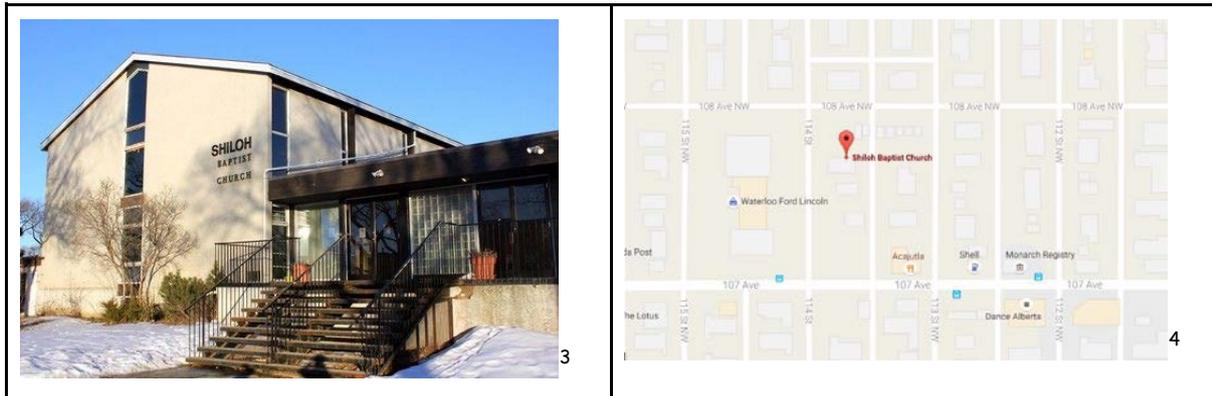
Canada] and also that everyone had the right to vote and was a free man." Black Americans returning to the United States from Canada painted the image of a safe, law-abiding country: "There has never been a lynching in Canada. Put that to the credit of the mounted police, who administered justice so successfully that there was never any temptation for the work to be taken up by private enterprise." This image wasn't completely true — there was a great deal of racism in Canada. For example, for Blacks trying to enter Canada there were strict regulations on health, literacy, and financial support. These regulations were set up on the assumption that most Blacks wouldn't be able to meet them and thus would not be allowed to enter the country.

R. Bruce Shepard described racism in Canada as "diplomatic racism," that is, western Canadians used the power of the government of Canada to place limits on Black immigration. The most extreme example of diplomatic racism was "an order-in-council barring Blacks from entering the country" because the Black race "*is deemed unsuitable to the climate and requirements of Canada.*" Even though this law was never acted upon and was repealed, the fact that it was approved at all indicates how serious Canada was about keeping the northern plains white.

In 1909 one group of settlers, led by Parson H. Sneed, a clergyman and mason, settled in an area by the Athabasca River and formed the settlement Amber Valley, which was the largest community of black people in Alberta until the 1930s. Some of these settlers relocated to Edmonton in 1910, where they established the Shiloh Baptist church. Shiloh Baptist Church was formed out of the need for persons of 'colour' to have a welcoming place to gather to worship, only because other existing churches in Edmonton turned them away from joining their congregations. Shiloh was initially Edmonton's community hub for the first black settlers, their families and all other persons who had no other church or community in which they felt welcomed².

The church is located at 10727 - 114 street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5H 3K1

² <http://www.eshilohbc.ca/about/history>



Key events in the history of black settlements

(See document called "Waves of Immigration" in this 15-17 category)

LISTENING/VIDEO

Information from the videos and audios will also be included in the quiz. Watch a video about shiloh baptist church, by the Edmonton Journal on the Church's 100 anniversary:

<https://youtu.be/c21MYUnZbwc>

Quick facts

- The Africville Seasides hockey team of the pioneering Colored Hockey League (1894–1930) won the championship in 1901 and 1902
- North Preston, Nova Scotia, currently has the highest concentration of Black Canadians in Canada, many of whom are descendants of Africville residents.

SUMMARY

This module is short, but packed with interesting facts about how black people settled in Canada. To bring it home to Edmonton, Edmonton's very own historian laureate, Chris Chang-Yen-Philips recently launched a podcast that documents interesting historical facts about Edmonton. Next time you are looking for

³ <http://www.edmontonexaminer.com/2012/02/09/102-year-old-church-a-unique-piece-of-edmontons-history>

⁴ <https://goo.gl/88wL6C>

something to do, why don't you listen to his second episode where he takes listeners through his journey to find the first black Edmonton Public School Board Trustee: <https://letsfindoutpodcast.com/2016/08/28/episode-2-trustee-enigma/>

REFERENCES

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Nova_Scotians

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Canadians#Settlements

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/200/301/ic/can_digital_collections/athabasca/html/amber/index.htm

<http://www.eshilohbc.ca/about/history>

<http://www.edmontonexaminer.com/2012/02/09/102-year-old-church-a-unique-piece-of-edmontons-history>

<https://goo.gl/88wL6C>