

## Law and Politics

In this module you will learn about Black Canadians and their role in Canadian law and politics. William Peyton Hubbard was the first person of African descent to take political office in Canada. He was an alderman in the city of Toronto. You will also learn about some Canadian black law societies that exist today.

### Here is a list of activities you will work on:

- KWL Chart
- Reading
- Map reading activity
- Summary
- References

### KWL chart

K	W	L
What I know about William Petyon Hubbard and black law associations	What I want to know about William Petyon Hubbard and black law associations	What I learned about William Petyon Hubbard and black law associations

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## READING

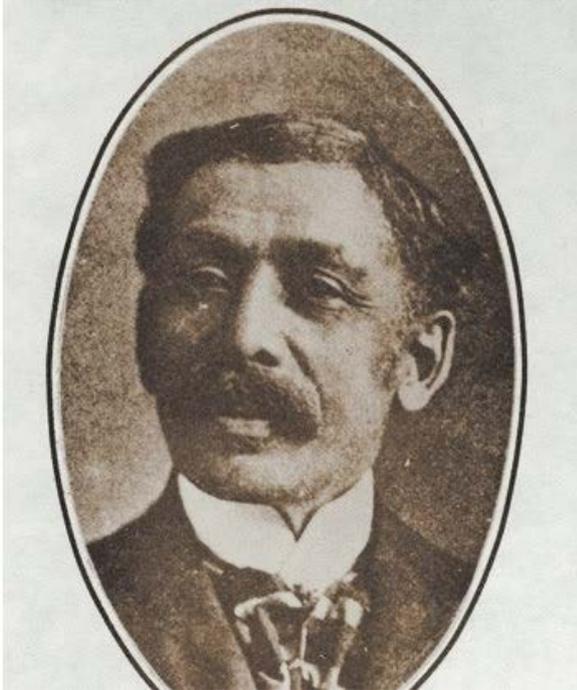
### **William Peyton Hubbard**

William Peyton Hubbard was a City of Toronto alderman from 1894 to 1914. An alderman is a member of the municipal council. He was a popular and influential politician; the first politician of African descent elected to office in Canada.

Hubbard was born in a cabin in a rural area called "the bush" in the outskirts of Toronto. Today, "the bush" is located near the intersection of Bloor Street and Bathurst Street, in downtown Toronto. His parents were refugee who had escaped their plantation in Virginia and reached Canada in 1840 via the Underground Railroad. Raised a devout Anglican, Hubbard was trained as a baker at the Toronto Normal School, which is bounded by Gerrard, Church, Gould and Victoria street (Present day Ryerson University). He invented and patented a successful commercial baker's oven, the Hubbard Portable.

By his thirties he was married to Julia Lockett. After having worked 16 years as a baker, he joined his uncle's horse-drawn livery taxi service. One winter night, he rescued another cab and its occupant, newspaper publisher George Brown,

from drowning in the Don River. To show his gratitude, Brown hired Hubbard as his driver. They became friends and the publisher later encouraged Hubbard to seek public office.



Hubbard first sought public office in 1893 at the age of 51, running in Toronto's Ward 4, he lost by 7 votes. Encouraged, he ran again in Ward 4 in 1894 and was elected to represent the quiet, tree-lined ward of grand homes; it was one of the wealthiest and whitest wards in the city (St. Clair Ave. down to the lakeshore, and bounded on its east and west sides by University Ave. and Bathurst St). He was elected to city council a total of 15 times in his career.

He was nicknamed "Old Cicero" and was a reformer armed with a sharp wit and powerful oratory skills. He made his name fighting for public ownership of Toronto's water and hydroelectric supplies. He advocated improved waterworks and opposed its privatization, sought roads, and the authority to enact local improvement bylaws.

Hubbard retired to the Riverdale area of the city, building a home on Broadview Avenue near Danforth Avenue. He lived there until his death from a stroke at the age of 93. He was dubbed the *Grand Old Man* by Toronto press in his political days, and served well into his 90s. In fact, he was oldest man in the city for a short period before his death. Flags at Toronto City Hall, St. Lawrence Market, and other public buildings in the city flew at half mast to mark his death. He is buried in the Toronto Necropolis.

The city of Toronto has honored him in the following ways:

- Hubbard's portrait hangs in the office of the Mayor of Toronto.

- The City of Toronto's William Peyton Hubbard Award for Race Relations was established in 1989 and is awarded annually. Recipients have included Leonard Braithwaite, QC, George Elliot Clarke, Dub Poet Lillian Allen, and former Ontario cabinet minister Alvin Curling.
- The William Peyton Hubbard Memorial Award is a scholarship established in 2000 and funded by Hydro One which is awarded annually to two black students studying power industry-related disciplines at a recognized Ontario post-secondary institution. The award includes an offer of a work term or summer employment at Hydro One.
- A historical plaque commemorating Hubbard is located in front of his former home at 660 Broadview Avenue; it is now named Hubbard House and houses several classrooms for the Montcrest School
- A park at the site of the former Don Jail, at the corner of Gerrard Street and Broadview Avenue, is to be named Hubbard Park. That was the name selected by Torontonians in an online competition for naming the park outside the historic Don Jail.

Hubbard was portrayed in Season 9, Episode 13 ("Colour Blinded") of the Canadian mystery series *Murdoch Mysteries* by actor Rothaford Gray. In the episode he comes to the defense of an innocent black man who has been racially profiled by the Toronto police. He made a repeat appearance in Season 9 Episode 16, March 7 2016 ("Bloody Hell").

Here are a few quick facts about Hubbard and his political career

Personal life	
Born	1842, Toronto
Died	April 13, 1935 (age 93)
Nationality	Canadian
Spouse	Julia Lockett

Education	Toronto Normal School
Occupation	Politician, Baker, Chauffeur
Religion	Anglican
<b>Political Career</b>	
Alderman, Ward 4, city of toronto	1894-1898, 1900 - 1903
Vice- chairman, Toronto board of control	1898-1900, 1904 - 1908
Alderman, Ward 1, city of Toronto	January 1, 1913 - December 31, 1913

Biography of Hubbard, *Against All Odds*, was published in 1986 and written by his great-grandson Stephen L. Hubbard.

<https://nowtoronto.com/news/the-historical-irony-of-william-peyton-hubbard/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Peyton\\_Hubbard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Peyton_Hubbard)

### **Black Lawyers Associations**

We will take a look at two black law associations: The canadian Association of Black Lawyers and Black female lawyers network



CABL, formed in March 1996, is a national network of law professionals and individuals committed to reinvesting in the community. CABL's continuing goal is to bring together law professionals and other interested members of the

community from across Canada to cultivate and maintain The Association of Black professionals in Canada.<sup>1</sup>

At its inception, the objectives of CABL were:

- to promote the welfare and interests of its members
- identify and address the professional needs and goals of Black legal professionals and Black law students; promote academic and professional excellence
- foster among Black lawyers and law students a greater awareness of and commitment to the needs of the Black community
- procure increased access for Black students to law schools
- provide positive role models for youth
- give public recognition of the achievements and contributions of individuals and organizations within the community
- and to work with other progressive persons and organizations toward the attainment of these objectives.

The organization provides mentorship to young lawyers and law students and scholarships to students.

<http://www.cabl.ca/index.php>



The Black Female Lawyers Network (BFLN) provides a forum for students and practitioners in the field to convene, share and learn from one another. Our

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cabl.ca/about>

annual retreat, Sistah-in-Law, began as an intimate gathering of colleagues and friends and has blossomed into a full day event attracting attendees from across Canada.<sup>2</sup> The BFLN vision is as follows:

*We are an essential and influential voice in the legal profession - facilitating access, leveraging opportunities and fostering the well-being of our membership.*

The core values of the BFLN are good stewardship, integrity, empowerment, fairness & equity and collaboration

<https://sistahsinlaw.wordpress.com/>

### **MAP READING ACTIVITY**

Look at this 1890 Map of Toronto:

<http://static.torontopubliclibrary.ca/da/images/LC/maps-r-60.jpg>

Now use this link to view a present day map of Toronto and locate the following places, based on the information given in the text. <https://goo.gl/oGgImi>

- Ward 4. Hint: in present day Toronto, University Ave continues to Avenue Rd.
- William hubbard's birth place
- Where William hubbard trained to be a baker
- The future location of Hubbard park (Old don jail)
- The river in which he rescued George brown from drowning
- The area where Hubbard built his house after retirement
- The place where William Hubbard is buried

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<sup>2</sup> <https://sistahsinlaw.wordpress.com/about/>

**SUMMARY:** This module covered historical facts about Black Canadians contributions to law and science in Canada, as well as organizations created for black lawyers to network and support one another. Thanks to these pioneers, people of African, Caribbean and other black heritages practise law and contribute to science regularly in Canada today.

### **REFERENCES**

The references are additional information. You do not have to study them for the quiz.

[https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2011/02/11/son\\_of\\_slaves\\_changed\\_the\\_face\\_of\\_toronto\\_as\\_first\\_black\\_councillor.html?app=noRedirect](https://www.thestar.com/news/insight/2011/02/11/son_of_slaves_changed_the_face_of_toronto_as_first_black_councillor.html?app=noRedirect)

<https://nowtoronto.com/news/the-historical-irony-of-william-peyton-hubbard/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Peyton\\_Hubbard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Peyton_Hubbard)

<http://www.cabl.ca/index.php>