

## Host Institution

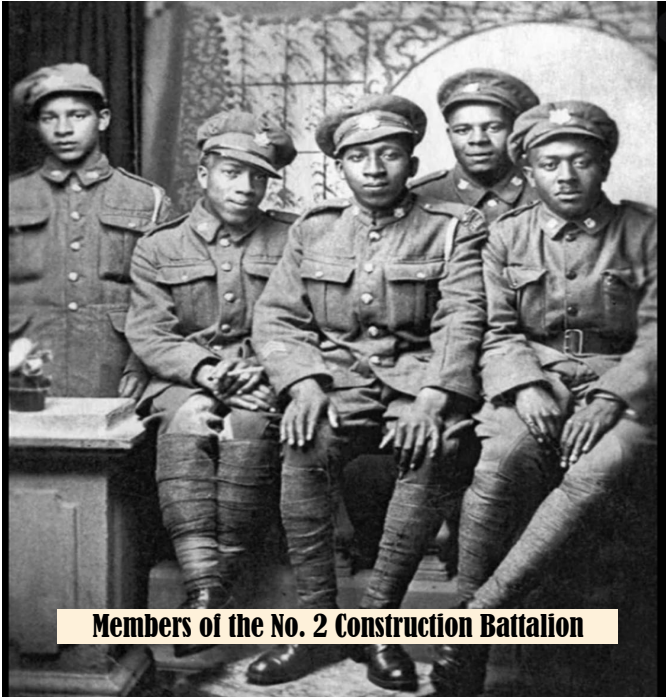
Dalhousie University is Atlantic Canada's premier research university and the region's only member of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities. It is located in Nova Scotia, the province with the oldest and largest historical Black communities in Canada. The school has achieved much success with its minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This minor is led by Dr. Afua Cooper who also proposed it. In September 2023 a new Major in Black and African Diaspora Studies, and a BA in Black Studies—the first of its kind in Canada, will be launched at Dalhousie.

## Upcoming Symposium

**Past/Future: African Canadian History, Arts and Culture in STEM Education** will be the first such event held in Canada. The panels will explore both theoretical and methodological approaches to the teaching of African Canadian history, arts and culture within the context of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. This important event is planned for July 26-28, 2022, at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Book your accommodations today to reserve your spot. Tickets available on Eventbrite. For more information, please visit us on social media.

A *Black People's History of Canada* project (BPHC), is led by principal investigator Dr. Afua Cooper, award-winning historian and author.

The Department of Canadian Heritage is the primary funder of this project.



Members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion



Dr. Afua Cooper



Funded by the Government of Canada  
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A BLACK PEOPLE'S  
HISTORY OF CANADA



L'HISTOIRE DES PEUPLES  
NOIRS DU CANADA

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## Did You Know?

In July of 1916, the No. 2 Construction Battalion was formed. Initially formed in Pictou, Nova Scotia, and later moved to Truro, they were the first all-Black battalion in Canada. Many Black men in Canada had sought to enlist from the onset of the war but were turned away at recruiting offices. The response of the government was to create the Black Battalion.



In the 1850s, the King Street School in Amherstburg, Ontario, was created due to racial segregation. Whites did not allow Black students in the public schools. The result was the creation of separate schools for Black children. Here is a picture of Mr. J.H. Alexander, Teacher and Principal of the school with some of his students.

## About Us

A *Black People's History of Canada* (BPHC) is a three-year project initiated and funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage and Dalhousie University. Its purpose is to conduct new research into our nation's rich African Canadian heritage. Partnering with African Canadian groups and government agencies responsible for education, BPHC will help create new elementary and secondary school curricula in English and French for the teaching of Black history in every Canadian province and territory.

## Why Are We Doing It

Canadians of African descent experience multiple inequities which impact all aspects of their lives, including health, education, and incarceration. Black Canadian learners have higher drop-out rates—along with reduced educational outcomes—when compared to non-racialized students. Further, there is an underrepresentation of Black educators and role models in Canada's classrooms. Poorly researched or inaccurate educational resources are used to teach Black history, which often result in Canadian educators defaulting to teaching American perspectives.

Limited or no knowledge of African Canadian history amongst our educators has resulted in many having little or no pedagogical understanding of Black students' experiences or their challenges. This the first and only African Canadian history education project with a national mandate with anticipated partners in each Canadian province/territory. Led by renowned scholar Dr. Afua Cooper, BPHC will be foundational to creating new classroom-ready learning materials and digital media in English and French; and will educate Canadians about the 400-plus year history of Black people's contributions to our country. The BPHC takes an innovative approach to promote a more equitable and just society in Canada, while filling critical gaps in African Canadian history education, which will support the academic success of Black Canadian youth.

# BLACK HISTORY IS CANADIAN HISTORY