

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 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. Dr. Cooper continues to play a leading role in the evolution of Black Studies at the university.

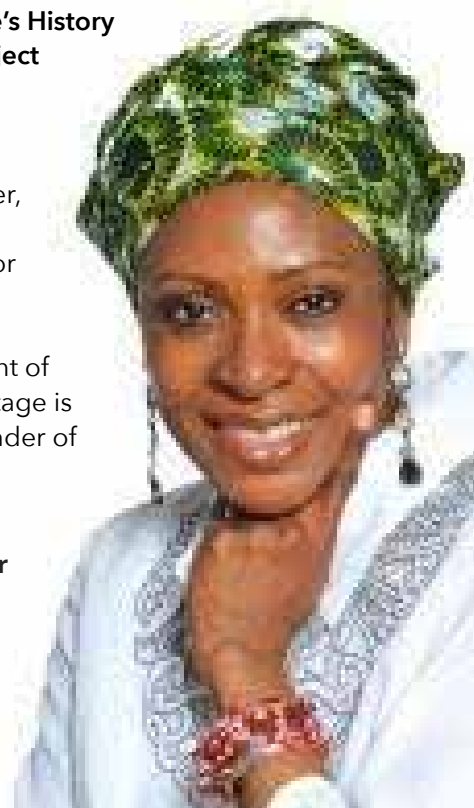
Upcoming Release

Portia White Video – A Black People's History of Canada announces the release of a brand-new video exploring the life and legacy of Portia White, famed Black Canadian concert singer. Funded by KIA, Communities in Motion, the video features a series of interviews with renowned Black Canadian scholars, authors, and artists. They share stories and details about Portia White's life, impressive music career, and the important legacy she has left behind.

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

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

Dr. Afua Cooper



Mr. Cromwell's Class, North Buxton, ON, Circa 1910

Black People's History of Canada

COMMUNITIES
IN MOTION



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada



blackpeopleshistory.ca

blkhist@dal.ca | 902.494.2518

@ABLACKPEOPLESISTORYOFCANADA

@ABLACKPEOPLESHI

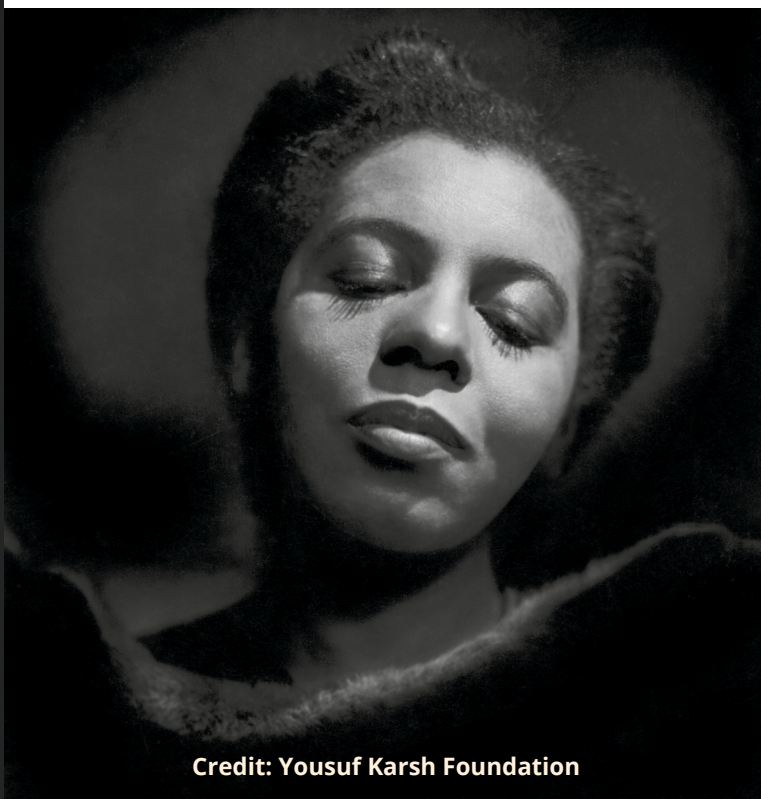


Credit: Adam's Photography

Above is a photograph taken at BPHC's inaugural symposium that took place July 2022. Titled "Future/Past: African Canadian History, Arts, and Culture in STEM Education", the symposium featured several notable scholars and educators, and looked at the various ways African Canadian history, arts, and culture can be integrated into STEM courses. Thank you to our sponsors, attendees and presenters!

Did you know?

Arguably one of the best classical singers of her time, Portia White was born in 1911, in Truro, Nova Scotia. White's musical endeavors began at a young age and continued to grow throughout her lifetime. She attended the Halifax Conservatory of Music and competed in several competitions throughout the 1930s, made her formal debut in 1941 at the Eaton Auditorium in Toronto. She was signed by Columbia Concerts Inc. in 1945. Over the next two decades White toured internationally, produced several recordings, and performed in front of notable dignitaries. She was the first Black Canadian concert singer to receive international fame and recognition.



Credit: Yousuf Karsh Foundation

About us

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 for teaching Black history in every Canadian province and territory

Limited knowledge of African Canadian history amongst our educators has resulted in many having little pedagogical understanding of Black students' experiences. Led by principal investigator Dr. Afua Cooper award-winning historian, author, and poet, 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. 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.

