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JULY 2020 | VOL. 27

SEMAJI

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BCRC

BCRC is a growing, resource-based organization that strengthens community capacity by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need.



Black July

The objective is to create a resource, which highlights black businesses, black services, black art, black music, black people, black ideas, black entrepreneurs, black professionals, black EVERYTHING. Specifics on accepted posts: Include a description/introduction of the service/product offered.

Posts looking for a service/product are accepted. News stories regarding the black community (especially it's development), from credible sources, will be accepted. The promotion of events/conferences/projects linked to the community are accepted. Videos judged pertinent, with an accompanying description, can be accepted.

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Instagram: @racinesmontreal

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BLACK MTL - Building Our Community

We've added a mentorship program to BLACK MONTREAL - Unapologetically US so you can get or give support to another member of our community. I am excited to see all of us build stronger relationships with each other and hope you'll join. Here's how the program works: You sign up, match yourself with a partner, and get helpful conversation starters each week so you get to know each other better. It's up to you how much time you want to spend together and what goals you want to work towards.

https://www.facebook.com/fbmentorship/signup/?application_id=295361431487697

Librairie Racines - Bookstore



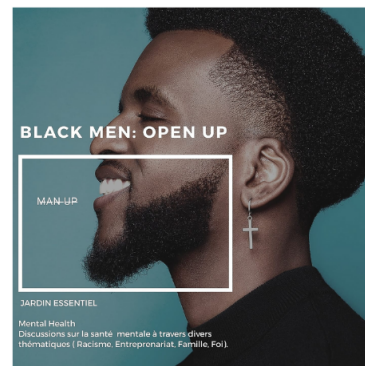
Instagram & Facebook: @racinesmontreal

The primary mandate of the Racines bookstore is to promote the stories, cultures and living conditions of radicalized people. Our aspirations: to develop a specialized collection of books, zines, etc. be a space for radicalized artists to organize performances or exhibitions. be a space for citizen mobilization on issues that affect our communities and more To find out more: Racines bookstore wants to highlight the history, cultures & the living conditions of people of colour. Our aspiration: · develop a specialized collection of books, zines, etc. · a free exhibitions & performance place · a space for citizens to organize around issues that concern their communities & much more.

Through various projects, our objective is to raise awareness in the community about mental health. We have just completed our first series of 3 conversations which is entitled "Black Men Open Up" where 3 guests were able to share their personal experiences facing this reality.

We want to break the silence on mental health, because healing an individual is also healing the community. The first series will be available soon on the Jardin Essentiel platforms

Thank you for following us!



Instagram & Facebook: @jardinessentiel

Black in Quebec

In 2019 the BCRC commenced a research project entitled Black in Quebec. The project will offer an in-depth research study into the English Speaking Black Community in Quebec. The purpose of the project is to provide Black Community Organizations with information and data on their communities, which will give them the opportunity to cite accurate and credible sources in their respective works i.e. grant applications, work strategies, and community portraits. Furthermore, we aim to use this information to increase the quality of engagement with the community and to inform our advocacy that includes raising awareness of issues facing the community while building solidarity and strengthening the vitality of our community.

The project is being rolled out in a number of phases. In the first phase project has conducted background research on the English-speaking Black Community in Quebec, which consists of academic papers, government and organization reports, Census data. It has created a Literature Review and an Analysis of Gaps, both documents that are integral to the first of the project's five phases, the Research Design. In the second phase which is Outreach, the project is currently conducting Focus Groups which bridge the gap between the first two phases. The purpose of the Focus Group is to capture psycho-social data from the sample population as well as qualitative data about some of the challenges facing the community and barriers to entry. The sample population consists of people who are actively engaged in the Black Community organizations or who have at one point held a leadership position or one of great influence in Montreal's Black community. Thus far, 9 participants have been interviewed with a minimum of 11 more to be interviewed.

The project also has a Research Committee which again, bridges the first and second phases. The Research Committee consists of 8 members who the project team consults with on a regular basis in regards to the Research Design. They consist of people with experience in Montreal's research networks and have diverse backgrounds including politics, community building, and academia. The Community Network is the third group who the project engages with as part of its Outreach phase. This group represents everyone the project engages with including the two aforementioned groups. While this doesn't capture the full group, the project's social media pages are used as an approximate measurement of influence and engagement the project is generating. As of writing this, the project has 208 followers on its Facebook and Instagram pages (that it shares with the BCRC). It also has an Outreach Strategy document to guide the way the project intends to present itself to the public and maximize its engagement. Thus far, the project has presented itself to the wider public, when it gave a presentation to QUESCREN (Concordia) that was attended by about 45 participants. Furthermore, it has published one article and one Infographic in Semaji, the BCRC's monthly newsletter with a second Infographic on the way for the June edition.

Other milestones of note including the publication of the Black in Quebec webpage, the announcement of a workshop series set to begin in late July 2020 which is a collaboration with Project Woke, and the collaboration with Dr. Koestner and Anne Holding from McGill University as well as the QBBE on a longitudinal study looking at the psychological effects of recent events on Black young adults in Quebec to take place from July 2020-Dec 2020. Furthermore, Black in Quebec has a representative on the Organizing Committee for a Conference to be held in October by QUESCREN and Y4Y. The project aims to commence its third phase, Surveying and Data Collection by Fall 2020.

Black in Quebec

A longitudinal study of the English-Speaking Black Communities (ESBC) in Quebec

by Xiaoyan Fang and John Davids, Black in Quebec team

How does one measure “well being”? That is one of the first key questions that the study “Blacks in Quebec” proposes to address. This is an initiative by the Black Community Resource Center and it seeks to explore and further understand both the objective and subjective “well-being” of the English-Speaking Black Community (ESBC) in Quebec. The study draws on the theory of complex adaptive systems to explain the dynamic relations in the economy. In the human social system, multiple subpopulations seek to create socio-economic and psych-social states that make and sustain the highest possible vitality for the group in a continuously changing system. Because of the multi-sector dependencies in such a human system, the project adopts a holistic approach to uncover and understand the cause and effect factors determining the objective and subjective “well-being” of the ESBC in Quebec.

We will do this by observing variables that affect the economic, educational, health, and socio-cultural state of the communities. Observing the changes in the output and distribution of benefits generated in these sectors over time provides us with important information about how the ESBC compares with other sub-populations in Quebec. By constructing a set of consistent and reliable data sets, this project seeks to provide and share access to information to community organizations, social entrepreneurs, private and public sector institutions as well as policy makers to enable them to understand the unique situation and experience of the ESBC in Quebec. We make the point that simply looking at the community through economic lenses does not tell the complete story and does not capture the full complexities of “well-being”. Measuring observable and tangible variables may provide important proxy variables that help in our understanding of the fitness of the community relative to other sub-populations in Quebec. However, we consider the psycho-social state of the community to be an important index of the fitness of the group and relative position of the group in the society. How one feels in relation to themselves and their community for instance, is an aspect of “well-being” that this project wants to further interrogate in order to supplement our understanding of what “well-being” encapsulates.

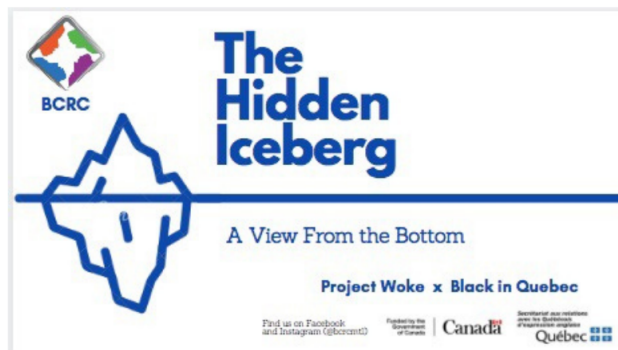
Hence, incorporating a psycho-social analysis relating to gaps in benefits within each of the sectors (economic, education, health and socio-cultural), will be one of the key ways this project aims to build on our understanding of the situation facing the ESBC in Quebec. The aim is to gain a more complete understanding of the ESBC in a way that can be sustained and continuously observed over time. Our preliminary literature review raised questions about the chronic nature of the low positioning of the ESBC in the social and economic index of Quebec and Canada. Correcting the problem requires a continuous monitoring and tracking of responses to this situation and improvements in the closing of gaps in outcomes with respect to other sub-populations. BCRC will continue to use a holistic approach to address these problems, but will review its present strategies in the light of the findings from this study. Moving forward, the question of how we choose to measure well-being and why we do so in such a way will be addressed and elaborated further. We are currently in the process of discussing and reviewing various methods with an array of experts conducting research in a number of these fields. The ultimate hope is that the data we focus on better describes the fit of the ESBC in Quebec society and economy, and in turn, better than inform the necessary actions and policies to address the issues and problems facing the ESBC.

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Post-workshop: Black in Quebec & Project Woke



Black in Quebec and Project Woke would like to thank you for attending our workshop, the Hidden Iceberg: A View From the Bottom. We hope that we were able to provide you with a better understanding of the challenges faced by the English-Speaking Black Community of Quebec. The goal of the workshop was to begin a process of interrogating the SYSTEMIC nature of systemic racism and how YOU can play a role in the process of dismantling it. On that note, below are the links to the many resources referenced in the workshop. We had found these resources to be of value not only for their contents but also due to the conversations and discussions they inspired during the workshops. Please use them as you see fit and don't hesitate to share them.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please contact us at researcher@bcrctmontreal.com and ra@bcrctmontreal.com. Thank you once again for participating and we'll keep you updated on our projects and activities.

Recordings of the two webinars have been made available on both the BCRC's Youtube and Facebook pages.

1st Workshop:

Lens of Systemic Oppression Passive/Active Racism Activity Anti-Racist Growth Zone Initiative of Alysha Sarasua

The Project Woke policy report and brief have been attached to this email, both in English and French.

2nd Workshop:

Intersectionality: Intersecting Axes of Privilege, Domination, and Oppression Racial Equity Tools Glossary ABC's of Social Justice Facebook Pages: Black In Quebec, Project Woke

This initiative was made possible through the financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

All the Best, The Project Woke and Black In Quebec Team

Black in Quebec

Progress Report

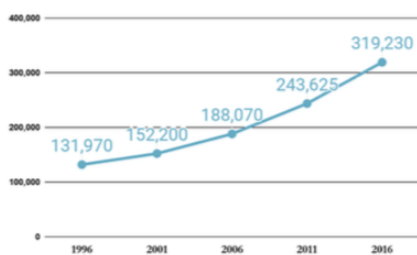
by John Davids and Xiaoyan Fang, Black in Quebec team

May 2020

The Black in Quebec project seeks to further our understanding with respect to the vitality of the English-Speaking Black Community (ESBC) in Quebec. This **Progress Report** identifies differences between the Black community and other sub-populations in Quebec with respect to their well-being. Secondly, it identifies gaps in the collection of data pertaining to the social, economic, and psycho-social status of the ESBC.

Sources of graphs and data in this infographic:
McIntosh and Masella, 2019
2001, 2016 Census data

Black Population in Quebec, 1996 - 2016



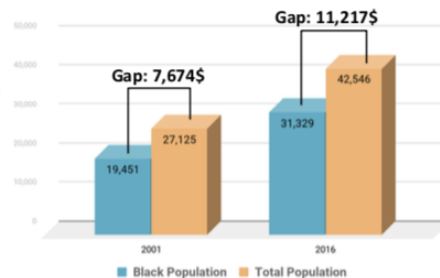
In 2016, among the Black population in Quebec (319,230),

57,781

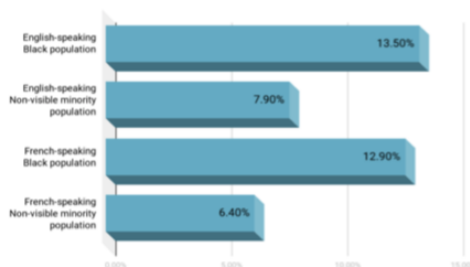
are within the English-speaking Black population.

Average Income of Black Communities and Total Population in Quebec, 2001 & 2016

Between 2001 and 2016, the Average Income increased for both the Black population and the Total population. However, the **INCOME GAP** between the Black population and the Total population has grown even BIGGER.

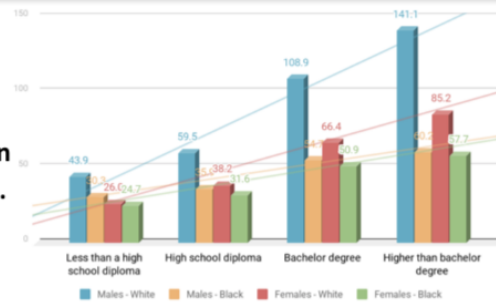


Unemployment Rate by Language Group and Visible Minority Group in Quebec, 2016

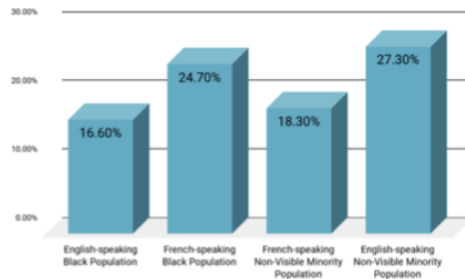


The **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** is **TWICE** as much for the English-speaking and French-speaking Black populations compared with the English-speaking and French-speaking Non-Visible-Minority populations.

In Canada, as Educational Attainment **INCREASES**, the **Gaps of Average Income** between the White population and the Black population **INCREASES**.



University Degree at Bachelor’s Level or Above by Language Group and Visible Minority Group in Quebec, 2016



1 out of 6 members of the English-Speaking Black Population in Quebec has a University Degree



Socio-Cultural Challenges

Despite having a presence in Quebec for four or more centuries, and contributing greatly to the rich complex history of Quebec, there are still barriers to the inclusion of English-Speaking Black Community (ESBC) in the wider socio-cultural life of Quebec. As *both* a linguistic and racial minority, the ESBC faces many different kinds of social exclusion specific to their community. This is manifested through systemic racism, individual prejudice, disenfranchisement, a lack of credible representation and recognition of the contribution of ESBC in Quebec and a hesitancy to even study the subject of blackness in Quebec through a critical lens.

Gaps in Information due to Data Collection

Race-based data has rarely been collected among surveys carried out in Quebec and in Canada. In Quebec, many organizations and individuals believe that specific subgroups of the population, including the English-speaking Black Community, have been disproportionately affected by this current COVID-19 crisis. However, the race-based data is not being collected, which exacerbates the **obstacles in accessing accurate information** about issues and challenges facing certain subgroups of the population. The collection of race-based data in regards to the COVID-19 crisis, has been undertaken by a number of countries (ie. USA, UK) and also province within Canada (ie. Ontario) with many initial observations suggesting that black populations within them have been affected disproportionately. Thus, the call for more data here, is ever more urgent and necessary if we are to design strategies which aim to alleviate the risks facing the ESBC.

This fact sheet portrays some of the many challenges facing the English-Speaking Black Community in Quebec. They pertain not only to situations facing the ESBC but also to the inadequacy of the information regarding the state of well being of the ESBC. This infographic is part of a project that aims to improve the collection of data pertaining to the ESBC and to present it in a critical and meaningful way to users.

To read the full Analysis of Gaps please join our community network.

Project Website:
<https://bcrmontreal.com/portfolio-item/black-in-quebec/>

For any questions or future interest, please contact:
researcher@bcrmontreal.com
ra@bcrmontreal.com

Find us on Facebook:


 Patrimoine canadien Canadian Heritage





Black in Quebec

Systemic Racism in Our History

by John Davids, Xiaoyan Fang and Aileen Galutira, Black in Quebec team

June 2020

The purpose of this infographic is to display some of the many historical examples in which racism has been perpetuated on a systemic level in Quebec and Canada, particularly through laws and policies. It takes into account different racialized groups who have been negatively affected by these policies as well as discrimination that has also occurred on the grounds of gender, physical ability and more.

What do we mean by SYSTEMIC RACISM?

Systemic Racism is discrimination based on one's race or ethnic origin that is embedded in the established systemic institutions in which a society functions.

Indian Act (1867-Present)

The Indian Act gives the Canadian federal government full control over matters pertaining to one's First Nations' status, bands, and reserves.

Olivier Le Jeune

The first recorded slave in Quebec. Born in Madagascar in 1621.

The Raudot Ordinance of 1709

A document which legalized the purchase and sale of Indigenous and Black slaves in New France. The practice of slavery had already begun however.

Chinese Head Tax (1885-1923) and Chinese Immigration Act (1923-1947)

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through enfranchisement which is the legal process of stripping someone's First Nations status. Losing this status would mean losing the right to live on the reserve, the right to inherit family property, treaty benefits and health benefits.

"The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change."

- John A Macdonald on the Indian Act, 1887

Efforts to abolish the Indian Act have been met with resistance because it's the only legislation that affirms the constitutional relationship of First Nations peoples to Canada and Canada's obligations to them. Most notably, "The White Paper" unveiled by then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1969, it proposed that First Nations people be given the same equal status as any Canadian. However, it was heavily opposed by First Nations communities as it failed to address their special rights and historical grievances therefore, it was abandoned by the government. Throughout the years, the Act has been amended. Nonetheless, its influence over the First Nations' way of life has remained a subject of debate.

tax at any Chinese person entering Canada. Beginning at \$50 in 1885, it was raised to \$100 in 1890, and to \$500 in 1903.

The purpose was to restrict Chinese people from immigrating to Canada. In 1923, the Chinese Head Tax was superseded by the Chinese Immigration Act, also known as Chinese Exclusion Act, in order to further exclude Chinese people on the basis of race. The Act remained in effect until 1947, the same year when Canada signed the United Nations' Charter of Human Rights.

However, in the same year, in a speech to Parliament, Prime Minister Mackenzie King stated:

"... Canada is perfectly within her rights in selecting the persons whom we regard as desirable future citizens. . . . Large-scale migration from the Orient would change the fundamental composition of the Canadian population."

Immigration Act (1906 & 1910)

The Immigration Act of 1906 restricted the flow of new immigrants to Canada by broadening the categories of prohibited immigrants, giving government officials enhanced powers to make arbitrary decisions on admissions, and creating a formal deportation process. Populations deemed "less suitable" were left vulnerable to the prejudices held by decision-makers in the admissions process and could be deported within two years of landing.

These powers were enhanced by the Immigration Act of 1910 which gave the governor-in-council the power to deny the landing of anybody deemed "unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada".

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Previous to 1955, Immigration to Canada by non-whites, including many people in the Caribbean was tightly controlled. Social prejudices played a big role as they were deemed unfit for life in Canada.

After continued pressure, the Federal Government brought forward the West Indian Domestic Scheme. It allowed for women from Commonwealth Caribbean nations to immigrate to Canada so long as they spent their first year working as domestic workers. While this policy made it easier for some West Indians to come to Canada, it also spoke to how Canada viewed people in the West Indies. Within it are racist, sexist, and exploitative assumptions about the role people from the West Indies were meant to have in Canadian society. These assumptions also created barriers for women trying to move into other fields of work after their one year of employment as a domestic worker.

Why is history **IMPORTANT?**

History provides a unique perspective on the actions and series of events that led to the current state of our world today. Its lessons should be taught and remembered so that we, as a society, can work together in combating systemic discrimination in Quebec and Canada. The content presented in this infographic are just some examples of where systemic racism can occur. In this edition, the focus is on some of the policies enacted in our country that have functioned to systematically against discriminate people on the grounds of race amongst other things. While many of the policies (but not all) cease to exist, their legacies still impact communities today.

The purpose of Black in Quebec is to examine the relative fitness of the English-speaking Black Community in Quebec. We adopt a holistic approach and view history as one of many important contexts to consider. If you would like to learn more about our project, please visit our website at:

<https://bccrmontreal.com/portfolio-item/black-in-quebec/>

Find us on Facebook:

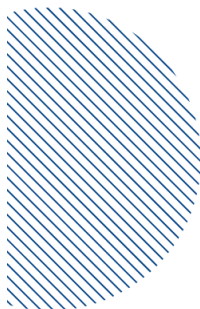
**Black in
Quebec**



How do I submit articles to the Semaji newsletter?

How do I submit articles to the Semaji newsletter?
Articles for submission are accepted 7 days prior to publication. Issues are published every first of the month.
Send articles to: communications@bcrcmontreal.com.
If you are submitting photos please send a jpeg with credit.

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EDITOR:
Raeanne Francis

CONTRIBUTOR:
Xiaoyan Fang
John Davids

LAYOUT AND DESIGN:
Ashley Joseph Ph.

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