



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 2009

Black History Month



I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all Canadians on the occasion of Black History Month.

Canadians of African descent have a long and proud history in our great country dating back to the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a multilingual interpreter in the exploration voyages of the early 17th century. Since that time, from the Black Loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia, to the arrival of more recent immigrants from around the globe, Black Canadians have shaped our cultural, political and economic landscape.

Today, the cultural diversity of Black Canadians is reflected in communities spread across the country from British Columbia, to Southwestern Ontario, and throughout Atlantic Canada.

Black History Month affords us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both the historical and contemporary accomplishments of the Black community. The core Canadian values of inclusiveness and pluralism have been strengthened by the enduring achievements of Black Canadians. This month's celebrations honour this important legacy and showcase Canada's rich and diverse society.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I encourage you to explore the many events planned throughout the month of February, in recognition of Black History Month in Canada.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*