



EMANCIPATION DAY

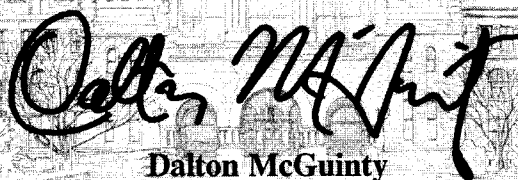
August 2, 2005

*On behalf of the Government of Ontario,
I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone
celebrating Emancipation Day.*

My colleagues and I are proud to recognize this important day, which commemorates the abolition of slavery throughout the British Commonwealth in 1833. Emancipation Day is an ideal occasion to reflect on the many freedoms and protections that we all deserve and enjoy. It is also a time to celebrate the centuries-old heritage of the Black community in Canada. And it is an opportunity to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a caring society where equity and diversity are pivotal to its strength.

As Canadians, we celebrate the rich diversity of our people and take pride in those measures that protect and foster the full participation of every individual in our society. I urge all Ontarians to join the Black community in reflecting on the legacy of the great Black pioneers who have gone before — demanding human rights, bravely demonstrating the enormous potential that resides in diversity, and reminding us all that only by knowing the past can we truly shape a prosperous future together.

I commend the Ontario Black History Society for its leadership and vision in organizing today's celebration. Thanks to your tireless efforts, you are ensuring that all Ontarians are able to reflect on and appreciate Emancipation Day. Please accept my sincere best wishes for an inspirational and enjoyable commemoration.



Dalton McGuinty

Premier