



THE BLACK CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Black History Month

Feb 2010.

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Speaking Points for Speakers

Updated on Sunday, February 14, 2010

FUN FACTS:

Start by quizzing classroom on Black Canadian History Topics. Encourage students to lift their hand if they know the answer, or take a guess. *These are suggested topics. Feel free to add your own. Stop the quiz after 15 minutes.*

1. How long have there been Blacks in Canada? A: since at least 1604. **FUN FACT:** That's 406 years!
2. Who was the first documented black person in Canada? A: Mathieu DaCosta. **FUN FACT:** Came by boat with the French explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1604.
3. What was Mathieu Dacosta's job? A: He was a translator. Anyone want to guess which languages he translated? A: He translated between European explorers and the Micmac Aboriginals in Nova Scotia.
4. Which African-Canadian inventor created the lubrication device for use in railroad locomotives to provide continuous oil w/o clogging the engine in 1915? A: Elijah McCoy. Born May 1844 in Ontario. **FUN FACT:** The expression "The Real McCoy" means "it's the real thing, not the fake imitation".
5. Who was the first Black MP? A: Lincoln Alexander. Born in Toronto in 1922. Was appointed in June 1968. **FUN FACT:** There is a stretch of highway named after him in Hamilton, ON.
6. Who was the first Black Mayor in Canada? A: Dr. Saint-Firmin Monestime. Born in Haiti 1909. He was a medical doctor in Haiti. Immigrated to Quebec City in the 1940s, and later moved to Mattawa, Ontario, where he was mayor from 1964 to his death in 1977. **FUN FACT:** Dr. Monestime was on his way to Timmins ON, but he made a pit stop in Mattawa. It was during his pit stop that a

restaurant owner convinced him to abandon his plans to set up a practice in Timmins for Mattawa!

7. Is anyone watching the Vancouver Olympics in British Columbia? Does anyone know who the father of British-Columbia is? James Douglas. Born in Guyana in 1803. He fostered a collaborative environment between the Americans, European settlers, Blacks and Aboriginals in Victoria B.C. in 1851. In 1858 he also became the first Governor of the Colony of British Columbia. **FUN FACT:** Douglas worked for the Hudson's Bay Trade Company, which is now known as "The Bay" department store.
8. Who was the first Black Head of state in North America? (trick question – some might say it is President Obama, but the answer is GG Michaelle Jean). **FUN FACT:** Michaelle Jean used to be a journalist.
9. Can anyone name any black Canadian Olympic athletes? A: Bruny Surin, Glenroy Gilbert, Donovan Bailey (Men's 4x100 relay team, 1996 Olympic gold), Georges Laraque (professional hockey player who just left the Montreal Canadiens), Jarome Iginla (Calgary Flames NHL), Perdita Felicien (hurdles), Charmaine Hooper (Canadian women's national soccer team 1996), Harry Jerome (athletics), P.K. Subban (hockey), many more.
10. Who was the first black NHL hockey player? A: Willie O'Ree, (born 1935, in Fredericton, New Brunswick). He played for the Boston Bruins in 1958. **FUN FACT:** Willie was blind in one eye after he was hit by a puck, but he never told anyone for fear they would yank him off the ice.

TRANSITION TO PERSONAL STORY:

So many interesting stories, eh? Now, I'm going to tell you mine.

- What is your family history?
- What inspired you to become successful?
- What was the biggest challenge in your life? How did you overcome it?
- What is your greatest accomplishment?
- If you had one piece of advice to tell a young person (or tell yourself if you were at the age of the students before you), what would it be?

END REMARKS:

- Mention the BCSF that facilitated this event.
 - Thank the teacher for the opportunity.
 - Thank the students for being so attentive!
 - Open it up for questions if there is time.
 - Go back to quiz questions if there is still time.
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