

Black History Month

February 2022

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month and, with it, come opportunities to celebrate Black achievement and learn from the people and organizations creating change. It's also a fresh reminder to take stock of where personal and systemic racism persists.

This February, the Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC), the MRFA Executive, and the Joint Diversity and Equity Committee (JDEC) will be doing just that. The MRFA exec will be reviewing lessons learned during our Fall 2021 EDI training with Ro Averin (<https://www.unlrnprjct.com/meet-ro>) and completing edits to the MRFA 2025 plan based on that training and feedback we received from members. DEC will begin its work on drafting a set of recommendations to Exec regarding the MRFA's role in the Grievance process. JDEC will start creating a framework for a process to explore, identify, and make recommendations about institutional racism at MRU.

This work is not contained to February—we know it's insufficient, ongoing, and long past due. We want to hear from you—what else should we be doing; what are our weak spots; how can the MRFA better reflect your experience and address your realities? While the 2022 MRFA census will be sent out later this term, you can always email the DEC Officer (Milena) through edi@mrfa.net; schedule an online chat using the google calendar attached to that email; or contact any of your Exec members or labourelations@mrfa.net. MRU's Office of Safe Disclosure also offers important resources for action and support <https://www.mtroyal.ca/OfficeOfSafeDisclosure/index.htm>.

For Black History Month

The SAMRU Cultural Inclusion Centre and collaborators are hosting rich and engaging events highlighting the Black community and experiences of the Black diaspora.

- February 3, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. | [Black History Month: Writer-In-Residence 2022, George Elliot Clarke](#) | [Register here using Google Forms](#)
- February 4, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. | [Black History Month: BIPOC Support Network \(BIPOCSN\)](#) | [Join using Google Meet](#)
- February 8, 2022 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. | [Black History Month: Trivia Tuesdays](#) | [Join using Google Meet](#)
- February 8 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. | [Black History Month: Racialized Students Peer Group w/ Access & Inclusion Services](#) | [Register using Google Forms](#)
- February 9, 2022 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. | [Black History Month: Let's Talk | Self-Advocacy for BIPOC Students](#) | [Join using Zoom](#) | Passcode: 894989
- February 10, 2022 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. | [Black History Month: Let's Talk | Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education](#) | [Register in advance using Google Forms](#)
- February 18, 2022, at 12:00 noon | [Black History Month: Freebie Friday](#) | [Join using Instagram live](#)
- February 27, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. | [Black History: Desire to Make a Difference | Community, Responsibility & Integrity](#) | [Join using Facebook live](#)

Calgary Public Library is hosting Black in Calgary: Where have we been and where are we going?

Join noteworthy Calgarians Cheryl Foggo, author, documentary film director, and historian, Courtney Walcott, Ward 8 City Councillor, and Susannah Alleyne, President of CABL and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Counsel as they discuss the history and future of Calgary's Black community. Moderated by CBC Alberta's Tahirih Foroozan.

[Visit the Calgary Public Library Website for More Information](#)

U of Calgary's Faculty of Arts is hosting a number of events to celebrate Black History Month

- Feb. 3—An Evening with Bernardine Evaristo
- Feb. 11—Readings and African Canadian writers
- Feb. 17—Understanding Anti-Black Racism and Black Wellness
- Feb. 24—A Refusal to Hate: Writing and Black Wellness
- Mar. 3—Black Excellence in the Time of EDI: Celebration or Tokenism

[Visit the UofC Faculty of Arts Website for More Information](#)

MRU's Anti-Racism Collection

The Mount Royal University Anti-Racism collection is designed to improve findability and increase awareness of resources in our collection that promote diversity and inclusion and support anti-racism efforts in our community.

[Visit the MRU Collection](#)

Also, consider spending a bit of time with the following...

"White Supremacy Culture in Organizations" (by Dismantling Racism Works adapted by The Centre for Community Organizations) <https://coco-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Coco-WhiteSupCulture-ENG4.pdf?>

Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein's "The Rules of the Diversity and Inclusion Racket" https://theriveter.co/voice/the-rules-of-the-diversity-and-inclusion-racket/?fbclid=IwAR0KTo54_vL9GwzSRl3htOKXnegdx6x0zfWztki-dEb_WMNrjP3O9nyo9g&utm_source=pocket_mylist

Tayo Bero's (2021) "Addressing anti-Black racism on campus: One year after a mass reckoning, we examine what universities are doing to address anti-Black racism in their own institutions https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/addressing-anti-black-racism-on-campus/?utm_source=University+Affairs+e-newsletter&utm_campaign=231c84fca3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_314bc2ee29-231c84fca3-426934961

In solidarity,

Dr. Milena Radzikowska, MDes
Diversity & Equity Officer for the Mount Royal University Faculty Association

She/Her

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