

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH in CANADA



- February 1976 – 1<sup>st</sup> Official Recognition of BHM in U.S.



- 1995 - the House of Commons officially recognized February as BHM in Canada

# Underground Railroad



1815-1850, an estimated 20,000 black people escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. A "conductor" named Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) was known as the "Black Moses".

# System of Discrimination, Racism and Jim Crow

- **Ontario's Racial Discrimination Act (1944)**
  - Prohibited the publication and display of any symbol, sign or notice that expressed ethnic, racial or religious discrimination
- **Fair Employment Practices Act (1951)**
- **Fair Accommodation Practices Act (1954)**
- **Reform of the "White Canada" immigration policy (1962)**
  - Eliminated racial discrimination in Canada's immigration policy – points-based system based on set of criteria



January 21 is Lincoln Alexander Day



Source: Peter Bragg/Madden's

The Honourable  
**Lincoln M. Alexander**

- Second World War Veteran (Royal Canadian Air Force) • Member of the Queen's Privy Council •
- First black Member of Parliament • Federal Minister of Labour •
- First visible minority appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario • Chancellor of the University of Guelph •
- Companion of the Order of Canada • Chair of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation • Member of the Order of Ontario •

[Canada.ca/BlackHistoryMonth](https://Canada.ca/BlackHistoryMonth)