



Reaching the Un-Reached

1. Underground Railroad and Nova Scotia

The Underground Railroad was a secret network of routes and safe houses in the 1800s that helped enslaved African Americans escape from the U.S. to freedom.

Nova Scotia was one of the main destinations because it was part of the British Empire, where slavery had been abolished (1834 in the British colonies).

Many Black people settled in Nova Scotia after escaping slavery in the U.S. through the Underground Railroad. They often settled in communities like Birchtown, Halifax, and Preston.

2. Black population in Nova Scotia

Most Black Nova Scotians today are descendants of people who came from three main groups:

Black Loyalists – African Americans who escaped to Nova Scotia after the American Revolution (late 1700s) because they supported the British.

Refugees from the War of 1812 – Black people who were freed by the British during the war.

Enslaved people from the U.S. via the Underground Railroad – settled in Nova Scotia in the 1800s.

3. African Bill (or African Nova Scotian Bill)

The African Bill was a law proposed to give land and rights to Black settlers in Nova Scotia.

Many Black settlers received land grants, but they were often smaller, less fertile, and in remote areas compared to white settlers.

This caused struggles with poverty, racism, and discrimination, even though it gave them a legal right to settle there.

So the tie is:

The Underground Railroad brought Black people to Nova Scotia → they became part of African Nova Scotian communities → the African Bill was supposed to help them get land and settle → but they still faced many challenges.

