



## *Reaching the Un-Reached*

### Outstanding Achievements of Black Canadians (Last 20 Years)

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#### Introduction

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Over the past 20 years (2006–2026), Black Canadians have made remarkable contributions across politics, law, arts, sports, health, education, business, and social justice. These achievements highlight resilience, leadership, and the ongoing fight for equity and inclusion in Canada.

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#### Politics & Public Leadership

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Michaëlle Jean (2005–2010) – Served as the first Black Governor General of Canada. During her term, she promoted youth leadership, arts, culture, and social inclusion, and represented Canada globally.

Marci Ien (2021–present) – Appointed Minister for Women, Gender Equality, and Youth. She works to advance gender equality, support youth programs, and address systemic racism.

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Ahmed Hussen (2015–present) – First Somali-Canadian Member of Parliament. He served as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, improving refugee resettlement and immigration policies, and later worked on housing affordability.

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#### Law & Justice

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Justice Mahmud Jamal (2021) – Appointed as the first Black justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, marking a historic step toward diversity and representation in Canada's highest court.

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Recognition of anti-Black racism in the justice system (2016–present) – Governments and courts began acknowledging systemic racism, leading to reviews of policing, sentencing, and corrections practices.

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#### Arts, Media & Culture

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Abel Tesfaye / The Weeknd (2015–present) – A globally successful Canadian artist who brought international attention to Canadian music. In 2021, he became the first Canadian to headline the Super Bowl halftime show.

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Viola Desmond (2018) – Honoured as the first Black woman on the Canadian \$10 bill for her courageous stand against racial segregation in Nova Scotia.

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Growth of Black-led media and film (2010–present) – Increased representation of Black Canadians in television, film, and journalism through CBC and independent productions.

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#### Sports

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Andre De Grasse (2016–2021) – Became one of Canada's most successful Olympic athletes, winning gold in the 200m sprint at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



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P.K. Subban (2010–2022) – NHL star known not only for athletic success but also for donating millions of dollars to children’s hospitals and supporting social justice causes.

### Health & Medicine

Dr. Onye Nnorom (2017–present) – Founder of TAIBU Community Health Centre and a national leader in addressing health inequities affecting Black communities.

Recognition of racism as a public health issue (2020–present) – Public health agencies acknowledged the impact of racism on mental and physical health, leading to targeted programs.

### Science, Technology & Innovation

Growth of Black-led tech startups (2015–present) – Black entrepreneurs have launched companies in artificial intelligence, fintech, and digital education, supported by innovation funding.

Black researchers in environmental and climate science (2010–present) – Contributions linking climate change with social and environmental justice.

### Education

Africentric schools in Toronto (2009–present) – Programs designed to support Black students by incorporating African and Caribbean history and perspectives.

Expansion of Black Studies programs (2010–present) – Canadian universities introduced courses and research programs focused on Black history and experiences.

### Business & Entrepreneurship

Black Entrepreneurship Program (2021) – A federal initiative providing funding, mentorship, and training to support Black-owned businesses across Canada.

Growth of Black women-led businesses (2015–present) – Increased leadership by Black women in sectors such as beauty, wellness, education, and technology.

### Social Justice & Community Leadership

Black Lives Matter Canada (2014–present) – Advocated for police accountability and racial justice, influencing national conversations and policy changes.

Emancipation Day recognized nationally (2021) – Canada officially recognized August 1 as Emancipation Day, acknowledging the history and legacy of slavery.

