

Museums of Mississauga at Adamson Estate

*Plans for new exhibition
and visitor experience*



Adamson Estate

MISSISSAUGA
Leading today for tomorrow

A History Exposed

The Enslavement of Black People in Canada

October 4 – December 28, 2025

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Created with guest curator Dr. Afua Cooper and the
Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

What is *A History Exposed* About?

- Travelling exhibition from Pier 21
- Explores the history of Enslavement of Black People in Canada
- Highlights stories of resilience and community
- Educates about a history excluded and overlooked



Marie-Joseph Angélique (1705-1734) depicted by artist Marilyn Carr-Harris. *Courtesy Dr. Afua Cooper.*

Who Developed the Exhibit?

- Dr. Afua Cooper
- Partnered with the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia



Dr. Afua Cooper

A HISTORY EXPOSED | UNE HISTOIRE RÉVÉLÉE

The Enslavement of Black People in Canada | L'esclavage des Noirs au Canada

Savery existed in Canada. For more than two centuries, the majority of Africans in Canada were enslaved. From 1629 to 1834, both the French and British colonial regimes made laws that legalized slavery. Enslavers had property rights that allowed them to buy, sell, trade and dispose of Black enslaved people in any way they wished.

L'esclavage a existé au Canada. Pendant plus de deux siècles, la majorité des Africains du Canada était mise en esclavage. De 1629 à 1834, les régimes coloniaux français et britannique ont adopté des lois légalisant l'esclavage. Les esclavagistes disposaient de droits de propriété qui leur permettaient d'acheter, de vendre, d'échanger et de disposer d'esclaves noirs comme ils le souhaitaient.

What is Slavery?

Slavery is the total or partial taking of the liberty of another person. A central idea is that the slave person, like a chattel, belongs to the property of the owner. A person's life is treated as a commodity and can be sold, given or inherited as he or she wishes. Slave property is sold at a market or other venue for the owner's benefit.

**DOUBT IS HEARD
C R E S S E D**
A black, male, three-quarter length coat, made of wool, with a high collar, and a black, male, three-quarter length coat, made of wool, with a high collar, and a black, male, three-quarter length coat, made of wool, with a high collar.

A T E N D R E
U n s e r m e m b e r s h i p i s c o n t i n u i n g t o g r o w a n d w e a r e p l e a s e d t o a n n o u n c e t h a t w e h a v e a c c e p t e d a n e w m e m b e r t o o u r c o m m u n i t y .

Do we see Enslavement?

Enslavement is not a new concept. It has existed since the beginning of time. In the past, it was used to describe the practice of taking someone else's property and using it for one's own benefit. Today, it is used to describe the practice of taking someone else's property and using it for one's own benefit.



The engraving shows a scene of enslavement. In the center, a Black man is being led by a white man. To the right, another Black man is being held by a white man. In the background, a Black woman is being led by a white man. The scene is set outdoors with a building in the background.

Were there ever slave markets in Canada?
Yes. Enslaved people were sold at auctions in warehouses, saloons and city markets in Canada in the 18th century alongside fruits, vegetables and liquor.

Y avait-il eu des marchés aux esclaves au Canada?
Ouais. Au 18^e siècle, les personnes mises en esclavage étaient vendues aux enchères dans les entrepôts, sur les quais et dans les marchés urbains au Canada, aux côtés des fruits, des légumes et de l'alcool.



The image shows a set of heavy metal shackles and chains. The shackles are made of thick metal bars with a central locking mechanism. The chains are made of large, interlocking metal links. The entire set is displayed on a white circular background.

Sample exhibition panel

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
conservatoire historique Mica Cooper, Ph.D.



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration de Quai 21

Canada


In partnership with | En partenariat avec
Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia



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Canal

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CANADA'S PLACE IN THE GLOBAL SLAVE TRADE | LA PLACE DU CANADA DANS LA TRAITE MONDIALE DES ESCLAVES




Exhibition at Pier 21



Exhibition at Pier 21



HISTOIRE RÉVÉLÉE

Le passage des Noirs au Canada

« Pourquoi avons-nous permis l'esclavage? »
« Pourquoi avons-nous permis l'esclavage? »
« Pourquoi avons-nous permis l'esclavage? »



Scotiabank

Mirella et Lino Saputo

Mirella and Lino Saputo Hall



THE JUSTIFICATION | LA JUSTIFICATION FOR SLAVERY | DE L'ESCLAVAGE

Textual content on the central panel, including historical documents and images.

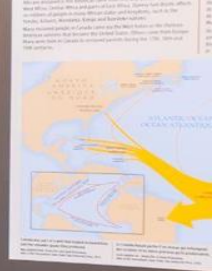


7.2

CANADA GLO...

The enslavement of Black people in Canada was part of the larger system of the Transatlantic Slave Trade which tore approximately 15 million people from the shores of Africa and brought them to the Americas.

Where did enslaved people come from?



Exhibition at Pier 21



Conservatory at Adamson Estate



Planned "Reflection Space"



Current office space



Planned "Quiet Room"

Additional resources for visitors

- Hiring staff of African descent with lived experience, in part through the Onyx Initiative
- Volunteers from local Black community organizations
- Reading materials

Opportunities for engagement



Panel discussion with Dr. Afua Cooper, Dr. Cheryl Thompson, Justine Lyn at the Living Arts Centre, Friday October 24



Free Teachers' Night, Tuesday October 21



School program for students in grades 6-12



Black History panels by Cawthra Park SS Social Justice Club installed on Adamson Estate grounds

Why are we bringing this exhibit to Mississauga?

- To educate and raise awareness
- To foster meaningful conversations
- To connect national history to local Black experiences in Mississauga
- To honour Black voices and experiences
- To create space for education, healing, and dialogue on anti-Black racism

Your feedback matters.



Thank You!