

## PROCLAMATION REQUEST

January 3, 2022

Mayor John Woodbury and members of Council  
Township of Southgate  
185667 Grey Rd. 9, RR #1, Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0

Dear Mayor John Woodbury and Council,

On behalf of JunCtian Community Initiatives, we wish to express our appreciation for supporting our request in 2021 to proclaim February as Black History Month. I am writing to you today to once again request a proclamation for February 2022 as Black History Month in the Township of Southgate and for the sharing of this proclamation through the various social media platforms as you did last year.

Through the month of February 2022, JunCtian Community Initiatives will be working with other Not-For-Profit organizations locally and around the world to promote and participate in various Black History Month programs.

### **Recognizing Black History Month**

Black History Month was first established in 1926 by African American historian Carter G. Woodson to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Here in Canada, celebrations of Black history began shortly thereafter and expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

The House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada in December 1995 following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honorable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

It wasn't until February 2008, when Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and declare February as Black History Month across Canada, thereby completing Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

### **Black History in Canada**

People of African descent have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s. Many of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were people of African descent and many sacrifices were made in wartime by soldiers of African descent as far back as the War of 1812.

As well, through nearly four centuries, women of African and Caribbean descent have taken decisive actions to help ensure the survival, preservation and growth of families and communities. As advocates and catalysts for change, women of African and Caribbean descent have created many important organizations that have advanced equality and human rights.

**Proclamation Request**

Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the many other important contributions of Black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, and in particular Grey County. You need only visit the Grey Roots Museum website to learn about the rich Black History in this region.

With that in mind, the purpose of this letter is to request that you once again proclaim February as "Black History Month" in the Township of Southgate.

By issuing this proclamation you will continue to help us showcase and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today.

We look forward to working with your office on this important endeavor and many others in representing our Township. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. We look forward to a favourable response and to you joining us on line as your schedules permit for some of the Black History Month virtual celebrations and if Covid19 protocols permits some in-person celebrations also..

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan John  
President