

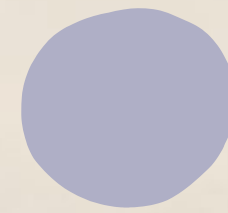
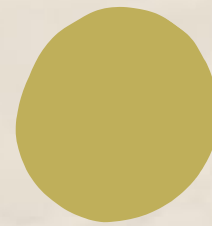
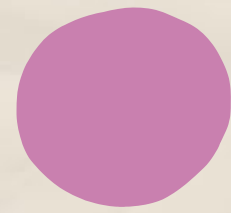
RACISM IN OUR COMMUNITIES: WHAT WE THINK WE SEE VS WHAT'S REALLY THERE.

CASE STUDY: FREDERICTON, NB

ALL RIGHTS AND OWNERSHIP : DORCAS TSHIMENGA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND



INTRODUCTION

- Many Canadians believe racism is rare or minimal in smaller cities

Fredericton is often seen as:

- Safe
- Inclusive
- Progressive

But:

- Policies and perception \neq lived experiences or reality

(Today's presentation will focus on anti-black racism specifically)



MAIN TOPICS (SETTING THE TONE)



The “Image”
What we think we see



The “Reality”
The history and the present



Key Insights
Take aways

AGENDA

- Trip down memory lane
- The Image
- Deficiencies in research and data
- The reality
- Community voices
- Key insights
- What needs to change



What is the image?

Institutional messaging emphasizes:

- Inclusion
- Diversity
- Community belonging
- Erasure of history
- Friendliness persona

“Brimming with natural beauty and friendly residents, New Brunswick is a welcoming place filled with opportunities and lots to do. Our culturally rich population is renowned for its friendliness and is spread out in dynamic urban centres, lovely small towns, and in close-knit rural communities. Learn more about New Brunswick, its communities, and why you’ll want to call this province home.”

“ what does this look like or mean to you?”

Public narrative:

“Racism isn’t a big issue here”

“We are welcoming to newcomers”

“Black people are treated well”

“School are inclusive and safe for Black students”



What is the image? pt2



Focuses on symbolic actions: festivals, awareness campaigns, public statements rather than structural change requires: policy enforcement data collection, addressing systemic barriers. gaps between policy and reality

Reality often includes:

- Underreporting of racism
- Lack of accountability mechanisms
- Slow implementation of recommendations



HISTORY OF ANTI-BLACK RACISMS

1700-1800

- Black Loyalists arrived in New Brunswick (including the Fredericton region) in 1783. They faced: Servitude and oppression
Lack of recognition and rights Evidence:
- Treated as second class citizens

“Since the arrival of Black Loyalists in 1783... settlers... struggled against servitude and oppression”

<https://www.frederictonregionmuseum.com/2022/07/05/honouring-the-no-2-construction-battalion>

1800mid -1900

- Black history became underrepresented and hidden
 - segregated school, and many public space
- Evidence:
- Black history in the region is described as a story of “absence” despite real presence

<https://historicplacesdays.ca/visitslists/the-hidden-black-cityscape>

2000 -present

Black communities in Fredericton region:
Contributed to society
Yet were ignored or excluded
Segregated, refused service

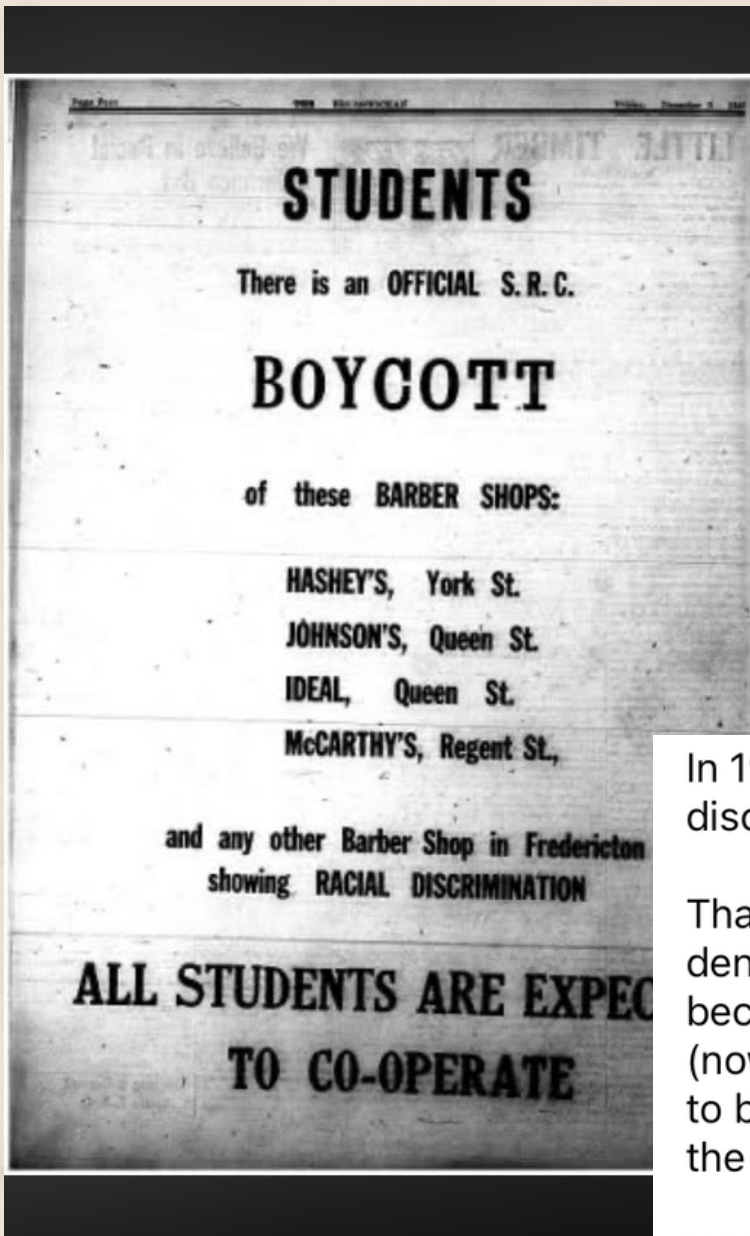
UNB Article

Black contributions were systematically undervalued and erased while also experiencing violence

Case Studies from 1926 -

1947

A list of klaverns in New Brunswick, dated 6 December 1926, shows a total of 17 Klans active in the province: 4 in Carleton County (Debec, Woodstock, East Florenceville and Hartland), 2 in Victoria County (Aroostock Junction and Plaster Rock), 4 in York County (Fredericton, Canterbury, McAdam, and Napodogan), and 1 each at St. Stephen, Saint John, Sussex, Chipman, Moncton, Campbellton, and Fredericton Junction



In 1947, UNB students took a stand against racial discrimination in Fredericton.

That December, two Black UNB students were denied service at several downtown barbershops because of their race. In response, the UNB SRC (now named the Student Union) unanimously voted to boycott the offending businesses, call attention to the injustice, and push for meaningful change.

Within days:

- 📢 Over 500 students signed a formal letter of protest to the City Chamber of Commerce
- 📢 An extra edition of The Brunswickan was published to spread awareness.
- 📢 The story was shared with local media to increase pressure.

The boycott continued for just over a month and became one of the earliest documented examples of organized student activism against anti-Black racism in Fredericton.

This moment in UNB's history reminds us that student voices have long played a crucial role in shaping a more equitable community, both on campus and beyond.



Lets take a minute and refelct on what we 've
seen so far

FAST FOWARD TODAY...

NEW BRUNSWICK

Tackling racist attacks on Doone Street 'extremely critical,' says Fredericton's mayor-elect

No action was taken by municipal government after months of promises and apologies, group says

Maria Jose Burgos · CBC News · Posted: Jun 02, 2021 7:00 AM ADT | Last Updated: June 2, 2021



Yusuf Shire, the president of the New Brunswick African Association, says action against racism has to involve more than cultural events. (Maria Jose Burgos/CBC)



Mayor-elect Kate Rogers says she'll soon tackle reports of racist attacks in Fredericton's Doone Street neighbourhood, which immigrant families say have been ignored by city hall for years.

"Once I'm sworn in as mayor and once the new council is sworn in, I'll be sure this is an item that we discuss in meaningful ways to address the concerns that are extremely critical," Rogers said in an interview.

Dozens of families report anti-Black racism in N.B. schools: coalition

Education minister says racism 'unacceptable,' vows action

Barbara Simpson

Published Mar 15, 2026 · Last updated 1 day ago · 6 minute read

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Yusuf Shire, president of the New Brunswick African Association, says families want action taken on anti-Black racism within the province's public school system. SUBMITTED



People at Sunday's rally in Saint John marched to city hall and chanted "Black lives matter." (Julia Wright/CBC)



An official Black Lives Matter chapter has been formed in New Brunswick, hoping to highlight some of the problems Black members of the community are facing.

Husoni Raymond, Dorcas Tshimenga and Felomena Deogratsias are a few of the organizers behind the New Brunswick movement.

The idea formed after seeing the swell of support at multiple Black Lives Matter rallies in the province. Deogratsias said the group hopes to keep the momentum going.

New Brunswick

Young refugees face racism in schools, mostly from teachers

Child and Youth Advocate's office releases report from 'Shaking the Movers' workshop

CBC News · Posted: Oct 15, 2018 3:39 PM ADT | Last Updated: October 15, 2018



Facilitators from the November 2017 East Coast Shaking the Movers workshop. (Submitted by New Brunswick's Child and Youth Advocate office)



Young refugees and newcomers in New Brunswick say they face racism on a daily basis, usually from adults in school.

That's one of the findings in a report released recently by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

"We shared so many stories, and it was really sad," a 17-year-old participant in the Shaking the Movers workshop was quoted as saying. "I didn't know that it was that bad in school."

Summary

Anti -black racism is a reality in Fredericton.

We Need: Better data collection on racism incidents, stronger accountability systems, community -led solutions, transparency in progress reporting and initiatives. Funding for black led coalitions and initiatives.

What we think we see:

Inclusive, diverse, progressive city

What really exist:

Ongoing anti -black racism , gaps between policy and lived experience,

Summary

Racism is a reality in Fredericton.

**What will you
do...?**



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!
LET'S CONTINUE TO ENJOY
THIS AMAZING SYMPOSIUM
TOGETHER !

