

On August 1st, we commemorate Emancipation Day in Canada, marking the anniversary of the abolition of slavery across the British Empire in 1834. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience, strength, and enduring spirit of Black communities, both past and present.

As members of the York University Black Alumni Network, we reflect on our shared heritage, which spans continents and generations. As the executive team, we come from diverse backgrounds, hailing from countries across Canada, Africa and the Caribbean, yet our experiences and aspirations have converged here in Canada. Through our education at York University, we have been empowered to make meaningful contributions to society, advocating for equity, inclusion, and justice.

Emancipation Day is not only a time to remember the historical injustices endured by our ancestors, but also a call to action to address the systemic inequalities that persist today. We stand in solidarity with all those who continue to fight against racism, discrimination, and social injustice that impact the lives of many within the Black diaspora. Our network remains committed to supporting new graduates, fostering connections among alumni, and uplifting our community.

Let us honor the legacy of those who fought for freedom by continuing to build a future where equality and opportunity are a reality for all. We encourage the York University community to join us in recognizing this significant day and to reflect on the progress we have made, as well as the work that still lies ahead.

Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable world.

Sincerely,
York University Black Alumni Network