

Why Black Deaf Studies in Canada Matters?



From a Canadian Perspective

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Friday, March 31, 2023



Quick Facts about Canada...

Canada is...

North America

But is seen as the *international* country

38.6 million population

Out of 38.6, **7.5** million population is from abroad

MULTICULTURALISM IN CANADA





Access to information
increases since...

ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT



VISION

PROACTIVELY ELIMINATE BARRIERS
AND ENSURE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES
FOR CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES.

ACA, 2019

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**Out of a specific group of 4,965 people using ASL...
how many people use BASL in Canada?**

Past influences our present and future

Education
(Black Deaf Studies)

“In schools for the deaf, the black students learn very little about themselves, the problems of their people, or the contributions of their ancestors. They are exposed to texts oriented toward a belief in white supremacy. They learn that their ancestors were savages brought in from Africa for use as slaves in America”

(Anderson & Bowe, 2022)

Past influences our present and future

Education
(Black Deaf Studies)

- “Deaf persons of color are often stuck in ‘a bottleneck on the highway to opportunity’...”
- “The more fortunate ones find ways to further their education...”
- “The politics of authority structures, racism, audism, and oppressive language and academic policies often work against deaf children’s early struggle to acquire language, an academic foundation, and a healthy cultural identity...”

(Simms, Rusher, Andrews, & Coryell 2008)



Barbados is an island in the West Indies. It is warm and there is a lot of rain. I like the way the cars drive on the other side of the road in Barbados. There are more than 250,000 people. The people speak English. Most of the people are black.. The people



BLACK DEAF CANADA

3rd Grade

Past influences our present and future

Education
(Black Studies in
Canada)

- “Without the data or research studies[, the] experiences and concerns may never be taken seriously by school administrators and educators”
- “Lack of racial diversity among teachers; Black people and Black history not reflected in the curriculum; streaming of Black students into courses below their ability; and Black students being discouraged from attending university. [The experience did not] begin in high school but had their origins in elementary school...”

(James & Turner 2017)

Past influences our present and future

Education
(Black Studies in
Canada)

- "Inner-city students are more likely to be attending special programs of all kinds in comparison with the total elementary school population"
- “Black students (...) are being inappropriately streamed in schools(; they) are disproportionately dropping-out(; and their employment opportunities are) slam shut. Just as the soothing balm of 'multiculturalism' cannot mask racism, so racism cannot mask its primary target.”

(Wright, E.N. & Tsuji, G.K., 1983; Lewis, 1997)

Past influences our present and future

Education
(Black **Deaf** Studies in
Canada)

??????

Our present and
future in Canada

are missing

?????

Environment - and Contextual- Dependence

“Inclusion”



Language Base Resources

- **Family**
 - **Social / Community**
 - **School**
-



BLACK DEAF CANADA

...Possibilities...



Black Deaf Canada's *Research Team* established
(From Left to Right: Abigail Danquah, Dr. Jenelle Rouse, Amy Parsons, Amelia Palmer)



BLACK DEAF CANADA

That's Why Black Deaf Studies in Canada Matters



BLACK DEAF CANADA

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