



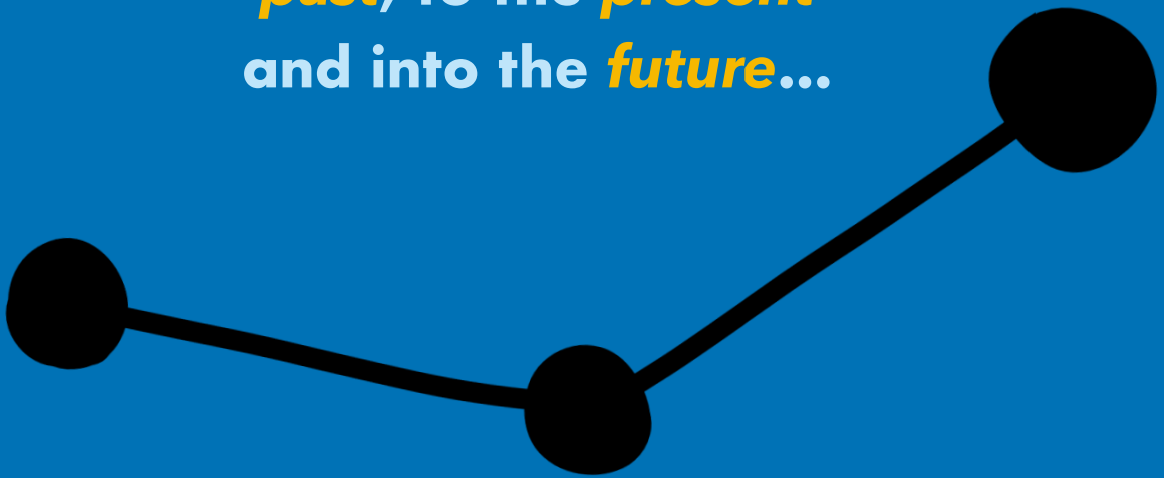
WELCOME
TO THE
BE
SERIES!

The "B" and the "E" stand for **B**lack **E**xcellence
which is what this series is all about!



The **BE** Series is
meant to be used as
a guide to explore
Black Excellence!

As we learn
together, we can
make a link from the
past, to the *present*
and into the *future*...



This **BE** Series can be used by anyone: students, educators, families, communities...everyone!



The **BE** Series can
be explored in many
different ways.



The goal is to help us all learn
more about *Black Excellence*
in Canada and to connect
ourselves to the changes that
are needed to dismantle
anti-Black racism!

There are 7 sections in this *Series*, and each is a call to action:

BE *Bold!*

BE *Knowledgeable!*

BE *Black-Affirming!*

BE *Transformative!*

BE *Responsive!*

BE *Engaging!*

BE *Inclusive!*

Explore the **7** sections in any order you choose!

There are **3** frames in each section...

1

Read a
"Did you know?"
Canadian historical fact
featuring
Black Excellence.

2

Engage in tasks
that can extend
your learning!

3

Use these prompts to
envision and devise a
plan to action change!

NOTE: It is important to explore the 3 frames in order to build understanding and context.

@Educators and Leaders

This **BE** Series is designed to be used directly by young people, or through your facilitation! You may choose to explore one section together as a group, or divide learners into groups to explore all 7 sections simultaneously.



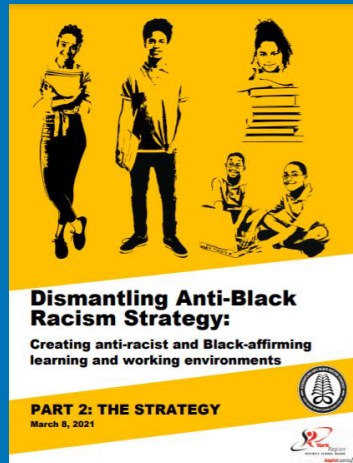
Here are just a few ideas to try...

Minds-On: Learners watch a Black Excellence Video while noting one thing they already knew, one thing they learned, and one thing they are still wondering about.

Lesson: Educators divide students into 7 groups and each group engages in 1 of the 7 sections. Within the groups, students work through the 3 frames.

Consolidation: Groups share back to the whole class their explorations, noting themes and questions.

The York Region District School Board's **Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy** outlines 7 priority areas where we should focus our work to achieve racial equity in schools for Black students and staff.



The 7 sections of this **BE** Series are designed to align with the 7 priorities.



*Explore
Away!*



BE *Bold!*

Commit to
Bold Leadership

BE
BLACK EXCELLENCE

Bold!

We learn from the past...

Did you know that **Jean Augustine** made history by becoming the first Black woman elected to the Parliament of Canada? She became the first woman of African heritage to serve as a Cabinet Minister in Canada!



...to act in the present...

Try This!

First: Find 3 more facts about **Jean Augustine**.

Then: Research 5 Black members of parliament.

Finally: Identify 3 other Black individuals in positions of leadership in Canada.



BE
Bold!

...so we can change the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

Who are some Black leaders in my community and what can I do to promote them within my community?

What can my class/community do to promote Black leaders/leadership within our community?



BE
Bold!



BE *Knowledgeable!*

Increase the racial literacy
of all (*staff*)

BE

BLACK EXCELLENCE

Knowledgeable!

We learn from the past...

Did you know **Viola Desmond** was a Canadian civil rights activist? In 1946, she challenged racial segregation by refusing to leave a Whites-only area of the Roseland Theatre. Desmond's case is one of the most publicized incidents of racial discrimination in Canadian history and helped start the modern Civil Rights movement in Canada!



...to act in the present...

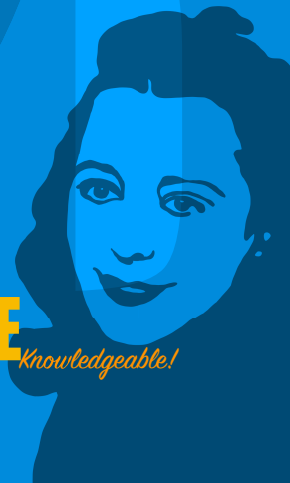
Try This!

First: Find 3 more facts about **Viola Desmond.**

Then: Name 2 other Black Canadians who have kept persisting when experiencing unequal treatment.

Finally: Identify 2 instances of anti-Black racism in our society.

BE *Knowledgeable!*



...so we can *change* the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

How would I interrupt anti-Black racism if it happened right in front of me? What can I do to get better at noticing and naming racism?

How can our class/community begin to disrupt anti-Black racism?

BE *Knowledgeable!*



A large, stylized blue number '3' is positioned on the left side of the image. It has a thick, rounded font style. The number is partially overlaid by the text 'BE Black-Affirming!' and the subtitle below it.

BE *Black-Affirming!*

Create Black-affirming
learning and working
environments

BE
BLACK EXCELLENCE

Black-Affirming!

Did you know that **Jamal Murray**, a Canadian professional basketball player for the Denver Nuggets of the National Basketball Association (NBA), regularly uses his platform, like many before him, to continue the fight against police brutality and systemic racism?



...to act in the present...

Try This!

First: Find 2 reasons **Jamal Murray** is a good example of Black Excellence.

Then: Name 5 other Canadians who are examples of Black Excellence.

Finally: Identify 3 individuals with intersecting identities (e.g. Queer-Black, Black-Muslim, etc.) who are examples of Black Excellence.

BE
Black-Affirming!



...so we can change the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

What can you do to help to develop a Black affirming learning environment and community? What does this look like or sound like?

What can your class/community learn about the different narratives of Black excellence within our school community and beyond?

BE
Black-Affirming!





BE *Transformative!*

Improve academic
outcomes for and the
well-being of Black students

BE

BLACK EXCELLENCE

Transformative!



We learn from the past...

Did you know that the greatest display of systematic racism in Canada occurred in education? At one time, Black and White children were forced to go to separate schools but **Mary Ann Shadd** resisted this by establishing her own private school for Black refugees.

...to act in the present...

Try This!

First: Find 2 more facts about **Mary Ann Shadd** and her private school.

Then: Name 2 other communities in Canada that resisted school segregation?

Finally: Identify 2 ways you could transform your environment to be more inclusive.



...so we can *change* the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

What can you do to improve learning outcomes for Black students in your classroom/community?

What can your class/community do to address unwelcoming and racist school environments?



BE
transformative!



BE *Responsive!*

Create a culturally relevant
and Black-Affirming curriculum

BE

BLACK EXCELLENCE

Responsive!

We learn from the past...

Did you know that former Black students from the York Region District School Board continue to contribute to Black Canadian history in the making? Since becoming the host of *Cityline*, **Tracy Moore** has become an inspiration to many across the country. Moore doesn't just impact her community through television. Out of the studio, she's a huge advocate for female empowerment and the betterment of children's lives.



...to act in the present...

Try This!

First: Find 2 more facts about **Tracy Moore**.

Then: Name 2 Black Canadian celebrities who have overcome barriers to become successful.

Finally: Identify 1 unjust structure that exists in our Canadian society that makes **Tracy Moore's** journey so inspirational.



...so we can *change* the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

What changes could you advocate for within your own community that would create systemic change?

What can your class/community do to create systemic change?



BE
Responsive!

A large, light blue number '6' is positioned in the background, centered vertically and slightly to the right of the page.

BE *Engaging!*

Improve the ways in which
Black parents, families, and
communities are able to
engage with schools and
the school board

BE
BLACK EXCELLENCE

Engaging!

We learn from the past...

Did you know that Black communities have existed in Ontario for hundreds of years? This means that many Black people in Ontario are at least seventh generation Canadian!

The **City of Hamilton** has been a centre for bold leadership, political and anti-slavery activism, and community for people of African descent.

...to act in the present...

Try This!

First: Do some research on the Black communities of **Hamilton**.

Then: Name 2 Black local community groups in your area.

Finally: Identify the 3 changes for which Black community groups are asking.

BE
Engaging!

...so we can *change* the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

What can you do to support Black communities in what they are asking or advocating?

What can your class/community do to support Black communities in what they are asking or advocating?





BE *Inclusive!*

Hire, affirm and
support Black staff

BE
BLACK EXCELLENCE

Inclusive!

We learn from the past...

Did you know that **The Elgin Settlement**, also known as **Buxton**, was one of four organized Black settlements developed in Southwestern Ontario in the mid-1800s?

Many African-Americans flocked here not only to escape to freedom, but also for the tremendous educational opportunities available.

...to act in the present...

Try This!

First: Find 2 more things about the **Buxton Mission** school.

Then: Name 3 current Black educational leaders in Ontario.

Finally: Identify 2 changes that the Black community is asking for in Education.

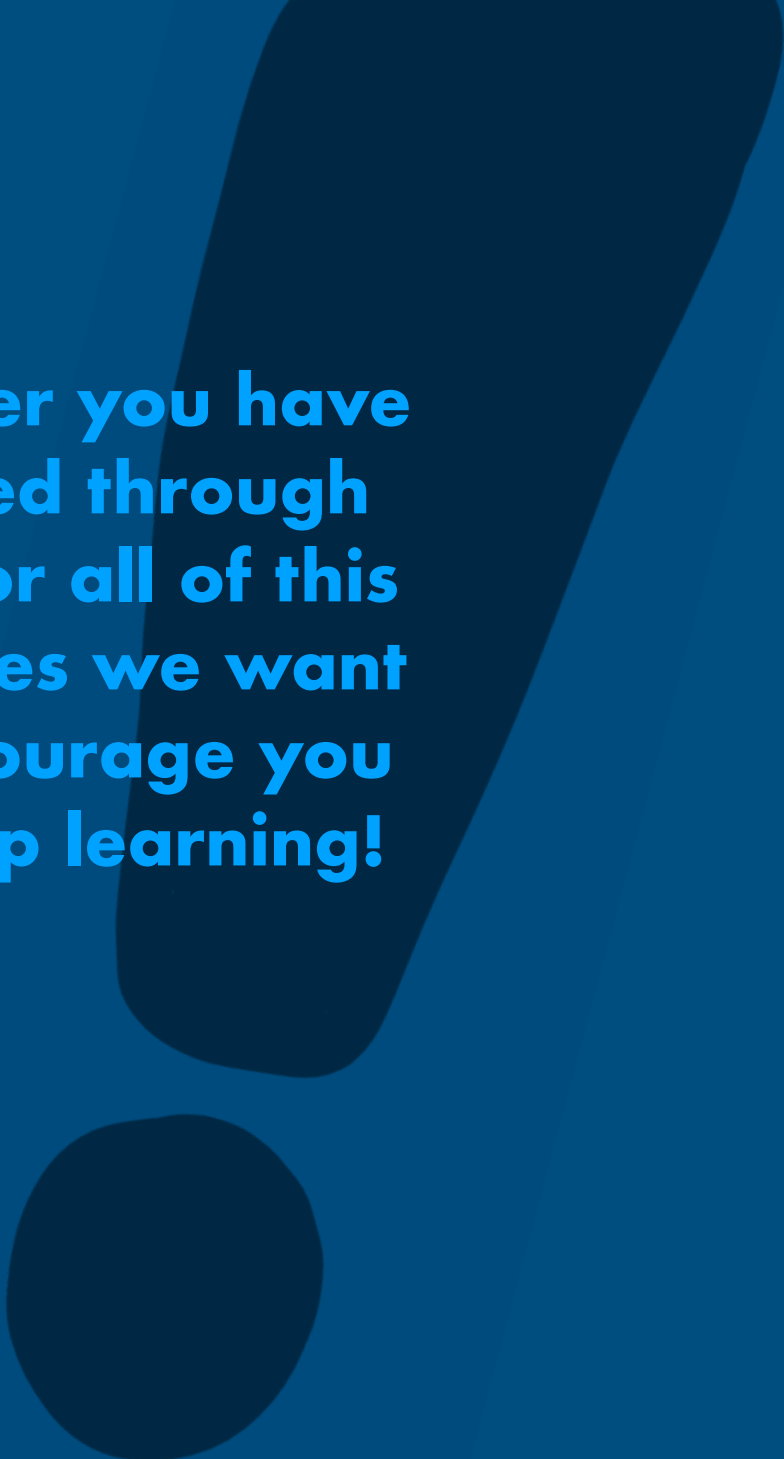
...so we can *change* the future....

Reflect & Make an Action Plan!

What can you do to support
Black educational leadership in
Ontario?

What can your class/community
do to support Black educational
leadership in Ontario?

BE
inclusive!



Whether you have
worked through
some or all of this
BE Series we want
to encourage you
to keep learning!



As we come together to
learn and *act*, we can *change* the future!



This **BE** Series has been brought to you by the
Dismantling anti-Black Racism Strategy Team and
Inclusive School and Community Services,
York Region District School Board!



BE