

A portrait of Rosemary Sadlier, a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a bright red blazer over a white top. Her hands are clasped in her lap. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

ROSEMARY
SADLIER

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ABOUT ME

Rosemary Sadlier is a renowned Canadian social justice advocate, author, and educator, **deeply committed to highlighting Black history and advocating for equity.**

Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, Sadlier has been a **prominent voice in the fight against racism and for the inclusion of Black history in the Canadian narrative.** Her work extends across various spheres, including education, literature, and public policy.

As an author, Sadlier has **contributed significantly to the literature on Black Canadian history**, penning several books that explore the rich and diverse stories of Black Canadians. Her writing not only educates but also inspires, emphasizing the importance of understanding and recognizing the contributions of Black individuals in shaping Canada.

Leading the Ontario Black History Society as its president from 1993, **Sadlier was instrumental in the official recognition of February as Black History Month in Canada in 1996.**

Her relentless advocacy work, both in Canada and internationally, positions her as a key figure in the ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable society.



"BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS A BALM FOR A WOUND THAT'S TROUBLED ME SINCE I WAS A CHILD:

THE EXPERIENCE OF ALWAYS BEING IN A POSITION BY CHANCE OR BY DESIGN, OF HAVING TO DEFEND MY EXISTENCE.

IT'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO DO. IT'S SOMETHING I'VE HAD TO THINK ABOUT. IT'S SOMETHING I'VE HAD TO EXPRESS."

NOTABLE AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

ORDER OF ONTARIO

This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and achievement benefiting the people of Ontario or anywhere in the world.

HARRY JEROME AWARD

A significant honor, this award acknowledges excellence and achievement within the Black Canadian community.

WILLIAM PEYTON HUBBARD RACE RELATIONS AWARD

Named after the first Black elected official in Toronto, this award is given to individuals who make outstanding contributions to race relations in Toronto.

RECOGNITION FROM THE CANADIAN FORCES

Presented to Sadlier in 2019 for her influence on diversity in Canada

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE AWARD

Presented to Sadlier in 2019 for her influence on diversity in Canada

MADIBA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to Sadlier in 2019 for her influence on diversity in Canada

GLOBAL DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECOGNITION

Speak Truth to Power initiative of the Robert F. Kennedy Centre, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Assembly of First Nations & Canadian Museum of Human Rights

HONORARY DOCTORATE OCAD UNIVERSITY

Awarded to Sadlier in 2023 for her impact related to Black History Education



CULTURAL IMPACT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rosemary Sadlier's relentless advocacy was instrumental in the establishment of Black History Month as a national commemoration in Canada. Her commitment to highlighting the contributions, achievements, and experiences of people of African descent led her to champion this cause at all levels of government.

Achieving a national declaration in December 1995, Sadlier's efforts culminated in Black History Month being celebrated across the country. As the unpaid leader of the Ontario Black History Society for 22 years, she utilized her platform to raise awareness about the integral role of African Canadians in the nation's history.

"SADLIER'S VISION WAS NOT JUST ABOUT RECOGNITION; IT WAS ABOUT CORRECTING THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE AND ENSURING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICAN CANADIAN STORIES IN CANADA'S BROADER HISTORY".

EMANCIPATION DAY

Sadlier played a pivotal role in securing the recognition of Emancipation Day. Emancipation Day, celebrated on August 1st, marks the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, including Canada, in 1834. Sadlier's efforts in promoting this day were aimed at acknowledging the historical significance of emancipation and its impact on people of African descent in Canada.

Through her work, Emancipation Day has become a time for reflection, celebration, and continued advocacy for justice and equality, recognizing the ongoing journey towards freedom and equity for the Black community in Canada.

HISTORICAL RECOGNITIONS

Sadlier played a pivotal role in the creation of the national day for the Hon. Lincoln Alexander and has provided expert input to various organizations, including the UN Rapporteur on Race Relations, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Bi-National Study of the Underground Railroad. As an educator, she has contributed to African Canadian curriculum development, national exhibits, and publications, authoring seven books on African Canadian history.

AS SEEN ON TV & MEDIA

TELUS TALKS INTERVIEW

"It's about having a complete sense of the history of this country." Author and social justice advocate Rosemary Sadlier on #TELUSTalks sharing some of the stories Canadians should be learning during #BlackHistoryMonth.

GRITVISION TV INTERVIEW

ROSEMARY walks us through the history AND IMPORTANCE of Emancipation Day in Canada and her role in the fight for its national recognition, finally received March 24th, 2021.



CBC | AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSEMARY SADLIER

An interview with Rosemary Sadlier on this particular moment in Black history. The social justice advocate on the realities of being Black in Canada and how change actually happens , and the importance of highlighting the stories of Black Canadians and what those stories can achieve.

SPEAKING SERVICES

Rosemary Sadlier stands at the forefront of social justice advocacy as a distinguished researcher, author, consultant, and international speaker.

Her profound insights on Black history, anti-racism, and women's issues not only educate but also empower and inspire audiences globally. Recognized as a pivotal force in the official recognition of Black History Month and Emancipation Day in Toronto, Rosemary's impact is monumental. Engaging Rosemary as a speaker means accessing a wealth of knowledge, experience, and a commitment to fostering change and understanding on critical social issues.



Keynote Presentation

\$3,500

Corporate Workshops

\$3,000

Lunch N Learn

\$1,750

Diversity Training + Consultation

\$10,000

PUBLISHED WORKS



HARRIET TUBMAN

This book traces the contribution of freedom seeker, Harriet Tubman, including her years in Canada, and her role with the Underground Railroad.

MARY ANN SHADD

Mary Ann Shadd played a crucial role in shaping Canada as a safe haven for those escaping bondage in the U.S. Her insightful observations and reporting not only provided valuable information but also marked her historic achievement as the first Black woman in North America to publish a newspaper.

BLACK HISTORY - AFRICA, THE CARRIBEAN AND THE AMERICAS

The history of Black people begins in Africa and spreads across the Americas in different ways, including the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

THE KIDS BOOK OF BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY

Aimed at young readers, this book provides an invaluable overview of Black History in Canada with connections to its roots in Africa.

THANK YOU!

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[LINK TO HEADSHOTS](#)

