

Jewish Heritage Month



Image: Drexel University

May is Jewish Heritage Month and a time to celebrate the Jewish community's significant contributions to British Columbia's collective success, social welfare, cultural achievements, politics, growth and prosperity.

"Jewish Canadians have been part of B.C.'s cultural fabric since the first settlers arrived here in the late 1800s, and they have made significant contributions to the province ever since. Unfortunately, reported antisemitic incidents have increased significantly in recent years. This is why it is as important as ever to not only stand up against these unjust acts, but to educate ourselves about the many contributions Jewish British Columbians have made to our province's diversity and strength.

"Early on, many Jewish people took on leadership roles that changed the course of B.C.'s growth. Leaders like Lumley Franklin, who became the second mayor of Victoria in 1866 and presided over the installation of the telegraph cable linking Victoria directly to England. He also supported the unification of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. The two colonies merged during his first year in office. And David Oppenheimer, who was elected the second mayor of Vancouver in 1888. During his tenure, he established the first fire department, a ferry across Burrard Inlet, the streetcar system and Stanley Park.

"Today, we continue to see significant contributions by Jewish communities and individuals in helping B.C. grow and thrive. One concrete example can be found in the Lower Mainland, where the Jewish Community Centre is being redeveloped and expanded to include recreation facilities, a theatre, art gallery, a performing arts school, a youth and senior day centre, and the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. It will also provide up to 200 new child care spaces and 500 units of mixed-use housing. The government has provided \$25 million for this community-changing project, and we applaud the vision and ambition that is bringing this dream to life.

"This May, we encourage everyone to learn more about the history and contributions of Jewish British Columbians, and to join us in condemning antisemitism in all its forms."

[Joint statement on Jewish Heritage Month](#)

Mable Elmore, Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives
Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

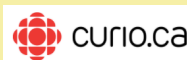
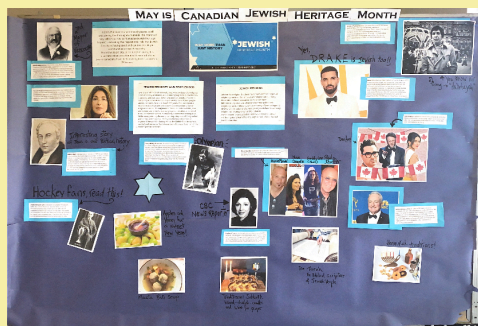


NFB

Enjoy this curated selection of films that celebrate the important contributions that Jewish Canadians have made to Canada's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.



This [website](#) explores Jewish Heritage Month in Canada. Find information on Jewish Canadian history, prominent Jewish Canadians, Jewish identity, holidays, and terminology. A teacher at Bridge accessed information from this site to create a display in the front foyer. Students can do it too!



Searching the keyword "[Jewish](#)" on Curio provides a number of relevant classroom resources with Jewish stories and history.

Curio's collection [The Holocaust](#), offers selections from The National, Doc Zone, News in Review, Canada Reads, and Ideas. The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, was the genocide of European Jewish people during the Second World War. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe; around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. The videos, mostly suitable for secondary school students, explore the history, and impacts of the Holocaust and antisemitism through story and critical analysis and reflection. The newest video (February 2023), [Combating Hate: the Rise of Antisemitism](#) reveals how hate crimes against Jewish people in North America, with a sharp increase in antisemitic incidents and online rhetoric.

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CANADA AND THE HOLOCAUST



Government of Canada

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Learn more about the history of Canada and the Holocaust and how our response to the Holocaust shaped our society. Discover the resources available for remembrance and education about

the Holocaust, and how Canada hosted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

In conjunction with being the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2013/2014, Canada supported several new initiatives to increase understanding of the Holocaust across the country. On this page, you will find resources around education, remembrance, research, and survivor testimony.

UNLEARN IT

Unlearn It is a resource hub for educators and parents to learn about, identify, and take action to address antisemitism. It provides educators with short educational videos and discussion guides to teach about antisemitism and its impact.

UNLEARN IT

YOU CAN'T CELEBRATE THAT!

A story from the ROW Collection by Nadia Jaboneta



"I'm so excited for tonight! I'm going to celebrate Shana Tova!"

"You can't celebrate that! Only people with white skin can celebrate that! That's what my Dad said."

A simple, potent declaration, from one child to another. In You Can't Celebrate That!, author and early childhood educator, Nadia Jaboneta, exercises the muscles of courage, integrity and empathy, teaching us what's possible when we choose to join the conversation and learn alongside children.

RECIPE FOR CHANGE: STANDING UP TO ANTISEMITISM WITH IDINA MENZEL, ILANA GLAZER & MOSHE KASHER

In this episode of Recipe for Change, Idina Menzel, Ilana Glazer & Moshe Kasher are joined by celebrated guests for some amazing meals and timely chat. Together they celebrate their Jewish heritage, identity, and culture, and discuss the rise of antisemitism and its effects on the Jewish community. Rachel Dratch is the on-the-street reporter, speaking with Jewish people and allies in New York City.



WORTH A FOLLOW...

If you're on Instagram, here are two content creators who identify as Jewish and share stories, commentary, and reflection around Jewish identity as related to equity, representation, and intersectionality. Their posts might offer food for thought for everyone, and hooks, provocations and content for lessons in the classroom.

Liz Kleinrock (she/her) [@teachandtransform](#) is a transracially adopted Korean, Jewish, queer, antibias and antiracist nationally recognized educator, author, and consultant. "My identity as an Asian American is complex—it has taken me a long time to grapple and reconcile the intersections of that identity." Find out more about Kleinrock's work on her [website](#). She has also written a [book for educators](#), *Start Here, Start Now: A Guide to Antibias and Antiracist Work in Your School Community*.

Raven Schwam-Curtis (they/she) [@ravenreveals](#) is a Black and Jewish educator. "There was this really nice Chanukah audio trending... I made a video [on TikTok] dancing to it and the text above me said something like, 'Your yearly reminder that Black Jews exist.'" On their Instagram, tiktok, and Youtube accounts, they teach Hebrew phrases, explore the lives of famous Jews, and advocate for more representation and diversity in the Jewish community. Read more about Schwam-Curtis [here](#).



Every effort has been made to choose resources that are useful and appropriate for a wide range of students. Each class of students and teacher is different, and previewing all the resources is essential! If you have any questions or ideas, please reach out to Baren Tsui, Teacher Consultant for Equity and Inclusion.