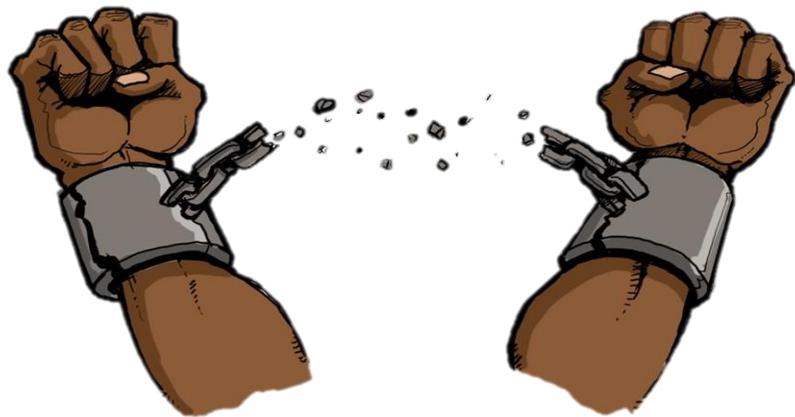


YES, IT MATTERS! ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM

EMANCIPATION

CREATING THE FUTURE BY
CONFRONTING THE PAST



TOGETHER WE DID | TOGETHER WE CAN | TOGETHER WE WILL

AUGUST 1 IS NOW RECOGNIZED FEDERALLY AS EMANCIPATION DAY IN CANADA

In August 1833, the Slave Emancipation Act was passed, giving all slaves in the British empire their freedom, albeit after a set period of years. Plantation owners received compensation for the 'loss of their slaves' in the form of a government grant set at £20,000,000. In contrast, enslaved people received no compensation and continued to face much hardship. They remained landless, and the wages offered on the plantations after emancipation were extremely low.

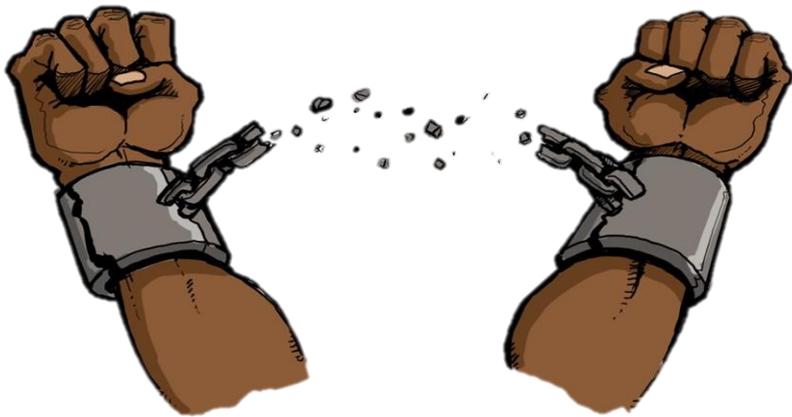
The 1833 Act did not come into force until 1 August 1834. The first step was the freeing of all children under six. However, although the many thousands of enslaved people in the British West Indies were no longer legally slaves after 1 August 1834, they were still made to work as unpaid apprentices for their former masters. These masters continued to ill-treat and exploit them.

Source: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/rights/emancipation.htm>

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On March 1, 2021, MPs in the House of Commons voted unanimously to designate Aug. 1 as Emancipation Day across Canada.

On July 14, 2021, Toronto City Council voted to rename Dundas Street and other civic assets with the Dundas name.

In June 2020, an online petition was launched to rename the city of Vaughan.

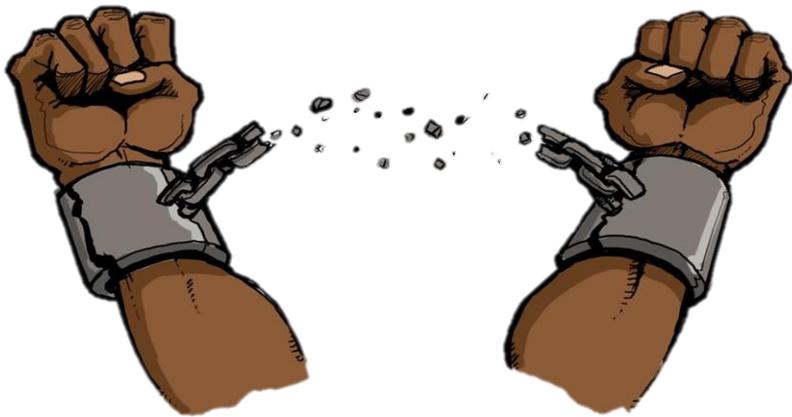
Henry Dundas was a Scottish lawyer and politician for whom Dundas Street in Toronto and the Town of Dundas in western Ontario. He came to be known as “the great tyrant,” particularly for delaying the abolition of slavery in the British empire by 15 years.

Benjamin Vaughan was a political economist, merchant, and medical doctor. He was also a fierce defender of the slave trade and owned several hundred slaves throughout his lifetime. Various places have been named in Vaughan's honour including a Toronto road, TDSB facility and an entire city in Ontario.

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John Graves Simcoe was the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada (present-day Ontario). He passed the Act Against Slavery on 9 July 1793, aimed at ending the sale of slaves by Canadians to Americans. The act also liberated slaves entering Upper Canada from the US but did not free existing adult slaves already in residence. The legislation came 40 years before the Slavery Abolition Act, which later outlawed slavery in most of the British Empire.