

Resource Guide for the Video Alberta: Growing up Black!

Prepared by
REACH Youth Volunteers
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Producer–Director’s message and Learning Goals (Deborah Dobbins)

The mini documentary ‘Alberta: Growing up Black’ was produced out of the need to create relevant educational material that includes the historical presence of the black community in the development of Alberta since its beginnings in 1905 and stimulate dialogue addressing the roots and present-day existence of anti-black racism here in Alberta. The subject matter was presented through the lens of 21st century descendants of African American Western Canadians whose families immigrated several years ago from the post slavery United States.

After viewing the documentary, the three-fold hope of lasting impact is to

1. Understand the need for the intentional inclusion of Alberta black history in the education curriculum,
2. Instill a deeper sense of understanding about the roots and still presence of anti-black racism today and,
3. See the imperative need for citizens to proactively seek equity for those who are targets of anti-black racism and other forms of discrimination.

Thank you for taking the time to view the mini documentary ‘Alberta: Growing up Black’ and you are encouraged to share the documentary and discussion guide with others to continue the conversation that will lead to change for the good for our youth today and for future generations.

For further inquiries, please contact Deborah Dobbins at shilohcmr@gmail.com.



How To Use this Resource Guide/Instructions

1 Choose from the many questions offered in this resource guide that fit with your youth group. Many examples of questions are provided for youth groups who want to show the video to their membership and have further discussion on it.

a. Ask for a content summary. For example:

- If you were going to tweet a summary of the film's main point, what would you write? Or if you were going to tell a friend about the film, what would you say?

b. Ask for reactions. For example:

- Was there a moment in the film that you found particularly inspiring or disturbing? What was it about that moment that moved you? or A month from now, what do you think you will remember about this film? or even the simple, "In a word, how did the film make you feel?"

❖ As much as possible, frame questions by using direct quotes from the film to help youth recall how the film dealt with issues, clarify or invite reactions, or settle any disputes about what someone in the film actually said.

❖ For discussions, the film is the text. Unless something is common knowledge, if it's not in the film, it probably shouldn't be in the discussion prompts.

c. Questions on Black history in Alberta/general knowledge.

- What do you know about Black History in Canada? What have you learned at school about it?
- How do you feel about what you have learned or know about Black History?
- In your opinion, is it taught well in schools? If not, why is Black History not taught well in school institutions?
- How do you feel about inclusion and diversity in your school student body?
- Why are there no galleries showcasing this history? (instead: Are there galleries showcasing this history in your school? Why do you think so?)
- Why do you think there are no monuments, halls, roads etc. to celebrate this history?

d. Ask the youth follow up questions or if they have follow up questions after watching the video. Ex.:

- Did anything in the film surprise you? Was anything familiar?

e. Questions that cover concepts related to racism including tokenism, colourism, microaggression, equity and equality.

- What do the following concepts mean to you? Colorism, Tokenism, Equity, Equality, and Microaggression
- What is your understanding of the experiences and history of black minorities within Alberta?

f. Questions on the experiences and history of black minorities in Alberta, on the effects/impact of racism on black youths in Alberta

- Do Black people born in Alberta have different perspectives on racism than Black immigrants/first generation? Explain.
- Have you ever been in an uncomfortable situation and didn't know what to do? How did you feel about it?
- What is the impact of racism on wellbeing?
- How do people's actions and/or thoughts such as stereotyping, and profiling enable systematic oppression in Alberta?

g. Questions on resources for black youths in Alberta, including where they could get or offer support when one experiences bullying and racism as well as how one can cope with the situation.

h. actions that Individuals, Provincial and Federal Governments, and schools should take against racism in Alberta.

- How can individuals cope with racism?
- What resources are available to gain further information regarding the history of black minorities in Alberta?
- What do you feel is an effective response to racism?
- How can you stop systems of oppressions and microaggressions towards black youth within your communities?
- How can we push our federal and provincial government to uphold their promise of an equitable quality of life for all?
- What can we do to mitigate the effects of bullying?
- One of the participants, Kenson, encouraged having a support network. What might that look like?
- How can we, as youth, educate ourselves on the history of racism within Alberta? Where can I find these resources?
- What are schools, institutions doing to diversify the students' bodies?

2 Resource Promotion/sharing. How would they promote the video to youth audiences?

The video can be promoted to youth audiences by sharing the video through social media and during discussions or zoom meetings in schools or any youth programs. When sharing the video, to make sure youth audiences will view it, the video must be shared on a forum or certain short clips of the video that interests the youth. During the discussion or zoom meeting, youth audiences can be given the opportunity to share their own experiences too. Provide an online forum in which they can respond to video clips as well as see other perspectives on the video.

Suggestion: involve the youth, ask them what are some ways the video can be shared with the community (family members, friends, at school, etc.). Are they aware of other resources? Do they want to take on the initiative to share it? If yes, what type of support do they need?

Closing Questions. For example:

- What did you learn from the film that you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?

Would they be interested to meet the youth in the video to ask them questions about their experiences of racism, experience making video, and further hopes for the future?

Appendix A – Film Participant Bio



Tanika Burlie-Tanner – Interviewee

1st generation African American Edmontonian. Mother and Grandmother Mary Burlie, immigrated to Canada from the U.S. in July 1969. Passion is fitness, health/wellness. Career goal is to follow in the footsteps of her late grandmother and mother to pursue the field of Social Work.

Dane Crawford – Interviewee

4th generation African American and Caribbean Alberta born and raised descendant. Recently certified Dental Hygienist living in Edmonton. Working towards life long career in the dental field.



Jericho Dobbins – Interviewee

4th generation African American Edmontonian mother of 4. Aspirations to complete beautician college and start homebased business.

Joshua Dobbins – Narrator

4th generation biracial father of 2, descendant of African American and European roots here in Alberta. Presently learning the trade of landscaping -painting, coating and design.



Dayna Koralewicz – Interviewee

4th generation biracial African American/European Alberta born and raised descendant. Experienced chef working towards continued expertise in the culinary field.

Kenson Leffler – Interviewee

Born in Thailand, son of 3rd generation African American Albertan.
Grant MacEwan University student.



Liam O'Gilvie – Interviewee

4th generation African American/Caribbean Alberta descendant. Athlete, post secondary student working towards excellence in all he aspires to achieve

Deborah Dobbins – Documentary producer and director

3rd generation African American Albertan, retired teacher and Special Education and Cultural Consultant. E.D. of Shiloh Centre For Multicultural Roots- African American Canadian Prairie culture and people with focus on past, present and future contributions to Canada's history.

