

Provost's Book Club

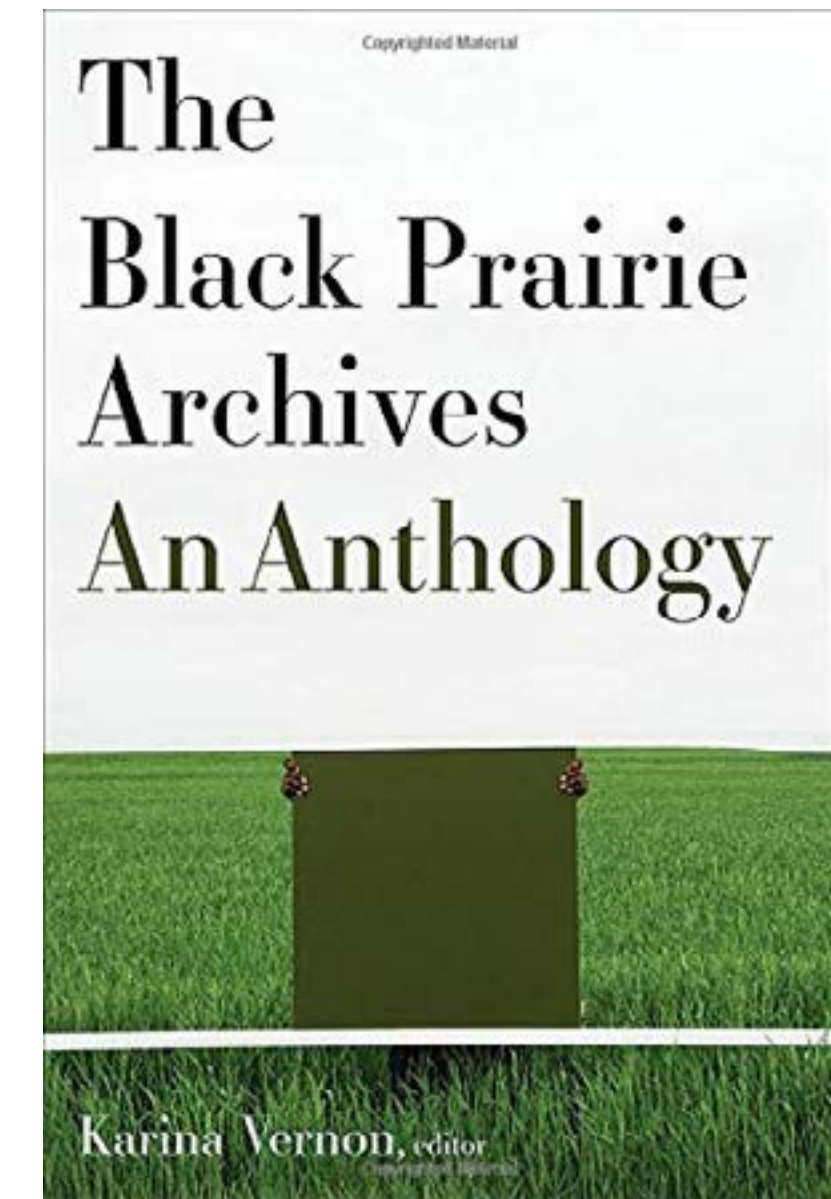
During Black History Month, join Dr. Airini, USask's provost and vice-president academic, on her journey to learn more about Black history and life on the Prairies.

For four weeks in February, the Provost's Book Club will explore readings from *The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology*, edited by Karina Vernon, as well as videos featuring news reports, documentaries, and poetry performances.

The group will meet in person in a new location—**Administration Building, boardroom C210, top floor**—with the option to attend virtually via Zoom. The [ebook version](#) of *The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology* is [available from the University Library](#). The book is also available for purchase at the Shop USask Bookstore and online at [shop.usask.ca](#).

All members of the USask community are welcome to attend the book club.

Please visit the online Black History Month [events list](#) for more information about the book club and other activities taking place at USask throughout February.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT USASK

Provost's Book Club FEBRUARY 1–3, 2023

READ

Source:

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology

Text:

Black Cultural Research Society Interview: *"This bias was good, for it caused the black people to fight"*

by E.A. Cobbs (p 115)

Source:

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology

Text:

From North of the Gully: *"Even the bad was good, because we were together"* by Golder ("Goldie") Gordon (p 150)

WATCH & LISTEN

Source:

Telus

Video:

[Secret Alberta: The Former Life of Amber Valley](#): (YouTube)

About 100 kilometres north of Edmonton is Amber Valley, one of the first all-Black settlements in Canada. Arriving in 1909, the pioneers of this community battled the elements and racism to not only survive but thrive. This film won the 2018 Canadian Screen Award for Excellence in Digital Storytelling.

**Source:**

NFB

Video:

[John Ware Reclaimed](#): (NFB)

John Ware Reclaimed follows filmmaker Cheryl Foggo on her quest to re-examine the mythology surrounding John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta before the turn of the 20th century. Foggo's research uncovers who this iconic figure might have been, and what his legacy means in terms of anti-Black racism, both past and present.

**Source:**

CBC News

Video:

[Baseball history: The all-Black teams that played on Canada's prairies](#): (YouTube)

More than 70 years ago, Nat Bates and Willie Reed came to Canada to play for the Indian Head Rockets, one of several all-Black baseball teams that played on the Prairies in the 1940s and 1950s.



DISCUSS

Book Club Discussion #1:

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, 5–6 pm

In person: Administration Building in room C210.

Online: [Zoom](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT USASK

Provost's Book Club FEBRUARY 6–10, 2023

READ

Source:

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology

Text:

"Canada Dry" by Tololwa M. Mollel (p. 217)

Source:

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology

Text:

"Learning to Love Me" by Michelle Jean-Paul (p. 463)

WATCH & LISTEN

Source:

CBC Arts

Video:

[Black on the Prairies: Arrival:](#)

"Arrival" is Edmonton poet Titilope Sonuga's celebration of more than two centuries of Black communities journeying from all over the world to build a life on the Prairies.

**Source:**

CBC News

Video:

[Prairie Dream:](#)

In this story from 2000, CBC reporter Sandra Batson takes a look at the history of African Americans who came to the Canadian Prairies, and the discrimination they confronted in search of a better life.



DISCUSS

Book Club Discussion #2:

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, 5 pm–6 pm

In person: Administration Building in room C210.

Online: [Zoom](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT USASK

Provost's Book Club FEBRUARY 13–17, 2023

READ

Source:

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology

Text:

"Yellowknifed" by Valerie Mason-John (p. 300)

Source:

The Black Prairie Archive: An Anthology

Text:

"Grey" by Khodi Dill (p. 495)

WATCH & LISTEN

Source:

Global News

Video:

[Saskatoon Black Lives Matter march demands end of racism:](#)

One thousand people marched through downtown Saskatoon in June 2020 in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Source:**

CBC News

Video:

[1961 documentary Eye-To-Eye guest Gerri Sylvia sits down with Black on the Prairies co-creator 60 years later:](#)

A 1961 CBC Manitoba documentary, Eye-To-Eye, explored racism and discrimination in employment, housing, and overall social acceptance. One of the guests in that documentary was Gerri Sylvia. Black on the Prairies co-creator and project lead Ify Chiwetelu sat down with her recently, 60 years later, to take a look back.

**Source:**

Bailey and Soda Films

Video:

[Black Lives in Alberta: Over a Century of Racial Injustice Continues:](#)
Documentary Films | Scmr (shilohcmr.com)

Black Lives in Alberta: Over a Century of Racial Injustice Continues tells the story of five generations of Black Albertans and their experiences of discrimination living on the Canadian Prairies. Descendants of a large wave of African American immigrants who moved to Alberta and Saskatchewan in the early 20th century to escape racism and persecution in the United States candidly share their family histories and discuss how their racial identities have shaped their experiences of living in Alberta.



DISCUSS

Book Club Discussion #3:

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023, 5 pm–6 pm

In person: Administration Building in room C210.

Online: [Zoom](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT USASK

Provost's Book Club
FEBRUARY 20–24, 2023

READ

Source:

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology

Text:

"Djinn in Saskatchewan" by Nehal El-Hadi (p. 447)

Source:

The Black Prairie Archive: An Anthology

Text:

"How Black?" by Roland (Rollie) Pemberton (Cadence Weapon) (p. 531)

WATCH & LISTEN

Source:

CBC News

Video:

['We are not a monolith and we can take up space': Black on the Prairies CBC Asks panelists to share what gives them hope for the future:](#)

As part of the Black on the Prairies launch, CBC Asks strived to create moments to celebrate this richness and explore the fullness of Black life on the Prairies. Co-creator and project lead Omayra Issa asks Bertrand Bickersteth, Kyla Pascal and Uzoma Asagwara what gives them hope about the next 60 years.



Source:

CBC News

Video:

[Rainbow:](#)

This poem was written and performed by Peace Akintade, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild's Youth Poet Laureate for 2020-21.



DISCUSS

Book Club Discussion #4:

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, 5 pm–6 pm

In person: Administration Building in room C210.

Online: [Zoom](#)