**Emancipation Day: A Message of Reflection and Action from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne**

### **Transcript of Video Message**

Hello and welcome. We’re here today to acknowledge a significant event, Emancipation Day. On August 1st, we remember the abolition of slavery in the British Empire, including Canada, in 1834. This was a vital step, but we also know that emancipation didn’t automatically mean freedom for Black people here. The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 didn’t bring equal rights. Instead, it was often followed by segregation, discrimination, and systemic racism.

As we commemorate Emancipation Day, let’s take a moment to reflect on the ongoing fight for freedom and equality. Let’s acknowledge the lasting impact of slavery and racism on Black people in Canada today. Let’s promote anti-racism and equity, working towards a world where everyone has equal rights and opportunities.

And let’s celebrate Black history and culture, honoring the achievements of Black people in Canada. Thank you for joining me. Let’s continue to work towards a more just and equitable society for all.