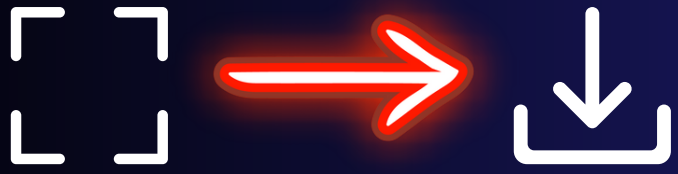


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Why Lincoln Alexander Still Matters

BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY FOR EVERYONE



Igor Ristevski, ACC, CHRL



@igor-ristevski



His Background

- Born January 21, 1922 in Toronto, Canada to Caribbean parents who recently immigrated
- A veteran, lawyer, and politician who served in Hamilton, Ontario
- Made a huge impact on Canadian history and is one of the most well-known Black historical figures in Canada



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His Accomplishments

1. First Black Member of Parliament (MP) in 1968
2. First Black federal Cabinet Minister in 1979
3. First Black chairman of the Worker's Compensation Board in 1980
4. First Black Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1985
5. Longest serving chancellor for the U. of Guelph with 5 terms served



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His Experience with Racism

- Refused service due to his skin colour at a bar while serving in the Air Force
- Stood up to his law professor when he used a racial slur that was derogatory toward Black people
- Dissented from his political party when they balked at passing hate crime legislation due to “freedom of speech” concerns



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His Passion

- Influenced by his mother, he believed that education was a transformational force and promoted it as much as he could
- He titled his memoir "Go To School, You're A Little Black Boy"
- Advocated for racial equality so everyone could be treated fairly in Canadian society which he absolutely loved



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His Legacy

- Remembered as a compassionate man full of integrity who tried to better the lives of all Canadians through his advocacy of education and racial justice
- Numerous institutions and landmarks in Canada are named after him
- January 21 is recognized officially as "Lincoln Alexander Day" in Canada



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What Can We Learn from Linc?

- Don't be average
- Educate yourself and never stop learning
- Stand up for what is right, even if it is unpopular
- Your impact on society is what you will be remembered for, not your achievements

Which of these lessons will you take with you on your journey?



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Click to purchase Lincoln Alexander's memoir

<https://a.co/d/2yK0yip>

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