Des images de ces artéfacts

Artéfact 1

Artéfact 2

Artéfact 3

Les porteurs ferroviaires ont joué un rôle majeur dans la défense des droits des Noirs au Canada. Ils étaient célèbres pour leur rôle dans la lutte pour les droits de la personne, notamment pour l’élimination de la discrimination dans les emplois ferroviaires.

Railway porters played a major role in the struggle for Black rights in Canada. Starting in the late 1830s, they emerged as leaders of African Canadian communities in Montreal and in other urban centres. Through their unions, such as the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, they gained recognition for Blacks within the labour movement.

Commission des lieux et monuments historiques du Canada
Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada - Government of Canada

BROtherHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

For several decades until the late 1980s, this site was a large coach yard where sleeping car porters working for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) prepared passenger cars for travel to the United States and across Canada, which could take up to four days and nights. Black men were preferred for the job because of their long history in domestic service to whites. Porters working for Canadian railways came from Black communities in Canada, but were also recruited from the United States and the Caribbean.

Porters faced institutional racism in all aspects of their work: their pay was lower, they were barred from promotions to supervisory positions, and they were excluded from white railway workers’ unions. They began to organize, most successfully in 1939, by joining forces with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), an American union created in 1925.

On May 18, 1945, the BSCP became the first Black union in Canada to sign an agreement with its employer, the CPR. Among other benefits, porters’ staring salaries increased, they received pay for downtime on the road, and, after 1955, they could be promoted to sleeping car conductor.

The BSCP’s organizing efforts and civil rights advocacy left a powerful legacy that influenced human rights policy and labour relations in Canada.

HERITAGE TORONTO 2017
Artéfact 4

![Image of a sign stating "This car is served by S. G. Grizzle, Porter"]

Artéfact 5

![Image of four men in porter uniforms shaking hands]

HISTOIRE CANADA