

# TOO COLOURFUL FOR THE LEAGUE

## A TEACHER'S GUIDE



1586 Fleury St. East Suite 210

Montreal, QC H2C 1S6

Tel.: 800-858-2183 / 514-858-0300 / [info@cinéfete.ca](mailto:info@cinéfete.ca) / [www.cinéfete.ca](http://www.cinéfete.ca)

# Too Colourful for the League

*A Teacher's Guide*

## Table of Contents

Synopsis	page 2
Introduction	page 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why show this film?</li><li>• How can the film be presented in a classroom?</li><li>• Who will watch this film?</li><li>• How will students react to the film?</li></ul>	
History of Blacks in Hockey	page 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A struggle for acceptance</li><li>• History of Blacks in the NHL</li><li>• Black Immigration to Canada</li></ul>	
How to Fight Intolerance and Racism	page 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canada: Land of Immigrants</li></ul>	
Racism and the Law	page 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canadian Charter of Rights &amp; Freedoms</li><li>• Canadian Human Rights Commission</li><li>• Provincial &amp; Territorial Human Rights Commission</li></ul>	
Racism in Sports	page 10
Suggested Exercises	page 10
Canada and Multiculturalism	page 11
What is Racism	page 11
Annex	page 12
Suggested Readings	page 13

## Too Colourful for the League

### SYNOPSIS

Too Colourful for the League chronicles the efforts of former hockey player Richard Lord as he lobbies to have Herb Carnegie elected to the hockey hall of fame. Having experienced hockey's colour bar first hand, Lord's mission is to have Carnegie's contribution to the game recognized, something which he feels, is long overdue.

During the 1940's, Herb Carnegie played hockey in the Quebec senior leagues (Semi-professional league equivalent to today's American Hockey League) Carnegie played with the likes of Doug Harvey\*, Jacques Plante\* and Jean Beliveau\*. He dominated the league - MVP three years running – yet was prevented from turning pro because of the colour of his skin.

Too Colourful for the League also follows the path of up-and-coming junior hockey hopeful Seneque Hyacinthe, a Black player who glides across Northern Quebec rinks with one goal – to make the NHL. Hyacinthe's dreams are realized when the Buffalo Sabres pick him at the 1999 NHL entry draft.

Current and former professional and minor league Black players also share their experiences in the film, and passionately discuss the obstacles still facing Black players today. Featured NHL players include Georges Laraque\*, Mike Grier\*, Jamal Mayers\* and Jason Doig\*.

Is racism rampant in the National Hockey League? Some say that the NHL has taken promising steps to address racism, but for many Black players problems still exists at the minor league level – their formative years. While a select few skate, check and score their way to fame, the journey to the National Hockey League can be a very difficult one for Black players.

\*Player bios in annex



## INTRODUCTION

### *Why show this film?*

- Racism is often subtle
- Racism takes many forms
- Racism in hockey

Too Colourful for the League illustrates an often unacknowledged part of the history of Canada's great game. There has always been racism in hockey, but very few are aware of it. This is the kind of racism that we must all learn to detect in order to counter its more serious forms.

### *Who will watch this film?*

Grades 4 to senior high-school.

#### Things to Consider:

- The students' ethnic or racial backgrounds.
- Have any of the students witnessed or been a victim of racism ?

### *How will students react to this film?*

Age will determine the reaction but:

- Initially, many students will deny racism in Canada and/or in hockey
- Some will deny racism even after the screening.
- Some will claim historical context.
- Some will defend racism as merely identification to ones own ethnic group.

These opinions should not be shunned, but explored.  
Bring these assumptions into question.

### *How can the film be presented in a classroom setting?*

Pre-Screening Activities:

The purpose of such activities is to create a common understanding of racism, diversity and what values define Canada.

- Definitions of Racism.
- Racism in Sports.
- Racism in Canada.
- Why does Racism exist?
- What is a Canadian?



**Game's Only Negro Line  
Thrills Sherbrooke Fans**



### *Post Screening Discussion:*

Throughout Canadian history, visible minorities have been dealing with many form of injustice. Too Colourful for the League explores one of these: Racism in Canada's national pastime.

- Reflect upon pre-screening questions. Have views changed?
  - Proposed exercise:  
Break class into groups to discuss fundamental questions amongst themselves and then class discussion
- Demonstrate how simple phrases can be extremely racist and hateful.
  - Phrases such as:  
"Immigrants come to Canada simply to take advantage of our social system"  
"We don't hate anyone; we simply prefer our own race"  
"Immigrants are just lazy"  
"It's not racism, Black people simply don't like hockey"

### *Can I Make a Difference?*

Too Colourful for the League is about individuals who made a difference, proving small steps can have a larger impact.

- Exercise: Divide the class in half, take a current issue and have each group take a side. Have the students research their arguments and possible solutions. Present them to the class.

### *All-Negro Hockey Line Attracts Great Crowds In Quebec Senior Loop*



## BLACKS IN HOCKEY

Integration only came to the National Hockey League in 1958. Nevertheless, the NHL still claims that it never had any restrictions.

### *A struggle for acceptance*

According to the Nova Scotia Museum, that province saw its first Black settlers arrive in 1741. Due to the American Revolution, 1783 brought 3000 ex-slaves of African descent to Nova Scotia and by 1890 there was a population of 6000. Although difficult, there were Black players that loved the game and were strong willed enough to withstand the racism of that time. Some dominant players were:

- 1890's Charley Lightfoot one of the better players in the Central Ontario Hockey Association.
- 1899, Hipple "Hippo" Galloway, of Dunnville Ontario, also played in the COHA
- 1900-20 Fred "Bud" Kelly was the dominant Black hockey player. In 1916 Kelly was a member the seven-man 118th Battalion hockey team from London, in the Ontario Hockey Association. While a member of Peterborough's OHA senior team, the manager of the NHL's Toronto St. Pats (later the Maple Leafs) scouted him.
- 1940's-50's Herbert Carnegie – The focus of this film, Herb Carnegie grew up playing pond hockey in Toronto. He entered organised hockey in the early 1930's, playing for the Lansing Public School. He worked his way into the junior ranks where the team often practiced at Maple Leafs Gardens. Carnegie was a player like no other; a great skater and goal scorer who won most valuable player awards in the highly touted Quebec Senior League; a league that produced NHL legends: Jean Beliveau, Doug Harvey and Jacques Plante, of whom Carnegie was a team-mate. In 1943, Conn Smythe owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs said of Carnegie: "I'd pay \$10,000 to turn that boy white". In 1947 the New York Rangers invited Herb to their camp. He outplayed many, but was nevertheless only offered a minor league contract. Carnegie opted to return to Quebec where the pay was better.
- 1950 Arthur Dorrington, a Canadian, played for the Atlantic City Seagulls of the Eastern Amateur League.
- 1950's John Utendale played on a line with Mark Messier's father Doug on the junior Edmonton Oil Kings, who went to the Western Canada finals in 1957.

- Exercise: "I'd pay \$10,000 to turn that boy white." -- Conn Smythe  
Is this a racist statement? Discuss.



### *Coloured Hockey League*

By 1900 the Black population of Atlantic Canada was large enough (6000) to sustain its own league and the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes was formed. Whether the league was formed due to racial exclusion or in order to maintain the strength of the community is not clear. The league was represented by teams like the Seaside from Africville, the Dartmouth Jubilees, Halifax Eurekas, Truro Victorias and the Amherst Royals. It was in the Atlantic Canadian leagues that Black talent flourished. The Atlantic leagues endured into the 1920's and they introduced innovative rules - goalie falling to the ice to stop a shot – something that had yet to come about in the early NHL.

### *History of Black NHL Players*

Canada's entire Black population in the 1950s was just over one-tenth of one percent of the national total. There were only 120 positions in the NHL; therefore if all players were Canadian, the percentages would have produced one Black player. In 1965 there was only one non-Canadian in the six team NHL. (White American, Tommy Williams)

The NHL claims that it shared the Canadian tradition of open-mindedness on matters of race and if there ever were Black hockey players good enough to play in the NHL, they would get their chance.

1958 January 18th, Willie O'Ree, nicknamed "King of the Near Miss" played his first game for the Boston Bruins. Despite O'Ree's blazing speed he was unable to score, hence the nickname.

While playing O'Ree said: "They've called me the Jackie Robinson of hockey, and I'm aware of being the first, and of the responsibilities, but I'm also aware that there have not been, and are not many coloured players able to play hockey, that there has never been the discrimination in this game there was in baseball, and that I didn't face any of the very real problems Robinson had to face."

- Exercise: Discuss Jackie Robinson and the circumstances that differed between him and O'Ree. (Jackie Robinson was a pioneer in desegregating baseball. He broke through racial barriers to become one of the most historically-significant baseball players ever when he became the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues in the 20th Century).

1960, John Paris was scouted by Scotty Bowman to play and later coach in the Quebec Hockey Leagues. He later became an NHL scout and the first Black head coach in professional hockey for the Atlanta Knights leading them to the IHL championship in 1994.



1974, Mike Marson, the second Black professional player, made the NHL only 16 years after O'Ree. Marson bounced between the NHL and the AHL from 74 to 1980. But Marson is the beginning of the modern era of the NHL where league expansion was creating a greater demand for players. The doors were opening to the world where Europeans began flooding into the NHL.

1978 – 91, Tony McKegney was the first Black superstar scoring nearly 350 goals in the NHL including 24 playoffs goals and a 40-goal season in 1987-88 with the St. Louis Blues, "Sometimes I would wonder why I was trying to be a pro player when there were none to look up to. I'm proud of the fact that I was the first Black to establish myself in the NHL (1978). Now there are a few. I hope that helps youngsters who need someone to emulate."

• Exercise: How important are role models/examples in our lives?

1981 – 2000, Grant Fuhr of Spruce Grove, Alberta, was one of the most successful Black hockey players. He was the No. 1 goalie playing with Wayne Gretzky for much of the Edmonton Oilers' Stanley Cup dynasty years. Fuhr was the first Black to have his name on the Stanley Cup. His career spanned 19 years where he also played in Toronto, Buffalo, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Calgary before his retirement following the 1999-2000 season.

**Black Players in the NHL Today**

The NHL's Diversity Task Force: a non-profit program designed to introduce children of diverse ethnic backgrounds to the game of hockey. The program's mission is to enable local youth hockey programs to teach hockey and other life skills, to economically disadvantaged children. There are approximately 31 programs in various stages of development that receive support from the National Hockey League.

Black players today are not only Canadians; some of today's Black NHLers are American. Blacks represent approximately 2% of the Canadian population, but they now represent approximately 4% of Canadians in the NHL. Therefore there is certainly an upward swing which indicates that more young Blacks are playing hockey than ever before.

Some prominent names playing today are: Jarome Iginla\* (Calgary), Anson Carter\* (LA Kings), Fred Braithwaite\* (Columbus), Donald Brashear\* (Philadelphia), Kevin Weekes\* (Carolina), Peter Worrell\*(Colorado)

**History of Black Immigration to Canada**

Via the Underground Railroad, Blacks began arriving in Canada in the early 1700's. Canada represented sanctuary for African slaves escaping from the United States. By the 1850's Canada had a Black population of over 60,000



Baseball to Admit Negro Stars



Herbie, the non-star star  
Member of first all-Black hockey line never hit the top ranks

1937 - Paul Carter (center) led in goals for the first time in his career. He was also named captain of the Montreal Canadiens. Paul Carter was the first Black player to be named captain of a professional hockey team. He was also the first Black player to be named captain of a professional hockey team. He was also the first Black player to be named captain of a professional hockey team.

representing less than 1% of the total population. Hockey's organisation into the national game began in the 1890's. This coincided with a period in which a great number of Canada's Black population was returning to the United States. By 1911 the population had been reduced to just over 16,000, which represented one-fifth of one percent of Canada's population. The majority of the population settled in Nova Scotia, Montreal and Toronto. Today, Canada's Black population has reached 670,000 equalling a little over 2% of the overall population.

## HOW TO FIGHT INTOLERANCE AND RACISM

Canada a Land of Immigrants

(Age will determine the level of knowledge, here is a brief refresher)

History sometimes forgets the contributions of people of different ethnicities, religions and races in building the Canada. It is especially true for the First Nations people of Canada, but it is also important that we recognise what others have contributed. Be it Asians, Europeans and those of African decent who made their way to Canada escaping the American slave trade. Canada is a land built by immigrants. Other than the First Nations we are all immigrants.

Topics of Discussion:

- Why do so many immigrants choose Canada above other nations?
- What does Canada mean to the first generation Canadian students?
- Why has Canada represented sanctuary to so many refugees?
- What are the benefits of immigration?
- What do these immigrants bring to Canada?

During the 18th and 19th centuries Canada was the final destination for thousands of African slaves. Starving and persecuted Irish Catholics came to Canada by the thousands in the 1840's potato famine. As recently as the 1970's Canada took in many Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laos refugees fleeing a brutal government.

Chinese immigrants built the trans-Canada railway, permitting expansion and communication building the nation on and east-west scale. Do they know how many thousand Chinese were sacrificed to make this railway? Do they know about the Japanese internment camps of World War II where Canada took away the human rights of this particular group of citizens, confiscating all of their possessions including their homes and all their land? Ukrainian, Polish, Dutch and German immigrants cleared and ploughed the lands in the prairies that have fed us for almost two centuries. What do the students know of the Italians, Greeks, Jews, Haitians, French and English?



- Discussion:  
Stress different points of view in analysing racism.  
The contexts of the times that unfortunately permitted terrible things to happen.

Are the students aware of how the colonizers treated the natives of this land? Putting them into reserves? Forcing their children into boarding schools run by white Christian missionaries? Do they know that First Nations people were not permitted to vote until 1961?

For 70 years the Chinese immigrants who were building the railway were terribly exploited in their working conditions and one mustn't forget the "entry tax" that none could pay, systematically ensuring that none would be able to stay in Canada once the work was completed.

Jews were subjected to enormous discrimination even in their moment of intolerable persecution in Europe during the 1940's. Even on Canadian beaches or in store windows a sign would read "No Jews Allowed". In 1930's Toronto, a group of young men formed the Swastika Club where they routinely attacked members of the Jewish Community. Even in Montreal, Adrien Arcand, Hitler's representative in Canada, had thousands of followers who attacked Jews.

Black communities also lived with racism and still do in many ways. Even in Montreal in the 1930's and 40's many restaurants and hotels would not accept the patronage of Black people. Do the students know that the Ku Klux Klan appeared in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia in 1921, attacking Catholics, Jews, and Blacks? In 1926 there were 40,000 members of the KKK in Saskatchewan!

- Discussion:  
Is there racism in Canada?  
Is there racism against Blacks?

## RACISM AND THE LAW

Fighting racism is an individual task. It starts with a change of attitude and perspective towards those who are different. Canada supports these attitudes through many laws against all manners of prejudice and discrimination.

### *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

In paragraph 15 the charter declares: Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.



## Negro Puck Stars Sparkle in Canada

Sherbrooke Randies Place Title Hopes On Three Bronze Hockey Stars Who Are Sensations in Quebec Provincial Loop And Comprise Game's Only All-Negro Line

By SAM MALTIN, Staff Correspondent

### *Canadian Human Rights Commission*

All Canadians are protected from any discrimination based on race, ethnicity, colour or religion. The Canadian Human Rights Commission will hear complaints from individuals against all federally based institutions; be it government departments, crown corporations, chartered banks and national airlines.

### *Provincial and Territorial Human Rights Commissions*

Similar to the federal legislation, the same rights are covered by the provinces and territories when it falls into their jurisdiction. Provincial jurisdiction entails discrimination in school, public service, contracts and all employers who are not covered by the federal laws.

## RACISM IN SPORTS

It is especially difficult to confront racism in amateur leagues and team games. Vocalising an act of racism can easily backfire for the child who takes on the injustice. The player may be alienated within the team or by the coach.

- Discussion:  
How do we confront racism in sports?  
Who can we talk to in this situation?  
How do we define a racist act?

### *Suggested Exercises*

Separate the class in groups based on obscure definitions (e.g. all left handed students, all those wearing a given piece of jewellery, different eye colour). Make them screen the film divided among these obscure groups seated in different sections of the classroom.

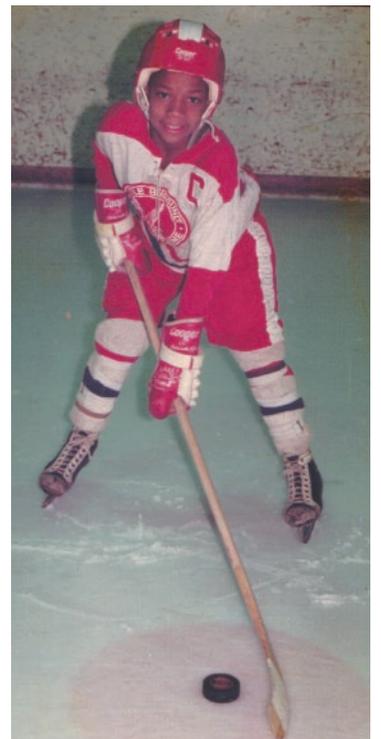
### *Truth or Fiction*

This exercise can be done prior to the screening and reflected upon afterward. Have the students call out some stereotypes about black people and other racial or ethnic groups. Ask them for definitions and examples of prejudice as well as definitions and examples of the word discrimination.

### *Homework exercise*

Have the students fold a sheet of paper in two. On one side they write racist stereotypes about their own ethnicity or race. On the other side they have to write why these stereotypes are wrong.

### *The 'Dark Destroyers'*



## Canada & Multiculturalism

85% of Canadians live in neighbourhoods of mixed ethnicity or race.

45% of Canadians live in families of mixed ethnicity or race.

75% of Canadians work with people of different ethnicity or race.

According to the 2001 census the number of visible minorities in Canada has attained almost 6 million people. This equals 19% of our population compared to 6% in 1986. Black people represented 662,215 of the 6 million, equalling just over 2% of the entire population.

## WHAT IS RACISM

### Definitions:

**Racism:** The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others. Discrimination or prejudice based on race.

**Stereotype:** A conventional, formulaic, and oversimplified conception, opinion, or image.

**Discrimination:** Treatment or consideration based on class or category rather than individual merit; partiality or prejudice: racial discrimination; discrimination against foreigners. If you base your judgement on a stereotype you are then discriminating.

**Prejudice:** An adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without knowledge or examination of the facts.

Source: The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition  
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**HYACINTHE, Sénéque**  
autographe

**STATISTIQUES**

Saison	Équipe	P	G	A	Pts	+	Par	BAN	BOB	BC
97-98	Laval	65	10	8	18	13	37	3	0	1
98-99	Bat./Vol-d'Or	63	24	33	57	-7	106	9	0	6

**AILIER GAUCHE** 7/32

Grandeur: 6'00"  
Poids: 185

Age: 18 ans  
Date de naissance: 1991.02.22  
Lieu de naissance: Montréal-Nord

Équipes:  
1997-1998: Titan de Laval  
1998-1999: Titan d'Acadie-Bathurst / Foreurs de Val-d'Or

Choix de 1re ronde de Titan (6e au total) en 1997. Est passé aux Foreurs en décembre 1998, dans la méga-transaction impliquant Roberto Luongo. Les Sabres de Buffalo sont impliqués en 6e ronde (178e au total) en juin dernier.



## Annex

**Doug Harvey** – A 10-time 1st team NHL all star, Doug won the Norris Trophy 7 times as the best defenseman in the league. He led Montreal to 6 Stanley Cups.

**Jean Beliveau** - Won 10 Stanley Cups with the Canadiens. His NHL career spanned 21 years from 1950 to 1971. Renowned for his size, determination and gentlemanly conduct on and off the ice, Beliveau remains a prominent figure in the Canadiens organisation

**Jacques Plante** - Jacques led Montreal to 6 Stanley Cups (1953, 56-60). He won 7 Vezina Trophies, was named MVP in 1962 and is best known for being the first goalie to regularly wear a mask.

\* **Doug Harvey, Jacques Plante and Jean Beliveau** are three of hockey's most legendary players. All three attained prominence as members of the Montreal Canadiens dynasty of the 1950's and 60's.

**Georges Laraque** – At 6'3", 243 pounds this Montreal native has spent seven years with the Edmonton Oilers developing a reputation as one of the toughest players in the game. At 27 years old, he is just coming into his prime.

**Mike Grier** – Born in Detroit, Michigan Mike is the first African American player to make it to the NHL. After an outstanding 3 years with Boston College in the NCAA, Mike broke into the Oilers camp in the 97-98 season. He is presently a member of the Buffalo Sabres.

**Jamal Mayers** – This Toronto native has been a regular on the right wing for the St Louis Blues since the 99-2000 season.

**Jason Doig** – A 2nd round pick of the Winnipeg Jets in 1995, this Montreal native bounced around the league until he made a place for himself in the Washington Capitals line-up.

**Jarome Iginla** – One of the brightest young stars of the game today. Jarome has won the Maurice Richard trophy twice as the leagues top goal scorer. He led his Calgary Flames to the 7th game of the Stanley Cup Final in the 2003-04 season.

**Anson Carter** – A right winger who seems to always be part of a blockbuster trade. In his 8 year career Anson has been member of 5 different teams and a member of the Capitals twice. He became a member of the L.A. Kings at the 2004 trade deadline.



**Fred Braithwaite** – This goalie has had difficulty sticking with a team. After five years of bouncing around the NHL and the AHL he began displaying his incredible skill for the Calgary Flames. One of the strongest backups in the league, he now wears the colours of the Columbus Blue jackets.

**Donald Brashear** – Fierce is the word that best describes Donald Brashear. This Montreal native and current Philadelphia Flyer is known for his size and strength. He also brings a surprising scoring touch to the rink.

**Kevin Weekes** – In his fifth NHL season Kevin joined his fifth NHL team. But after playing two games for the Carolina Hurricanes in 2000-01, he played 8 games during the playoffs and stole the show. This Torontonian has been the starting goaltender ever since.

**Peter Worrell** – Possibly the most feared player in the NHL. At 6'6" and 250 pounds opponents avoid this Montrealer at all costs.

## Suggested Readings:

O'Ree, Willie & McKinley, Michael. *The Autobiography of Willie O'Ree: Hockey's Black Pioneer*  
Key Porter Books, July 1, 2002

Carnegie, Herb. *A Fly in a Pail of Milk: The Herb Carnegie Story*  
New York, Mosaic Press, 1997

Sarsfield, Mairuth. *No Crystal Stair*  
Women's Press, 1998

## Bibliography:

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/>

Canadian Human Rights Commission  
<http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/>

History of Black settlement in Nova Scotia  
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/blackloyalists/19002000timeline.htm>

Population statistics taken from Canada census charts  
<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/home/index.cfm>



Pro Hockey and African Heritage, a Story!

African American Registry, Feb 7, 2003

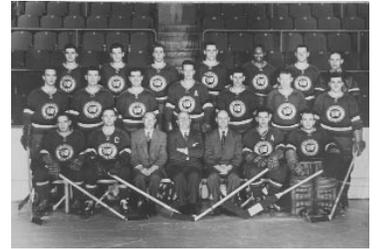
[http://www.aaregistry.com/african\\_american\\_history/2366/Pro\\_hockey\\_and\\_African\\_heritage\\_a\\_story](http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/2366/Pro_hockey_and_African_heritage_a_story)



Too Colourful For the League

Diversus Productions Inc. (2001) 47 minutes

<http://www.diversus.com>



Vaughan, Garth. The Colored Hockey Championship of the Maritimes

<http://www.birthplaceofhockey.com/hockeyists/african-n-s-teams/segr-integr.htm>