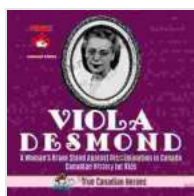


# Viola Desmond: A Canadian Heroine and Symbol of Anti-Discrimination



**Viola Desmond - A Woman's Brave Stand Against Discrimination in Canada | Canadian History for Kids | True Canadian Heroes** by Gladys Muir

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 34636 KB  
Print length : 78 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



Viola Desmond was a Black Canadian woman who became a symbol of the fight against discrimination in Canada. In 1946, she refused to give up her seat on a Halifax bus to a white man, and was subsequently arrested and jailed. Her case sparked a national outcry, and helped to bring about the end of segregation in Canada.

Desmond was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1914. She was the daughter of James Albert Desmond, a barber, and Gwendolyn Irene Viola Desmond, a schoolteacher. Desmond attended school in Halifax, and later moved to Montreal to study business. In 1940, she returned to Halifax and opened a beauty salon.

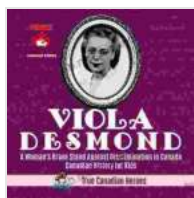
On November 8, 1946, Desmond was traveling from Halifax to Sydney, Nova Scotia, to visit family. She boarded a bus in Halifax and sat in the only available seat, which was in the "whites-only" section. When the bus driver told her to move to the back of the bus, she refused. The driver then called the police, and Desmond was arrested.

Desmond was charged with disorderly conduct and failing to pay the full fare. She spent the night in jail, and was fined \$20 the next day. Desmond appealed her conviction, and her case was eventually heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that Desmond's conviction was unconstitutional.

Desmond's case was a major victory for the fight against discrimination in Canada. It helped to bring about the end of segregation in Canada, and it also inspired other Black Canadians to stand up for their rights.

In 2010, Desmond was posthumously awarded the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honor. She was also inducted into the Canadian Human Rights Museum in 2016.

Viola Desmond is a Canadian heroine who fought against discrimination. Her story is an inspiration to all Canadians, and it reminds us that we must never stop fighting for equality.



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