

## Dr. Carrie Best

Born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia on March 4, 1903, Carrie Best came into a world where the odds were stacked against a woman of colour. When she passed away in 2001, her work as a poet, author, journalist, and fearlessly determined activist had done much to bring progressive change to the African Nova Scotian community and Black Canadians.

In 1946, a Black woman named Viola Desmond sat in the “whites-only” section of a theatre in New Glasgow, and was arrested, convicted, and fined. Earlier that year, Best had

established *The Clarion*, one of Nova Scotia’s first newspapers for Black Canadians. She used this platform to advocate for Black rights and together with Mrs. Desmond lobbied the Nova Scotia

government to repeal its segregation laws, which it did in 1954.

In 1954, Best’s radio program, *The Quiet Corner*, hit the airwaves. From the last 1960s to 1975, she wrote a weekly column entitled “Human Rights” for the *Pictou*

*Advocate*. In the column, Best spoke out against, among other things, substandard conditions on Native reserves, discrimination against Black property owners, and basic civil rights for all.

Dr. Best was a Member of the Order of Canada and served on the Task Force on the Status of Women.

She was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Medal, several honorary doctorates, and many other awards. Dr. Carrie Best, a role model for generations of Black Canadian women and the African Nova Scotian community as a whole.

