



# Viola Desmond

**Born in 1914, Desmond was a black Canadian businesswoman and mentor from Halifax.**

**When she asked for a main-floor seat at the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, the staff said she could only sit in the balcony because of her race. She still chose to sit on the main floor and refused to leave, later getting arrested.**



**Although Desmond passed away in 1965, her story continues to be an important one in the face of racial justice. She is the first Black person to ever be shown on Canadian currency.**