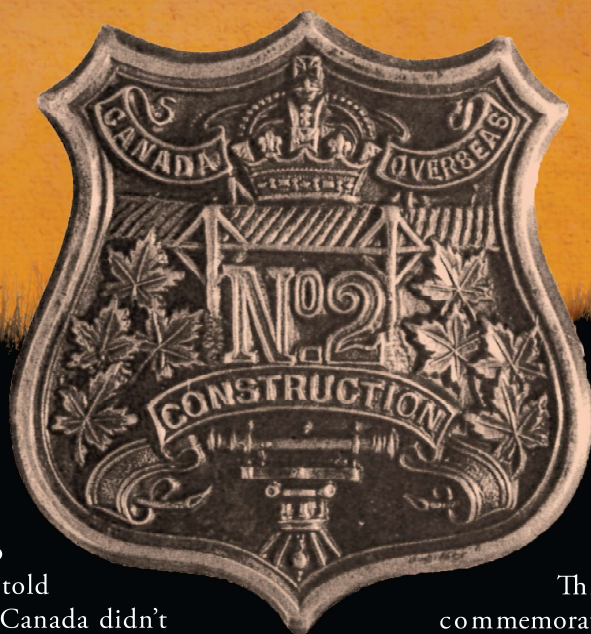


AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2016

LEGACY OF COMMITMENT



When the First World War broke out in 1914, African Nova Scotians responded patriotically. The men of the community wanted to volunteer to serve overseas yet most were rejected. Recruiters told them things like: “this is a white man’s war” and Canada didn’t want a “checkerboard army.”

The majority of Black men who wanted to serve in the military were told there was only one way: they had to form an entire segregated battalion. Black men from Nova Scotia, the rest of Canada, the United States, and the British West Indies formed the No. 2 Construction Battalion, C.E.F. with the largest contingent coming from Nova Scotia. In March, 1917, they went overseas to support the front lines on the Western Front

in Europe. They assisted in forestry, dug trenches, built railroads, repaired roads, and laid barbed wire. The Battalion disbanded in 1920. This year during African Heritage Month, we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battalion and honour the Legacy of Commitment that was demonstrated.

2015-2024 is the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, in which we honor those such as the No. 2 Construction Battalion, who blazed the trail, as a demonstration of the contributions people of African descent have made in society.

THEY FOUGHT TO FIGHT

AHM 2016 Launch Dates: (for a complete list of events visit: www.ahmin.ca)

January 27, 2016
Provincial Proclamation / Launch:
NS Province House, Red Room
10 am

January 28, 2016
Halifax Regional Municipality
Proclamation / Launch:
Halifax North Branch Library:
7 pm

Digby Civic Proclamation / Launch:
Municipality / Council Chambers,
12548 Highway 217, Seabrook:
1 pm

January 29, 2016
Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Proclamation / Launch:
CBRM, 320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS:
12 noon

January 30, 2016
Cape Breton Gala: Membertou Trade
and Convention Centre:
7 pm

February 1, 2016
Amherst Proclamation / Launch:
Amherst Armouries
11:30 am

New Glasgow Proclamation / Launch:
Glasgow Square, 155 Glasgow Street,
New Glasgow:
11:45 am

February 5, 2016
Antigonish Proclamation / Launch:
St FX University
11:30 am

Town of Shelburne Civic Proclamation /
Launch: Black Loyalist Heritage Centre
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

February 20, 2016
Cumberland County Gala:
Wandlyn Inn,
6 pm

February 27, 2016
ANSMA Awards Show Gala: World Trade and
Convention Centre:
7 pm

Springhill Concert: Dr. Carson & Marion
Community Center
Springhill, NS:
7 pm



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