

Spring 2020

April 2019-March 2020

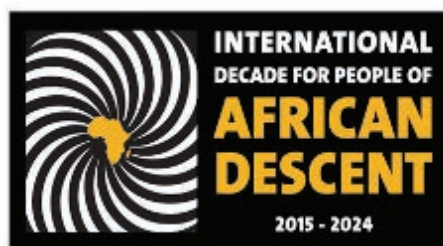
PASSAGES & PROSPERITY

News about African Nova Scotian culture, heritage, and lived experience.

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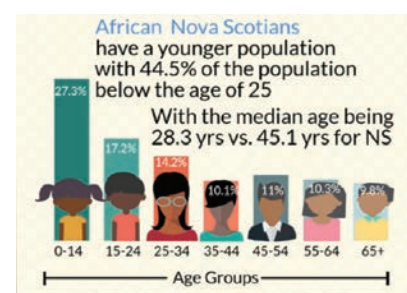
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MESSAGE *from* MINISTER



On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations on the re-emergence of the African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) Newsletter.

ANSA is a vital link that connects government and the African Nova Scotian community to assist, support and enhance delivery of services. We partner with various community organizations and community groups in developing innovative solutions that lead to self-reliance for African Nova Scotians. Our goal is to help create positive change in the African Nova Scotian community.

The government is committed, and remains committed, to undertaking initiatives to build a more inclusive province. Some of our most recent initiatives include launching Count Us In: Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, receiving and working on the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children Restorative Inquiry Final Report to government, supporting the work underway with residents in the Land Titles Clarification Areas to get clear title to their land, and working with multiple government and community partners in efforts to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We are currently experiencing unusual times and I hope everyone is following the proper public health measures. COVID-19 has found its way into some of our homes, but together we are working towards overcoming this pandemic.

I believe the ANSA newsletter is the next step in furthering our community connection. It will provide information about current community and government initiatives, available programs and courses, community achievements, eligible grants and services, and so much more.

I would like to thank members of the African Nova Scotian community for the contributions and achievements they have made, and will continue to make, to our communities and our province. I would also like to thank the staff from ANSA for their hard work, dedication and all they do on behalf of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Ince', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Honourable Tony Ince
Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs

MESSAGE *from* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) staff, we hope you enjoy the re-emergence of the “Passages and Prosperity” newsletter.

I am proud of the office’s accomplishments and I deeply appreciate the support given to advancing our efforts. The staff in our four offices are committed to creating, sharing and promoting equitable services for all African Nova Scotians.

ANSA’s mission is to:

- ◆ Establish and promote initiatives within government on matters related to African Nova Scotian communities in all regions of the province.
- ◆ Support and assist African Nova Scotian organizations and groups in achieving successes.
- ◆ Share research analysis and policy advice on African Nova Scotian matters.
- ◆ Provide a better understanding of issues, culture and heritage, and the lived experience of African Nova Scotians.

We hope the newsletter gives readers a better understanding of the work we do within government and the African Nova Scotian community. We believe delivering information, sharing achievements and communicating initiatives is very important in connecting our more than 50 African Nova Scotian communities - even more so during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Enjoy the newsletter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayn Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Wayn Hamilton
Executive Director of African Nova Scotian Affairs



Across the globe, Africans and the African Diaspora continue to suffer inequality and disadvantage because of the legacy of enslavement and colonialism...

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (DPAD)

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2015 – 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent (resolution 68/237) citing the need to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Across the globe, Africans and the African diaspora continue to suffer inequality and disadvantage because of the legacy of enslavement and colonialism. People of African descent are among the poorest and most marginalized communities around the world. They have high rates of mortality and maternal deaths, and limited access to quality education, health services, housing, and social security. They may experience discrimination in their access to justice, and they face alarmingly high rates of police violence and racial profiling.

The UN has identified three main objectives for the Decade:

- ◆ Ensure the rights of people of African descent and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.
- ◆ Promote greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage, culture and contribution to the development of societies.
- ◆ Adopt and strengthen legal frameworks to eliminate racial discrimination.

In October 2016, the United Nations Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent visited Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal on a fact-finding mission about issues in Canada. Their report noted Canada's history of enslavement, racial segregation and marginalization of African Canadians, "has had a deleterious impact on people of African descent."

The report also acknowledged positive steps taken by federal and provincial governments to address racism and made recommendations about long-standing and urgent issues.

The report further recommended that the Government of Canada, "legally recognize African Canadians as a distinct group who have made and continue to make profound economic, political, social, cultural and spiritual contributions to Canadian society."

For more information about the Decade, please visit:

- ◆ United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent;
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent>
- ◆ Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its mission to Canada: <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/files/report-of-the-working-group-of-experts-on-people-of-african-descent-on-its-mission-to-canada.pdf>





Recent Government Initiatives

COUNT US IN

Count Us In: Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015 - 2024.

On May 8th, 2018, Nova Scotia joined the United Nations' initiative by proclaiming 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent. It was a proud day in Nova Scotia and what followed was the creation of Count Us In.

Count Us In is our guiding document that will provide government with specific actions, strategic priorities and criteria to help eradicate the many challenges facing African Nova Scotians. It also reflects work underway and creates opportunities in new and existing ways.

Overall goals of Count Us In:

- ◆ To provide a framework for government to address the issues and concerns facing African Nova Scotians.
- ◆ To work towards advancing social justice, inclusion policies, eradicating racism and promoting human rights.
- ◆ To create partnerships and opportunities with African Nova Scotians, the community and government to address the inequalities in all facets of our society.



*Community members
at the Count Us In
launch; Sept., 19, 2019*



The actions are categorized under the three pillars identified by the United Nations:

- ◆ **Recognition:** Recognizing and celebrating the important contributions of people of African descent, while also recognizing the long-standing prejudices and unfair treatment they have endured for generations.
- ◆ **Justice:** Drawing on the lessons learned from the past to guide us as we work towards advancing social justice and inclusion policies, eradicating racism and intolerance, and promoting human rights.
- ◆ **Development:** Creating healthier and more prosperous communities.



To read the complete action plan, please visit <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/international-decade-people-african-descent>.



Count Us In launch; Sept., 19, 2019 from left to right:

Gloria Nwabuogu, Human Rights Officer with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva

Minister Ince

Premier McNeil

Kate Gilmore; United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dominique Day; member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent



RESTORATIVE INQUIRY: THE NOVA SCOTIA HOME FOR COLOURED CHILDREN FINAL REPORT

On November 28th, 2019, the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (NSHCC) Restorative Inquiry presented its final report to government. The report entitled, "A Different Way Forward", reflects a different way in terms of its content and its structure and should be read and used in that light. The final report is a road map for shifting toward human-centred systems focused on people's needs through integrated and holistic responses that are not fragmented along department or agency lines.

The NSHCC Restorative Inquiry was established following a 17-year journey for justice by former residents of the NSHCC/the Home. It was established under the authority of the Public Inquiries Act following a collaborative design process involving former residents, Government and community members. The inquiry was the first in Canada to design and model a restorative approach to a public inquiry. The report shares the innovative processes used to support government, public agencies and communities working together. The inquiry highlighted to work collectively for a fundamental shift in how the province cares for its most vulnerable citizens.

To read the full report, please visit <https://restorativeinquiry.ca>.



The Council of Parties is the group of appointed commissioners who led the Restorative Inquiry.



LAND TITLES INITIATIVE

For more than 200 years, many African Nova Scotians have been living on land passed down by their ancestors without clear title. Without title, residents are unable to mortgage, bequeath or sell their land or access housing grants.

In September 2017, the Land Titles Initiative program was launched to help residents in the Land Titles Clarification Act areas of North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, Lincolnville and Sunnyville to get clear title to their land - at no cost to the residents.

The Land Titles Initiative helps residents in eligible community areas to:

- ◆ Get clear title to their property (Land Title Clarification Act).
- ◆ Migrate their property to the new land registry system (Land Registration Act).
- ◆ Estate administration when someone dies (Probate Act, Intestate Succession Act).

Community Navigators are in place to assist all applicants involved in the Land Titles Initiative. Their role is to work directly with residents to help them through the land claims process. They are the first point of contact.

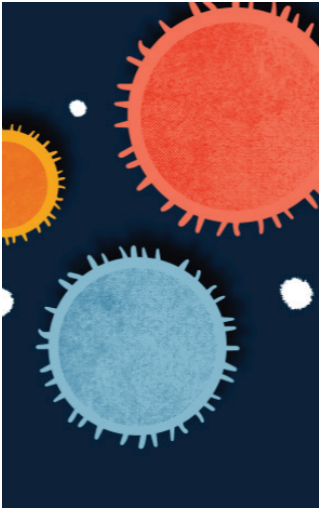
Update:

- ◆ On January 25th, 2020, a Community Liaison Committee was created to support the program. The committee monitors progress, voices community perspective, raises potential issues and makes recommendations to the staff.
- ◆ As of January 31st, 2020, more than 300 applications have been received and over 90 land parcels have been cleared.

For more information about the Land Titles Initiative, please visit <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/landtitles>.



Community Navigators
Curtis Whiley and
Tamar Brown



NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

ANSA has been working with the Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Health Authority and other health organizations to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Nova Scotians have been asked to follow the precautions set out for us by the government, however the virus has still found its way into some of our homes. That is why it is critical for you to get tested if you have two or more symptoms and to self-isolate. We do not want to put our families at risk.

We all must work together as a family, as friends, as communities and as one Nova Scotia to overcome COVID-19.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>.



ANSA Grant Program

ANSA has funding available for African Nova Scotian community groups and organizations.

Grants are eligible if the proposal makes an impact in the African Nova Scotian community:

- ◆ Strengthen the delivery of services to African Nova Scotians.
- ◆ Preserve, promote or protect some aspect of African Nova Scotian culture or heritage.
- ◆ Address a documented need, issue or concern relevant to African Nova Scotians.
- ◆ Support community events, activities, and workshops.

Grants are available in two tiers:

- ◆ Tier 1: \$5,000 and under.
- ◆ Tier 2: Over \$5,000 - Applicants must provide a minimum of 25% of total eligible projects costs (this includes a 10% financial contribution).

***All African Nova Scotian community groups and organizations from across the province have equal opportunity to apply for the grant program.

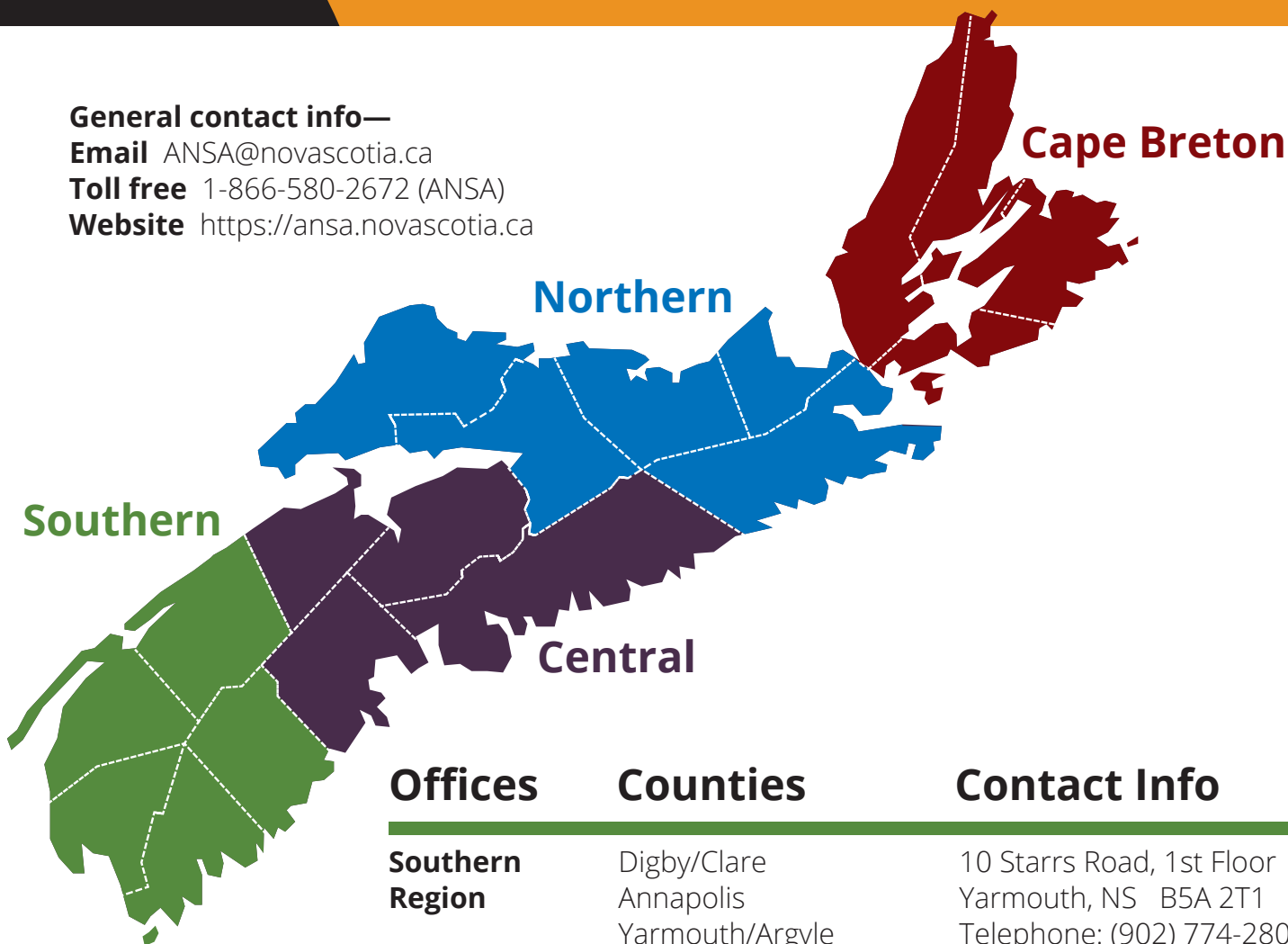
For more information about the ANSA Grant Program or to access the application; please call (902) 424-5555 or visit **<https://ansa.novascotia.ca/grant>**.

General contact info—

Email ANSA@novascotia.ca

Toll free 1-866-580-2672 (ANSA)

Website <https://ansa.novascotia.ca>

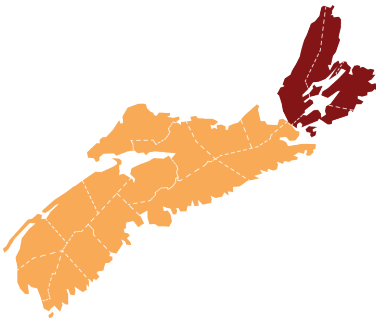


Offices	Counties	Contact Info
Southern Region	Digby/Clare Annapolis Yarmouth/Argyle Shelburne Queens	10 Starrs Road, 1st Floor Yarmouth, NS B5A 2T1 Telephone: (902) 774-2804
Northern Region	Cumberland Colchester Pictou Antigonish Guysborough/St. Mary's	80 Walker Street, Suite 1 Truro, NS B2N 4A7 Telephone: (902) 956-8985
Central Region	Kings Hants (East & West) Lunenburg/Chester Halifax	1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor Halifax, NS B3J 3B7 Telephone: (902) 424-5555 Fax: (902) 424-7189
Cape Breton Region	Inverness Victoria Richmond Cape Breton	15 Dorchester Street, Suite 501 Sydney, NS B1P 5Y9 Telephone: (902) 563-3735 Fax: (902) 563-2700

Recent Community Initiatives and Shout-outs

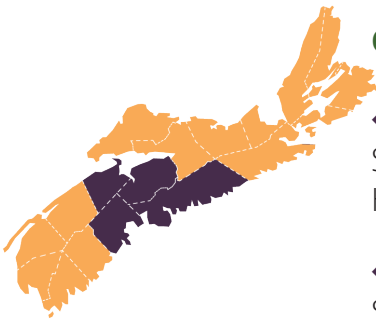
ANSA has created four provincial regions: Central, Cape Breton, Northern and Southern.

CAPE BRETON REGION



- ◆ On **February 1st, 2020**, the ANSA Cape Breton Region office in partnership with the Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) held the 13th annual African Heritage Month Gala which took place at the Membertou Trade & Convention Centre. The motto of the event being “this event is so much more than a dinner and a dance”. The evening consisted of a three-course meal, cultural performances, networking, teaching and inclusiveness. The gala grows in popularity each year.
- ◆ On **February 10th, 2020**, there was a luncheon event at Menelik Hall for the African Nova Scotian Service Providers, hosted by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, to say thank you for providing cultural support and leadership.
- ◆ From **February 11th to the 13th, 2020**, the Black Reflections Art Gallery hosted a community celebration to highlight the artwork of talented youth at Menelik Hall. The event was sponsored by Cape Breton Victoria Regional Centre for Education Student Support Workers Program.
- ◆ On **February 20th, 2020**, the community members had the privilege of meeting artist Robert Small at the Whitney Pier Memorial Middle School. Mr. Small is the creator of the LEGACY poster series and shares stories, contributions and history of African Canadians and African American through his works. In addition to this event, he visited several schools within the Cape Breton region.
- ◆ On **February 24th, 2020**, Canadian Actress Leslie McCurdy performed a one woman play entitled “Things My Fore-Sisters Saw” at Cape Breton University’s Boardmore Theatre. In attendance was Mrs. Wanda Robson, sister and champion of Viola Desmond. The event was sponsored by Cape Breton University, Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and the Cape Breton Victoria Regional Centre for Education (CB-VRCE) Student Support Workers Program. Ms. McCurdy has toured all over the world and is featured on CBC “Absolutely Canadian”.

- ◆ On **February 29th, 2020**, the Whitney Pier Music Foundation hosted an open house.
- ◆ On **February 29th, 2020**, the first annual African Heritage Month bowling game entitled, "Leap into the Last Day of African Heritage Month 2020", concluded African Heritage Month in Cape Breton. Great partnerships and teamwork lead to sustainable communities and great future leaders.

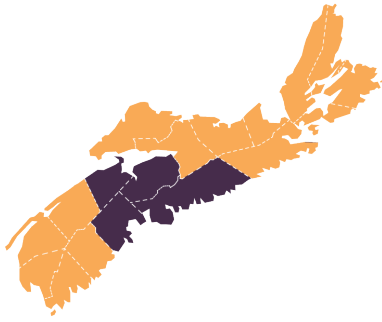


CENTRAL REGION

- ◆ From **July 19th to 21st, 2019**, the Africa Festival of Arts and Culture Society (AFACS) celebrated their AFRIFEST event at the Sackville Landing in Halifax. The festival showcased African drumming and performances.
- ◆ From **August 5th, 2019**, the Jamaican Cultural Association of Nova Scotia (JCANS) held its 6th annual Caribbean Diaspora Multicultural Event Celebration at the South Commons in Halifax. The event highlighted Caribbean music, food and included a domino tournament.
- ◆ From **August 9th to 15th, 2019**, the Preston Township Homecoming held many activities showcasing the various achievements made by the community members from the Preston Township and to highlight the significant events that have influenced the development of the communities.
- ◆ In **September 2019**, the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) celebrated its 40th anniversary.

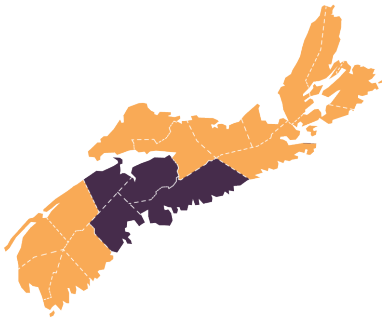
Members of the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) at the 40th anniversary celebration.





- ◆ On **September 21st, 2019**, the Black Educators Association (BEA) celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- ◆ On **September 30th, 2019**, African Nova Scotian community members from across the province took part in the Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council Trades Exhibition Hall to learn about the various trade activities offered.
- ◆ In **October 2019**, Beechville Baptist Church Celebrated its 175th anniversary.
- ◆ In **October 2019**, the Dalhousie University Transition Year Program celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- ◆ On **October 22nd, 2019**, the Black Business Initiative (BBI) in partnership with Tourism Nova Scotia hosted a workshop entitled, "Creating Authentic Experiences for Travelers", which is designed to give African Nova Scotians in the tourism sector some tools and tips to creating and promoting experiences that would help grow their business.
- ◆ Throughout **October and November 2019**, the Nova Scotia Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) Coalition held various community consultations to engage and share their past and current initiatives to African Nova Scotian community members across the province.
- ◆ From **November 4th to 5th, 2019**, the Valley African Nova Scotia Development Association (VANSDA) hosted an event entitled, "Bridging the Gap: The Road to Employment Equity Conference", at the Halifax Convention Centre. The conference aimed to build a healthy, diverse and sustainable labour force in Nova Scotia.
- ◆ On **November 9th, 2019**, the Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative hosted their second Black Men's Health Conference which brought together more than 100 men to discuss issues and concerns that affect the health and wellbeing of African Nova Scotian men living across the province.
- ◆ On **November 18th, 2019**, the Black Cultural Centre hosted an event entitled, "Architecture as a Profession", for African Nova Scotian youth which showcased architecture and other related fields as a profession.
- ◆ On **December 7th, 2019**, the United African Canadian Women's Association celebrated its annual Multicultural Holiday Gala at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.





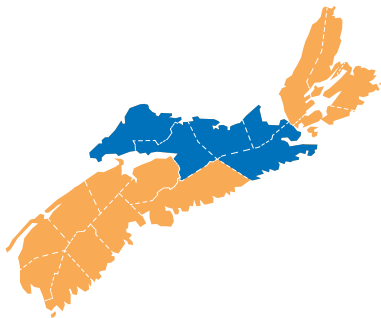
- ◆ On **January 23rd, 2020**, the Black History Month Association hosted the Halifax Regional Municipality African Heritage Month launch at the North Branch Library. Youth from the African Nova Scotian community spoke about the meaning of faith, family and community from their perspective.
- ◆ In **February 2020**, the Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association (VANSDA) in partnership with Just Us! Coffee Roasters Cooperative launched their “Legacy Coffee Series” which supports African Nova Scotian youth initiatives. The brand is currently available at Sobeys.
- ◆ On **February 25th, 2020**, the Canadian Association of Black Journalists and Communicators (CABJ) hosted J-SCHOOL NOIRE, a media training and mentorship session to empower the next generation of youth. This one-day event was held at the Nova Scotian Community College Ivany Campus in Dartmouth.
- ◆ From **February 5th to 8th, 2020**, the African Festival of Arts and Culture Society (AFACS) held African History Month activities which included cultural performances at various locations in Halifax Regional Municipality and a concluding dinner and gala at the Rosaria Hall, Mount Saint Vincent University.
- ◆ On **February 17th, 2020**, Africville was the Nova Scotia Heritage Day honoree.



The original Seaview African United Baptist Church and its replica (colour photo) now the Africville Museum



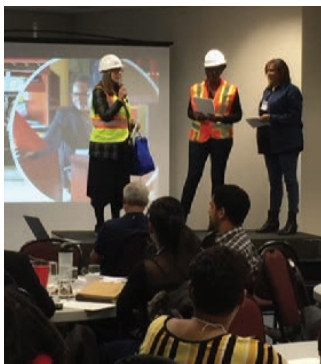
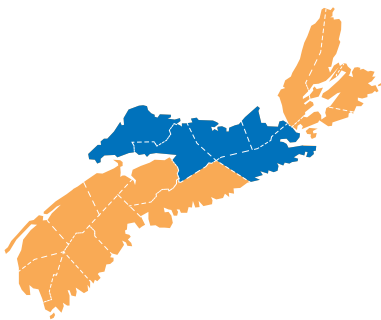
- ◆ On **February 29th, 2020**, the African Nova Scotian Music Association (ANSMA) celebrated its 22nd annual awards show at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth.



- ◆ Sylvia Hamilton of the University of King's College School of Journalism received the 2019 Governor General's History Award for Popular Media (Pierre Berton Award).

NORTHERN REGION

- ◆ In **May 2019**, Jocelyn Dorrington was elected as the "Ward 1 Councillor" for the Town of New Glasgow. She is the first African Nova Scotian female to hold a council seat in Pictou County.
- ◆ In **June 2019**, the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education (CCRCE) held the first African Nova Scotian student year-end "Celebration of Learning" in Amherst. The event was attended by the Regional Executive Director of Education and the Senior Management of the CCRCE and staff to celebrate the accomplishments of each student.
- ◆ In **Summer 2019**, the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) started a community garden on West Prince Street (also referred to as the "Island") in Truro.
- ◆ In **June 2019**, the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association hosted an Inaugural Multicultural Day event in partnership with the Town of Amherst.
- ◆ In **August 2019**, Lynn Jones wrote a public letter to the Mayor of Truro describing an incident of "Watching Deer while Black" and detailing the systemic racism and lack of services available to African Nova Scotians living in the Truro area. The incident involved Ms. Jones and others in her vehicle being reported to police as being "suspicious people".
- ◆ In **September 2019**, the Afrocentric Aspiring Leaders Youth Group (formally known as the African Nova Scotian Youth Group) gathered at the Cobequid Educational Centre in partnership with the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) to provide African Nova Scotians students (from grade 9 to 12) a chance to meet, hang out and share some experiences with their peers.
- ◆ In **September 2019**, two Community Facilitators were hired to deliver the Circles of Support and Change Project to the local African Nova Scotian Communities of Upper Big Tracadie, Lincolnville and Sunnyville. This five-year initiative, in partnership with the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, provides support and develops community-led responses for preventing and responding to gender-based and sexualized violence.

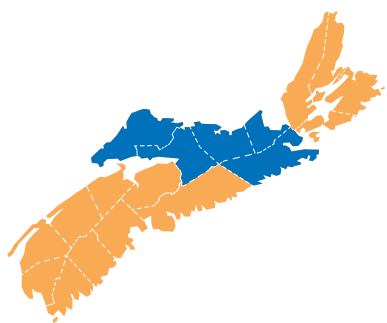


*Executive Director of
NS Apprenticeship
Agency and ANSA
staff speaking at the
Kick-off event
in Truro*



*Francis
Dorrington*

- ◆ In **September 2019**, the Chignecto Central and Strait Regional Centres for Education added new executive positions – Coordinators of African Canadian Education Services - to better serve the African Nova Scotian student community.
- ◆ In **October 2019**, in response to the “Watching Deer while Black” incident by Lynn Jones and the African Nova Scotia community consultation, the Town of Truro passed an historic resolution to form a Special Committee of 10 people (five from the local African Nova Scotian community and five from the town’s diversity committee) to develop an action plan to better address the concerns of the local African Nova Scotian community.
- ◆ In **November 2019**, ANSA partnered with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency and the Black Business Initiative (BBI) to host the first African Nova Scotian Apprenticeship Kick-off Event in Truro. The event was attended by industry, schools and community partners to promote, educate and highlight the skilled trades and the apprenticeship system.
- ◆ In **November 2019**, the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) partnered with the Cobequid Family of Schools to host an information session for parents/guardians of African Nova Scotian students to meet the school administrators, local African Nova Scotian educators and staff who support academic processes of Individualized Program Plan (IPP), Adaptations, etc. of their students. They hope to host this event at the beginning of every school year.
- ◆ In **November 2019**, the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) in partnership with the Town of Truro provided 25 students and four chaperones with tickets, transportation and dinner to attend “A Conversation with President Barack Obama” at Scotiabank Centre in Halifax.
- ◆ In **November 2019**, Francis Dorrington, the first African Nova Scotian male to serve on the New Glasgow Town Council, was a recipient of the Order of Nova Scotia.
- ◆ In **December 2019**, the Upper Big Tracadie Seniors Action Club started a monthly newsletter to share information with African Nova Scotian communities of Guysborough County to eliminate further senior isolation.



◆ In **January 2020**, the Delmore Buddy Day Learning Institute (DBDLI) hired Regional Youth Workers across the province to provide support for youth initiatives and projects held within their region. The Regional Youth Workers will serve as “Community Champions” who work collaboratively and build relationships with African Nova Scotian organizations to help academic success.

◆ In **February 2020**, the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association (CANSAs) and Cumberland County hosted the unveiling of Canada Post’s new stamp honouring Black hockey players who played in the Maritimes Colored Hockey League. The Amherst Royals were a part of the league in the early 1900s.

*James Dorrington,
Hal Davidson and
Bob Dawson –
with Canada Post
Commemorative
stamp*

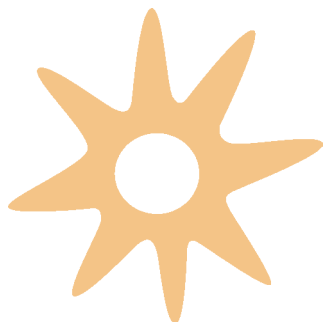


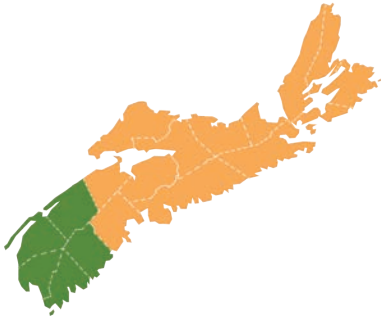
◆ In **February 2020**, the Community Enhancement Association (CEA) hosted the annual community basketball game between the community and the Truro First Responders.

◆ **This year**, the Tracadie United Baptist Church celebrates its 197th anniversary.

◆ **This year**, the Zion United Baptist Church celebrates its 123rd anniversary.

◆ **This year**, the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association (CANSAs) celebrates its 20th anniversary.





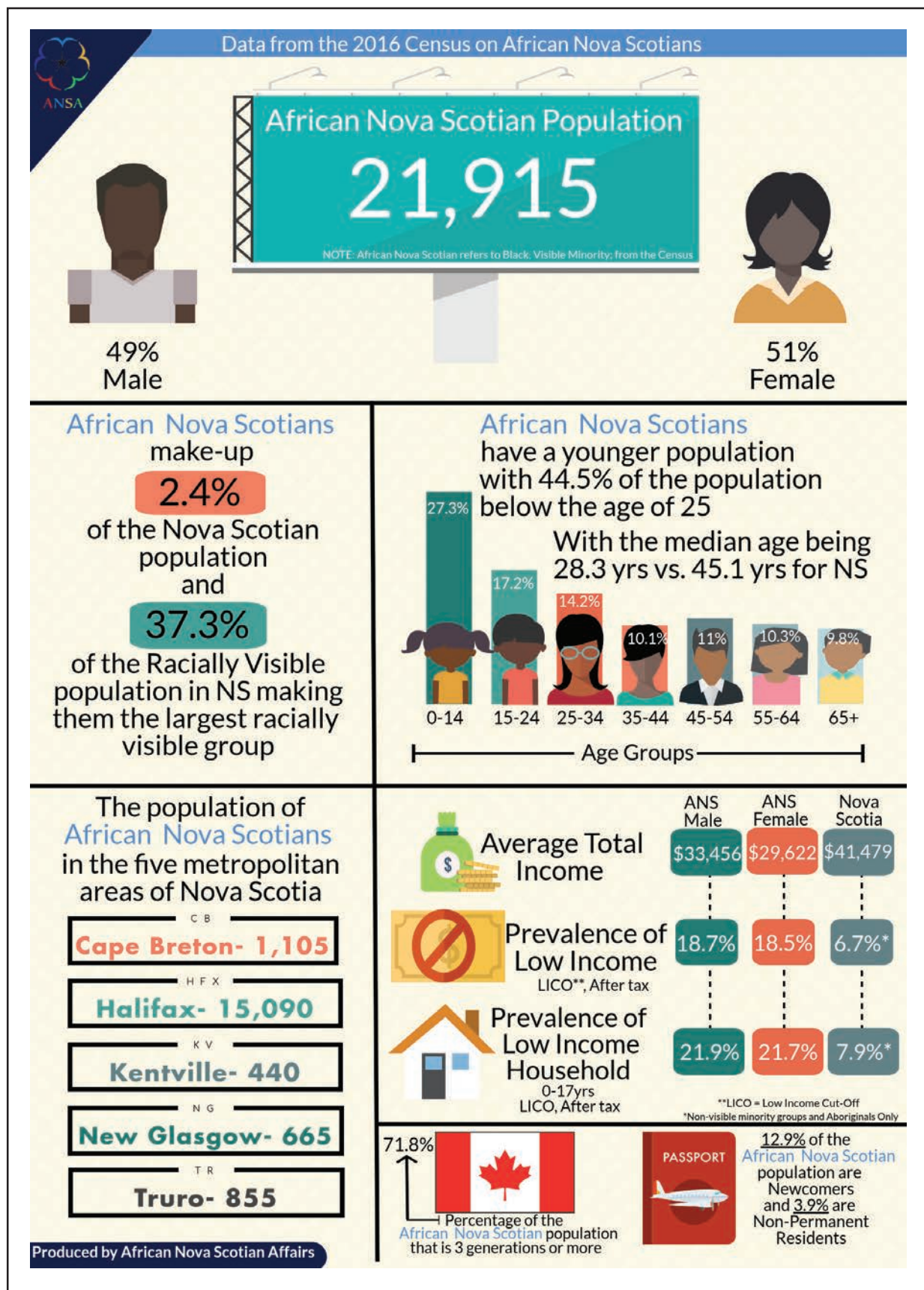
SOUTHERN REGION

- ◆ In **September 2019**, a Project Manager was hired and construction began for the Jordantown-Acaiciaville-Conway Betterment Association (JACBA) Community Recreational Centre of Excellence.
- ◆ On **September 14th, 2019**, a documentary was screened at the International Film Festival entitled, "There's Something in the Water", showcasing environmental racism in various areas in the province, including the Shelburne area.
- ◆ On **November 20th, 2019**, the Nova Scotia Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) Coalition held information sessions at the Greenville Community Centre for the first time.

*Greenville
Community Centre
Society Directors at
Greenville 2020 Gala*



- ◆ On **November 30th, 2019**, the Alzheimer's Society held information session at the Greenville Community Centre for the first time.
- ◆ On **January 20th, 2020**, residential wells and a community well project has been approved and started in the south end of Shelburne to secure clean water to community members.
- ◆ In **February 2020**, Yarmouth held an inaugural African Heritage Month celebration. This year was the first year all three Tri-County Regions (Yarmouth/Digby/Shelburne) celebrated African Heritage Month.
 - ◆ **February 4th** - the African Heritage Month Town Proclamation in Shelburne.
 - ◆ **February 12th** - the African Heritage Month Celebration in Yarmouth.
 - ◆ **February 22nd** - the African Heritage Month Gala Event in Digby.





HONOURABLE TONY INCE

Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs

The Honourable Tony Ince was elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature in October 2013 and re-elected in May 2017. He is the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs and the Public Service Commission. Minister Ince holds a Bachelor of Education from Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. He has a passion for social justice and equality that comes from his multi-faceted life experiences, previous job positions and countless interactions with people.



WAYN HAMILTON

Executive Director (Central Region)

Wayn Hamilton was born in Beechville, a small African Nova Scotian community on the outskirts of Metro Halifax. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in African Studies, a Bachelor of Education and a master's degree in Development and Planning. Wayn has spent more than fifteen years working and living in West Africa.



TRACEY THOMAS

Director, Government and Community Relations (Central Region)

Tracey Thomas is from the communities of Whitney Pier and New Glasgow. Her work involves creating a better understanding of programs, services and concerns between both the African Nova Scotian community and government. Tracey holds a Master of Education from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Bachelor of Commerce from Saint Mary's University.



TUNDE AWOYIGA

Senior Advisor, Research and Planning (Central Region)

Tunde is originally from Nigeria and holds a Master of Development Economics from Dalhousie University. He has worked in private and public sector positions including an Economist/Planning and Development Officer for 18 years. Tunde also has over 13 years of experience working in research, policy and planning. He also worked in Education, Higher Education and Labour Market Information with the Nova Scotia public service. Tunde is passionate about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for youth as a way to advance our future socio-economic progress.



FRANCENE COMEAU

Manager of Operations (Central Region)

Francene Comeau was born and raised in the small community of Three Mile Plains, just outside of Windsor. She joined the ANSA team in October of 2017 to provide supervision to administrative staff within ANSA, oversee operational requirements, and perform budget analysis and tracking for the four regional offices. She is a long-time public servant who is proud of the work being done to support the African Nova Scotian population.



LAUREN GRANT

Manager, Land Titles Initiative (Central Region)

Lauren Grant is the Manager of the Land Titles Initiative. She is a descendant of the communities of North Preston, East Preston and Africville. Lauren has represented her communities by sitting on multiple boards. She also created a Free Wills Program to assist Seniors in North Preston, East Preston and Cherry Brook/Lake Loon to receive free estate planning and the needed supporting documents.



LILLIAN MARSMAN

Program Administration Officer (Cape Breton Region)

Lillian Marsman was born and raised in Whitney Pier and has been with the ANSA Cape Breton office since 2007. Prior to working with ANSA, Lillian was a Supervisor with Access Nova Scotia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Community Studies degree from Cape Breton University and a Master of Education from Mount Saint Vincent University. She is a lifelong learner who loves working within government and community.



CHANTEL REID-DEMETER

Community Development Officer (Cape Breton Region)

Chantel Reid-Demeter was born in Whitney Pier and now resides in New Waterford. She has been with the ANSA Cape Breton office since 2007. Chantel graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Cape Breton University in 2002 and a Masters in Bachelor of Education with an Afrocentric focus from Mount Saint Vincent University in 2010. She loves helping communities sustain and grow their community capacity.



CURTIS WHILEY

Community Navigator, Land Titles Initiative (Central Region)

Curtis Whiley is a sixth generation Whiley from Upper Hammonds Plains. He joined ANSA to work on the Land Titles Initiative to assist residents obtain clear title to their land. Prior to working with ANSA, Curtis worked to deliver home repair assistance programs to several African Nova Scotian communities with Housing Nova Scotia.



TAMAR BROWN

Community Navigator, Land Titles Initiative (Central Region)

Tamar Brown was “literally” born on a set of steps on Bilby street in the North End of Halifax. Her work-related experience ranges from land use investigations, OH&S and project management. Tamar has been a member of the Nova Scotia Mass Choir since 2009 and loves her work assisting clients of the Land Titles Initiative.



CHAVASSE BAIN

Program Administrator Officer (Central Region)

Chavasse Bain was born and raised in the Bahamas and now calls Halifax her home after finishing her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Dalhousie University. When she is not working, Chavasse can be found volunteering, crafting, playing music and enjoying the outdoors.



JOSEPHINE TOMMY

Program Administration Officer (Central Region)

Originally from Sierra Leone, West Africa, Josephine Tommy has lived in Nova Scotia for more than 20 years. Prior to joining ANSA, she worked at the YMCA as Provincial Coordinator for the Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program. Josephine holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sierra Leone and Master of Education from Mount Saint Vincent University. Josephine enjoys working with community groups, especially with seniors and youth.



NATASHA GRAY

Program Administration Officer (Northern Region)

Born and raised in Amherst, Natasha Gray now calls Truro home. Prior to joining ANSA in May 2019, she was a Program Administrator Officer with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education in Truro for 10 years. Natasha is a retired veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and spent most of her military career working in the recruiting field.



TROY LAWRENCE

Program Administration Officer (Southern Region)

Troy Lawrence was born in Halifax and moved to Yarmouth when he was 5 years old. He has Senior Management experience working with three multinationals corporations: Michelin, Bridgestone and Sika. This has allowed him to experience different cultures and provinces throughout Canada. Troy holds a degree in Business Administration and is bilingual - earning him integrity in the community. Troy returned to Yarmouth for his family, a better quality of life for his children and to give back to his community.



COLIN CAMPBELL

Research and Statistical Officer (Central Region)

Colin Campbell was born and raised in Toronto. He made Nova Scotia his home after graduating with a master's degree from Dalhousie University in 2008. Colin's work-related experience ranges from education, to health care, to working in East Africa. He loves to travel and has been on every continent except two - Antarctica and Australia.



SHEQUINTA CLYKE

Secretary II (Cape Breton Region)

Shequinta Clyke is originally from Guysborough but has been a resident of Whitney Pier since 1986. She is a Nova Scotia Community College graduate and is an active member in her community. Shequinta has been employed with ANSA since 2014.



BAHAIYYIH PRIDE

Secretary (Central Region)

Bahaiyyih Pride is ANSA's interim secretary filling in for Jessica Leek. She began her career with government at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia after coming to Nova Scotia from Toronto to study at Dalhousie University. Bahaiyyih is also graduate from the programme d'Agent de bureau gouvernementale from Université Sainte Anne.



ABOUT THE AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN AFFAIRS LOGO

The African Nova Scotian Affairs logo incorporates several concepts that relate to its mission:

A Mayflower which is the official flower of the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Black Star of Africa which represents people of African ancestry and symbolizes hope and honour. The points or spokes on the star represent moving forward as a people.

The five birds surrounding the star represent freedom and fertility which are said to carry the souls of our ancestors.