

Fall 2020

October 2020

PASSAGES & PROSPERITY

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

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COUNT US IN: Nova Scotia's
Action Plan in Response to
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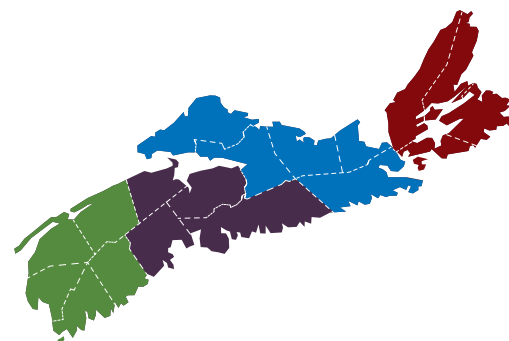


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Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015-2024

On September 19th, 2019, Nova Scotia launched Count Us In: Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015-2024.

It is a guiding document that is providing government with specific actions to help eliminate the many challenges facing African Nova Scotians. The actions are categorized under the three pillars identified by the United Nations: recognition, justice, and development.

Since the launch, initiatives have included:

Recognition

- ◆ Funding and supporting activities that celebrate African Nova Scotian history, culture, and heritage.
- ◆ Working with Dalhousie University - Libraries Digital Initiatives on their Historic Nova Scotia Project which will offer free content relating to African Nova Scotian history on their interactive app and website.

Justice

- ◆ Assisting in conversations between African Nova Scotian communities and municipalities to address historical injustices.
- ◆ The Wortley Report Research Committee has commenced work on identifying best practices of data collection on police stops from other jurisdictions. The committee consists of members from the Nova Scotia government, law enforcement and community.
- ◆ Helping facilitate the initiatives and actions highlighted by the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children Restorative Inquiry Final Report and the roadmap to implementing its recommendations.

Development

- ◆ Support for the training of ANS within government, especially those working with the Department of Community Services, who are interested in studying to become social workers.

- ◆ Funding support for organizations and community groups that facilitate the Action Plan's objectives; such activities and events as:
 - ◆ DPAD Coalition- Program Initiatives (Province-wide)
 - ◆ Black Educators Association (BEA)- 50th Anniversary Celebration Event (Halifax)
 - ◆ CANSA- Establishing a Regional Network (Northern Region)
 - ◆ Greenville Community Centre- Establishing a Regional Networks (Southern Region)
 - ◆ Community Enhancement Association- Black Veteran's Banners (Truro)
- ◆ Relaunching the African Nova Scotian Affairs newsletter to further engage and connect African Nova Scotian communities.

An African proverb says:

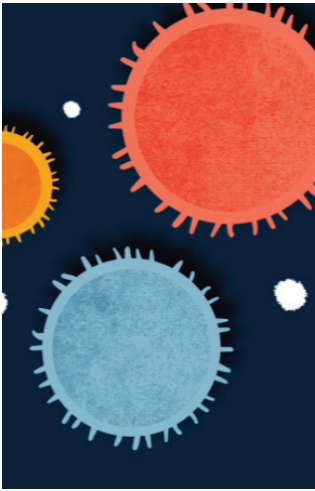
If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.

For more information about Count Us In: Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, please visit <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/content/count-us-nova-scotias-action-plan-response-people-african-descent-2015-2024>.

Please watch virtual event celebrating the One-Year Anniversary of Count Us In which will be aired on the ANSA Facebook page this Fall:

<https://www.facebook.com/AfricanNSAffairs>





Update

African Nova Scotian communities have been continuing their efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Thank you and keep up the great work!

PLEASE CONTINUE PROTECTING YOURSELF & OTHERS FROM COVID-19

Let us continue to support each other and our communities by working together to slow the spread of COVID-19.

More information at

<https://novascotia.ca/protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus/>



GATHERING LIMITS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN PERFORMING ARTS AND SPORTS NOW INCREASED

Effective October 1st, 2020, the number of people who can participate in certain activities without physical distancing increased from 10 to 50. This allows full team practices to resume for most sports and larger rehearsals for performing arts. This change also applies to recreational league sports, like adult hockey, and drop-in activities, like open swims. While mask use is not required while doing physical activity, wearing masks, and maintaining distance as much as possible continues to be encouraged for these activities.

**** Unorganized or casual games, like pickup basketball or soccer in the park, must adhere to existing gathering rules of small groups of 10 without physical distancing within a maximum of 50 with physical distancing.*

Existing gathering requirements for audiences/spectators at sport/recreation facilities and performances venues must continue to be followed. All organizations are asked to have a rollback plan in place, should gathering limits need to be reduced again.

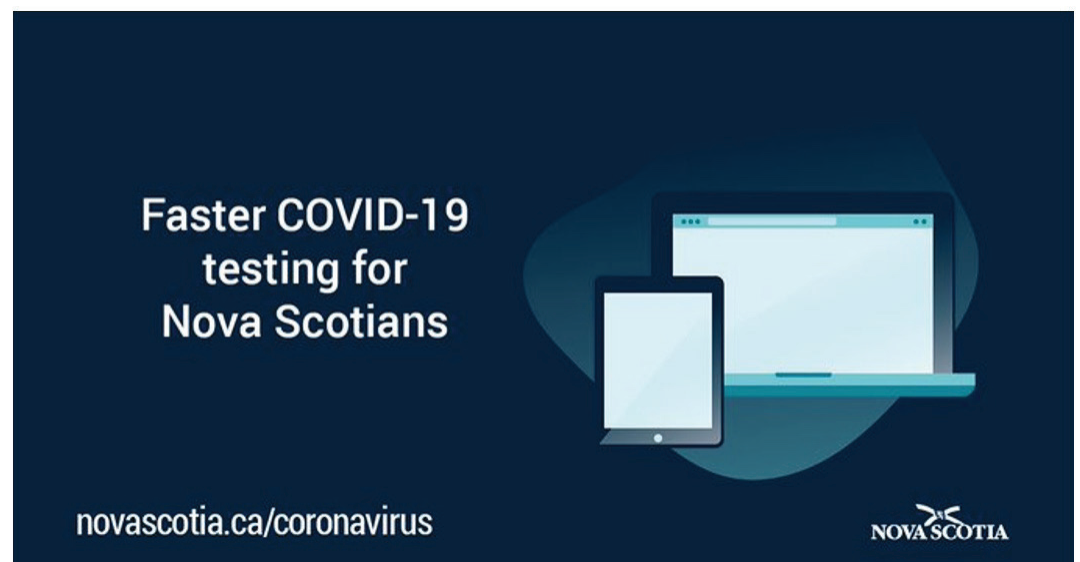
FASTER COVID-19 TESTING FOR NOVA SCOTIANS

As of October 1st, 2020, instead of calling 811 as a first step, people can now do a COVID-19 self-assessment online. This will reduce the wait time to be screened for testing from 12 hours to about 10 minutes.

If the online assessment determines that a person requires a test, the Nova Scotia Health Authority or the IWK Health Centre will call them within 24 to 48 hours to book an appointment.

811 will continue to take calls from people who cannot access the online tool or who wish to speak with a nurse about their symptoms.

The COVID-19 self-assessment is at
<https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca>

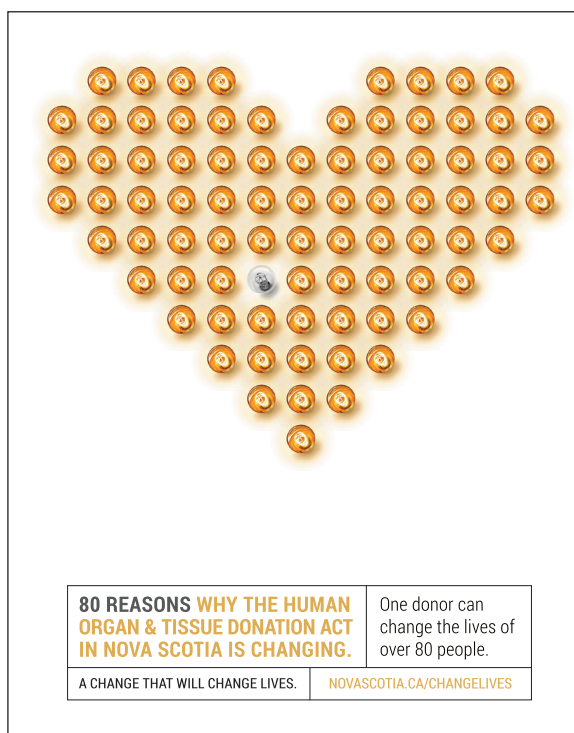


Changes to Organ and Tissue Donation

Effective January 18th, 2021, Nova Scotia is changing how organ and tissue donation works in the province. The Nova Scotia Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act will make it possible for more Nova Scotians to donate their organs and tissues.

“Knowing the lives he’s saved, and families he’s given second chances to, I often think of how much good that has come out of such a horrible situation.”

— Donor’s Mother



WHAT THE CHANGE MEANS

Effective January 18th, 2021, Nova Scotians who do not register their donation decision, and are eligible, will be seen as having consented to donating their organs and tissues after death. This is referred to as deemed consent.

When they die, those eligible will be automatically referred to the “Organ and Tissue Donation Program” to determine if they are clinically suitable candidates for donation.

Those who are not eligible for deemed consent include:

- ◆ people 18 or younger
- ◆ people without decision-making capacity
- ◆ people who have lived in Nova Scotia less than 12 months

WHY THE LAW IS CHANGING

Organ and tissue donation saves lives, and gives hope to those waiting for life-saving and life-enhancing transplants. This change will help Nova Scotians waiting for a transplant to get one sooner by increasing organ and tissue donation.

One donor can save or improve the lives of over 80 people - It is your choice

You can:

- ◆ register your decision to be a donor and donate all or some of your organs and tissues
- ◆ register your decision to not to be a donor (opt out) and not donate your organs and tissues
- ◆ not register a decision (deemed consent applies to those who are eligible)

You can change a previous decision at any time.

For more information about the changes to organ and tissue donation, please visit

<https://novascotia.ca/organ-and-tissue-donation-changes>

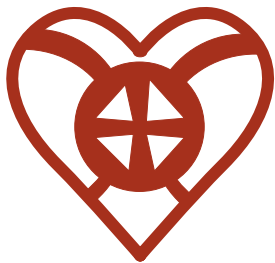
For more information about registering and changing your donation decision, please visit

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/organ-and-tissue-donation>

Visit Legacy of Life which is Nova Scotia's source for information about what organ and tissue donation is and how it works, as well as clear answers to common questions and misunderstandings:

<http://www.nshealth.ca/legacy-life>





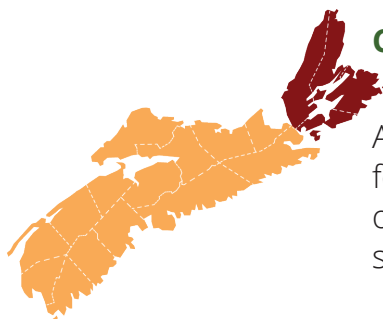
Regional Updates

This summer looked a bit different from summers past, but there was a lot of planning and improvising. Government, community groups, businesses and other organizations postponed major events because of the various public health directives while they conducted others online.

However, economic and social activities are starting again. There have been various funding programs announced that can benefit individuals and community groups. Such may help our not-for-profits remain open, as they play a vital role in African Nova Scotian communities.

With the economy gradually beginning to open up, organizations, volunteers, and not-for-profits are hopeful and looking forward to making 2021 a better year.

****Important Information for your Organization: Ensure your Joint Stock information is renewed and up to date.*



CAPE BRETON REGION

As we approach the Fall and Winter months, we look forward to planning for a brighter future. Cape Breton will always remain a substantial part of African Nova Scotian history and heritage through our communities' strength.

♦ **July and August 2020** - The Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) changed their summer program. However, they were still able to employ a federal and provincial student worker. Both students gained valuable work experience and looked forward to continuing with their education this Fall. The UNIA will have new programming shortly for Seniors. They are adjusting their current programming to fit the guidelines of COVID-19 and look forward to the results. The Glace Bay UNIA also contributed to a story about their hall -

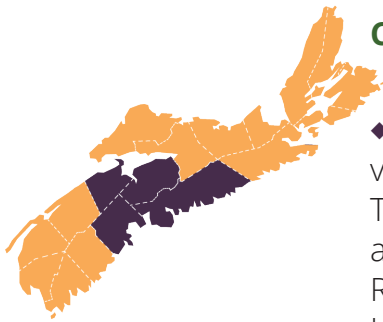
<https://historicnovascotia.ca/items/show/231>

♦ **August 2020** - The Menelik Hall Association in Whitney Pier successfully received funding from the Provincial Government (Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage) for the hall expansion plan, which will start in 2020 and conclude in 2021. The much-needed space and additions will significantly benefit the community of Whitney Pier and the surrounding area.



*Photo Courtesy
of UNIA*

- ♦ **July and August 2020** - The Boys & Girls Clubs of Cape Breton – Whitney Pier Youth Club ran a very successful summer program while adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines. They are now into Fall programming and look forward to another great year with students and staff.



CENTRAL REGION

- ♦ **July 18th, 19th and August 29th, 2020** - Black-owned businesses and vendors participated in a pop-up market on Gottingen Street in Halifax. The event entitled “Taking BLK Gottingen” saw local Black businesses and vendors ranging from food and clothing to jewelry and arts. Halifax Regional Municipality, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, the North End Business Association and Kordeen Clayton, owner of “She Nubian Liberation all supported the event.”

Poster Designer:
Bria Cherise Miller



- ◆ **August 15th, 2020** - Teens Now Talk organized a rally at the Alderney Landing in Dartmouth, tagged "Stomp Out Racism" - Youths are the Heartbeat of Change. The event focused on the family unit and young people. Individuals from various backgrounds and communities came together to celebrate solidarity. To see highlights of the rally: <https://teensnowtalk.com/features/teens-n-talk/word-on-the-street/stomp-out-racism-rally/>

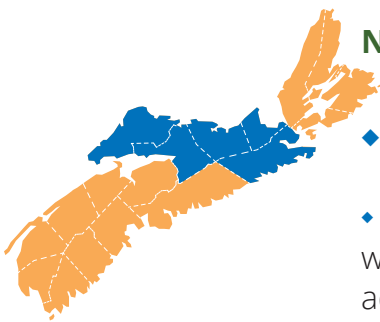
*Photo Credit:
Master Peace &
Teens Now Talk*



*Photo Credit:
Africentric
Learning Institute
(ALI)*

- ◆ **August 2020** - the African Nova Scotian Freedom School run by the Africentric Learning Institute (ALI) held its first graduation. The month-long program teaches young Nova Scotians between the ages of 12 and 17 about Black history, culture, and leadership. The Chicago Freedom School inspired it, as well as the momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement.
- ◆ **August 25th, 2020** - Members of the Dalhousie Black Law Student Association tackled the waves with the North Preston Surf Program run by the Surfing Association of Nova Scotia (SANS). This program was created in 2019 to increase diversity and participation in surfing by people of African descent.
- ◆ **August 27th, 2020** - The United African Canadian Women's Association (UACWA) organized a "Virtual Kitchen Table Talk - Bridging the Gap" between indigenous African Nova Scotian women and women from the African diaspora community. The goal was for the two groups to better understand cultural differences and clarify misconceptions and how they work together to create new initiatives for change.

- ◆ **August 30th, 2020** - Over 200 people showed up to support the Black Lives Matter picnic in Chester. Local youth Lauryn Guest and Peter Fisk organized and hosted the event after the racist noose-swinging incident, in Chester Basin, on August 17th.
- ◆ **September 8th, 2020** - Game Changers 902 organized a back to school "Walk with Demario" in Halifax. Demario is a teenager who was allegedly racially profiled and arrested in February 2020. The community members walked Demario to school as a sign of solidarity and to show full support.
- ◆ **September 10th, 2020** - The Scholar Strike came to the Dalhousie University campus. It is a two-day event held across North America to call for an end to all forms of systemic racism. The event gave voice to students and staff who identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of colour to share their stories.
- ◆ **September 2020** - LOVE Nova Scotia appointed its first Black Executive Director, Dennis Adams. This organization, which has been in operation for over 20 years, provides one-on-one, 24/7 support for youth facing challenges while helping them realize their true potential.



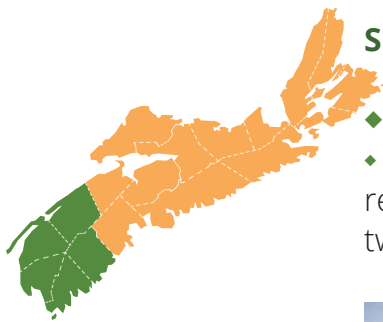
NORTHERN REGION

- ◆ **July 2020**
 - ◆ A youth-led action committee on Racial Justice has been formed in Truro with proactive local change goals and racial education. Their priority is to advocate for all marginalized individuals through social media platforms and committee work. They will also share African Nova Scotian and Black Canadian history and the stories of historical and influential people.
 - ◆ Malayna Gero, a 16-year-old African Nova Scotian student at Amherst Regional High School, organized a Youth Diversity Group. The group aims to educate peers on racism and support younger students to thrive throughout the school year. The group currently consists of six students and one facilitator from the school staff. Malayna hopes that acceptance and understanding will prevail with acknowledgement and education.



♦ **August 2020** - Eastlink Community Television has launched “Black Films That Teach” to amplify Black voices, stories, and experiences. One of the stories entitled “Weaving the Story,” a 2005 documentary about the life and times of six African Nova Scotian women from Cumberland County, was featured with Executive Director of CANSA, Elizabeth Cooke-Sumbu providing the introduction.

♦ **September 5th, 2020** - Teens Now Talk hosted a youth-oriented “Stomp out Racism” and Black Lives Matter rally in New Glasgow attended by about 150 youth and parents. It also included performers, drummers, and staff. Here are highlights of the rally:
<https://teensnowtalk.com/features/teens-n-talk/word-on-the-street/stomp-out-racism-rally-new-glasgow-9-5-20/>



SOUTHERN REGION

♦ **August 2020**

♦ Rejean Cromwell’s food truck in Greenwood - Seafood by Rejean & More - reopened after being closed by the Department of Environment for almost two weeks.



♦ Shelburne now has five wells (three dug and two drilled) completed. The Founder of the Southend Environmental Injustice group, Louise Delisle helped move this forward. Three new applications are still in the works.

- ◆ The work of the Digby Education Committee continues to move African Nova Scotians forward:
 - ◆ Former Race Relations, Cross-Cultural Understanding & Human Rights (RCH) Coordinator Kenneth Fells has been named the new Principal of Digby Regional High School
 - ◆ Karen Dumas is the new Vice Principal of Digby Regional High School
 - ◆ Nathaniel Fells is a new teacher at Digby Regional High School
 - ◆ Brian Fells is the new Vice Principal of Digby Elementary School
- ◆ On **October 2, 2020** the Black Business Initiative (BBI), African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) held in Digby a one-day event to promote, educate, and highlight the Skilled Trades and the Apprenticeship system specifically for the African Nova Scotian community.



Photo Credit:
**Black Business
Initiative**



The African Nova Scotian Music Association during COVID-19

The African Nova Scotian Music Association (ANSMA) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing, promoting, and enhancing African Nova Scotian music. The purpose of ANSMA is to increase the amount of African Nova Scotians participating in the Canadian music industry and give them the support and recognition that is lacking. They have created a support system for musicians of all ages for over 22 years.

On March 17th, 2020, the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia (BCC) closed due to the State of Emergency by the Province due to COVID-19.

As tenants of the BCC, the ANSMA staff were forced to work from home to maintain operation, which included:

- ◆ Virtual concerts aired on Facebook live held in April
- ◆ Meetings conducted through Zoom to ensure the safety of all employees

On June 22nd, 2020, the ANSMA office officially reopened while adhering to the COVID-19 protocols. Since then, work has included:

- ◆ Summer student hires to support youth in the committee
- ◆ A virtual Natal Day Freedom Festival concert with Eastlink held on Monday, August 3rd
- ◆ A 4-Session workshop entitled "Theme: It's Deeper than Music" through Zoom featuring Canadian Producer Orin Isaacs, Musical Director Dean Jarvis, Music Development Officer Mickey Quase, and Rap Artist and Producer Classified



Thank you to ANSMA for the commitment shown to entertaining and educating our communities during COVID-19.

For those interested in joining or partnering with ANSMA, or for more information, please contact:

- ◆ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheANSMA>
- ◆ Email: nfo.ansma@gmail.com
- ◆ Telephone: (902) 404-3036

Akoma Holdings Inc. is a community-based Board of Directors that has stewardship responsibility for 310 acres of property fronting on Main Street in Westphal and extending to Coleridge Estates in Cole Harbour. The property includes the former Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children orphanage, a bountiful community garden, and a community hall rented for a nominal fee, a community office hub, and the Akoma Family Centre.



In response to a housing needs study conducted in 2018, Akoma is involved in a municipal “Plan Amendment” process to address the community’s heritage, housing, and economic development needs to guide development over the next 20 years. They created a proposal including single dwelling homes, an apartment complex, a cemetery, a seniors housing zone and more.

The Akoma board applied for the Investment Readiness Program funding in January 2020 and received \$100,000 in non-repayable capital. The majority of the funding will be for creating business plans, financial modelling, viability studies and environmental assessments. These are all costly but vital resources that will strengthen the board’s pitch to potential backers, so Akoma can finalize construction and start generating more revenue.

Akoma is working collaboratively with a skilled team and is laying the foundation for many partnerships to help turn what was once a dream into a reality. Recognizing the need for housing plays a significant role in a community’s economic development. It creates employment - a great need in the African Nova Scotian community, and Akoma plans to be a leader in this process.

For more information about the project, please visit
<https://communityfoundations.ca/akoma>

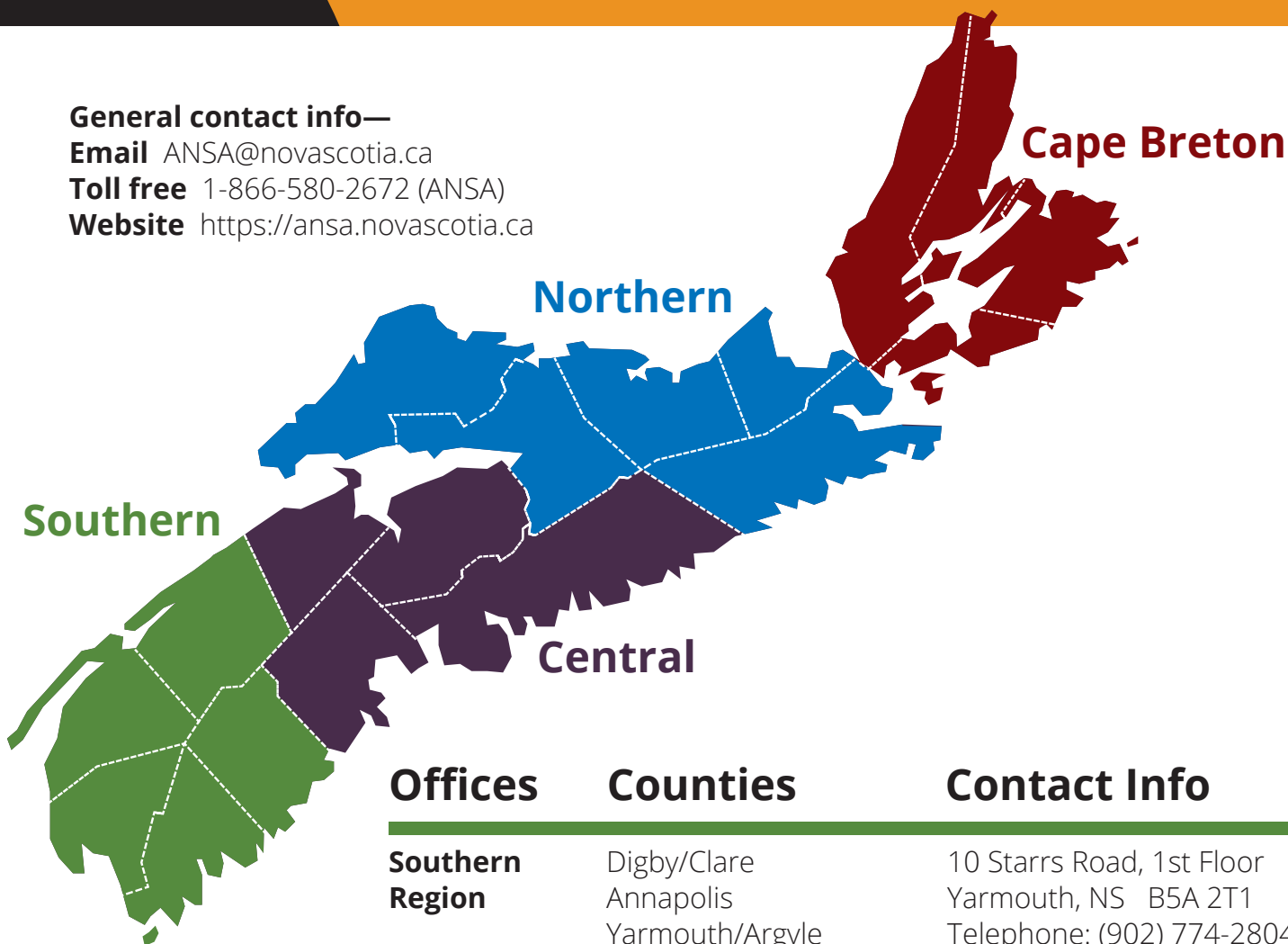
For more information about Akoma Holdings Inc., please visit
<http://akoma.ca/holdings>

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	850 Grand Lake Road, 2nd Floor Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1P 5T9 Telephone: (902) 563-3735 Fax: (902) 563-2700