

Winter 2021

February 2021

PASSAGES & **PROSPERITY**

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

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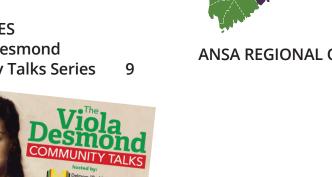


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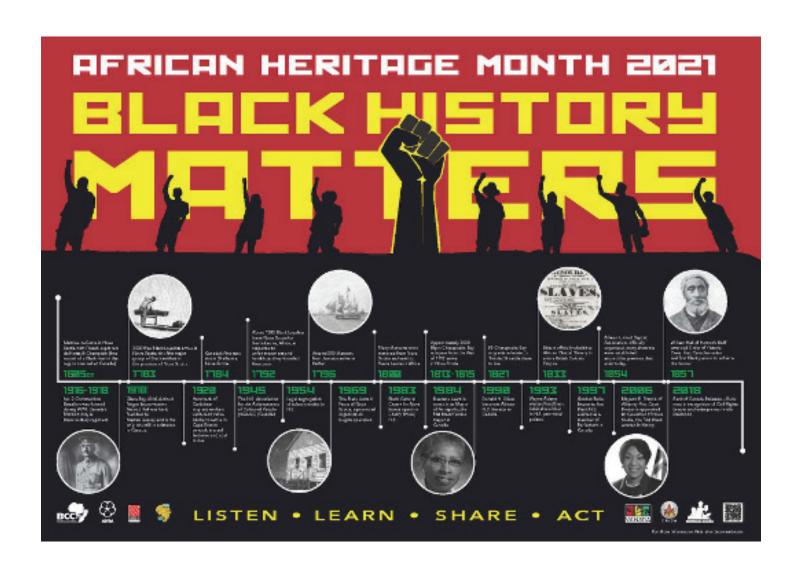
AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2021 African Heritage Month Poster

To download a digit copy of the 2021 African Heritage Month Poster in both English and French, please visit:

https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month

To view events happening during African Heritage Month in your local area and across the province, please visit the ANSA calendar at: https://ansa.novascotia.ca/calendar



AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share and Act, recognizes the important legacy of people of African Descent and the long-standing history in the development of Canada. This theme brings focus and increased awareness of racialized issues of a community that has overcome great adversity for inclusion in all aspects of Society. It further calls on us to listen, learn, share and act to make society a better place. The theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation, increase awareness, and improve the conditions for people of African Descent.

Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of our people – past and present.

ABOUT THE AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH INFORMATION NETWORK

Each year, the African Heritage Month Information Network (AHMIN) produces an educational poster that is distributed and displayed in community gathering centers, schools, churches, government offices, and businesses.

AHMIN is a partnership among the Black Cultural Centre/Society, African Nova Scotian Affairs, African Nova Scotian Music Association, African Nova Scotian North-Central Network, African Heritage Month Southwest Network, Black Educators Association, Black History Month Association, Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association, Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association, and Guysborough, Antigonish Strait African Regional Network.

To order the poster, please visit:

http://www.ahm.bccnsweb.com/wp/home

For more information about African History Month, please contact: Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

Phone: (902) 434-6223

Email: contact@bccns.com

PASSAGES & PROSPERITY

RECENTLY ELECTED

In October 2020, Nova Scotians went to the polls to elect their municipal councillors. Several African Nova Scotia candidates ran, and some won seats on their respective municipal councils. Here is a list of African Nova Scotian councillors:



SOUTHERN REGION

Steve "Bear" Berry

Municipality: Deputy Mayor for the Town of Yarmouth

District/Ward: N/A

Term: Second term. First elected in a by-election in May 2019.

Email: steve.berry@townofyarmouth.ca





Iona Stoddard

Municipality: Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)

District/Ward: District 12 (Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea,

Clayton Park West and Wedgewood)

Term: First term in office. *Email:* **stoddai@halifax.ca** *Phone:* (902) 240-7926



Lindell Smith

Municipality: Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
District/Ward: District 8 (Halifax Peninsula North)
Term: Second term in office. First elected in 2016.

Email: Lindell.Smith@halifax.ca

Cell: (902) 579-6975

Social media: @LindellSmithHfx (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)





Wilfred "Hal" Davidson

Municipality: Town of Amherst
District/Ward: Deputy Mayor
Term: First term in Office

Email: hdavidson@amherst.ca

Cell: (902) 694-0190

RECENTLY ELECTED



Mary Desmond

Municipality: The Municipality of the District of Guysborough

District/Ward: 2

Term: Newly elected 2020 for a four-year term.

Email: mdesmond@modg.ca

Phone: (902) 870-5680



Russell Borden Jr.

Municipality: The Municipality of New Glasgow

District/Ward: Ward 1 *Term:* First term in office.

Email: russell.borden@newglasgow.ca

Phone: (902) 331-0658



Jocelyn Dorrington

Municipality: The Municipality of New Glasgow

District/Ward: Ward 1

Term: Second term in office. First elected in a by-election on May 4, 2019.

Email: Jocelyn.dorrington@newglasgow.ca

Cell: (902) 921-8393



Wayne L. Talbot

Municipality: Town of Truro

District/Ward: Ward 1

Term: Second term in office. First elected in October of 2016.

Email: wtalbot@truro.ca Phone: (902) 956-1407





Lorne Green

Municipality: Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CRBM)

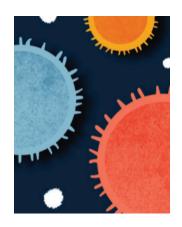
District/Ward: 12

Term: First elected to CBRM Council in 1997 for one term. Served on the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board from 2004 to 2017, serving for eight years as the board's chair.

Elected again for CBRM Council in 2020.

Email: **Ifgreeb@cbrm.ns.ca** *Phone:* (902) 270-2435 *Cell:* (902) 578-3979

COVID-19



Update

COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION PLAN

Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan includes 3 phases. Each phase identifies when different groups can receive the vaccine. Who will receive the vaccine in Phases 1 and 2 is based on:

- recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization
- who is at the highest risk based on the epidemiology in Nova Scotia
- age, as we know the impact COVID-19 has on older people
- vaccine supply

A list of groups who will be vaccinated in Phases 1 and 2 are available at novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine.

In Phase 1, the province will work with the African Nova Scotian community to understand the needs of the community to support good uptake of vaccine.

Anyone not eligible to receive the vaccine in phase 1 or 2 will receive the vaccine based on age, as part of Phase 3. Most Nova Scotians will receive their vaccine by age group. Age groups are in five-year increments (75 to 79, 70 to 74, etc).

Before broadly rolling out clinics and vaccine delivery across the province, Public Health will host prototype clinics. Prototype clinics will help inform how clinics need to be set up and operate throughout the province as vaccine supply increases.

The first prototype clinic will be a community-based clinic for seniors who are 80 and older and live in the community. If you are 80 and older and you are selected to take part in the prototype clinic, you'll receive a letter from MSI with details on how to schedule your appointment.

If you're not selected, you'll be able to receive the vaccine during the first phase at a future community-based clinic. Nine more community-based clinics are scheduled to opn in Halifax Regional Municipality, Truro, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Kentville, Yarmouth, Antigonish, Amherst and Bridgewater in March for those 80 and older.

The more people in a community who are vaccinated and protected from COVID-19, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

COVID-19



More information about community-based vaccine clinics including where they are and how to book an appointment will be available soon. Nova Scotians will be able to book an appointment online or by phone.

Some Nova Scotians may not be able to receive the vaccine because of age or health condition. As more information about the vaccine becomes available, information about who can receive the vaccine may change. You should consult your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any concerns about receiving the vaccine.

To keep up to date with Nova Scotia's COVID-19 immunization plan visit: **novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine.**

	Phase 1	Phase 2 Phase 3
Those who work directly with patients	Those who work directly with patients in hospital or with patients in their home	Anyone who works in a hospital and may come into contact with a patient Community health care providers: doctors and nurses dentists and dental hygienists pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
Those who live in group settings and those who work closely with them	Those who live in long-term care homes (nursing homes and residential care facilities) and their designated care givers Those who work in long-term care homes Those who live and work in Department of Community Services facilities: adult residential centres regional rehabilitation centres residential care facilities	Those who live in large group settings and those who work directly with them: correctional facilities shelters temporary foreign worker quarters
Those who are at greater risk based on age	Those who are 80 and older Then those in the next oldest group until all Nova • 75 to 79 • 65 to 69 • 55 to 59 • 70 to 74 • 60 to 64 • 50 to 54	Scotians have access: • 45 to 49 • 35 to 39 • 25 to 29 • 40 to 44 • 30 to 34 • 16 to 24
Those who are at risk for other reasons	The province is engaging with First Nations and African Nova Scotian communities to understand the needs of the communities.	Those who are required to regularly travel in and out of the province for work, such as truck drivers and rotational workers. This does not apply to people who live in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick and cross the border every day for work Those who are responsible for food security and cannot maintain public health protocols due to the nature of their work – large food processing plants

LAND TITLES INITIATIVES

Community Liaison Committee

A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was established to facilitate and support the work of the Land Titles Initiative. The committee supports the project by monitoring progress, bringing the community perspective and voice, and providing advice to government. The CLC also provide an effective and positive mechanism for the Land Titles Initiative to demonstrate accountability and transparency, as well as raise awareness of potential issues with the LTI process, access to justice and the administration of justice.

The Committee consists of 10 members including two residents representing each of the five designated Land Titles Clarification Areas (LTCAs).



Back row (left to right): Ivan Wyse ivanwyse@gmail.com, Melissa Downey mdown9301@gmail.com, Spencer Colley ecolley@eastlink.ca, Joe Colley Amanda.joe@live.com

Front row (left to right): Robert Pelley tonyapelley@hotmail.com, Karen Hudson hudson2@ns.sympatico.ca, Juanita Byard juanita.byard@ theblackeducators.ca, Sabrina Skinner sabrina.skinner@srce.ca, Kaye Medley kaye.nbmns@gmail.com

LAND TITLES INITIATIVES



We are currently seeking a new member from the community of Lincolnville for a Community Liaison position. If you are interested in taking part in the CLC Committee, please contact a Community Navigator and we will be glad to give you more information on the Committee and mail or email you an application.



You're invited: Virtual Land Titles Initiative Community Meeting

To RSVP, please contact a Community Navigator to receive the call-in instructions

Date: Monday, March 1st, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

To speak to Community Navigator or schedule a meeting, contact:

• Tamar Brown – (902) 428 2038 or Tamar.Brown@novascotia.ca

• Karalee Oliver – (902) 424 5381 or Karalee.Oliver@novascotia.ca

Toll Free number 1-833-424-6100 or communitynavigator@novascotia.ca

TALK SERIES

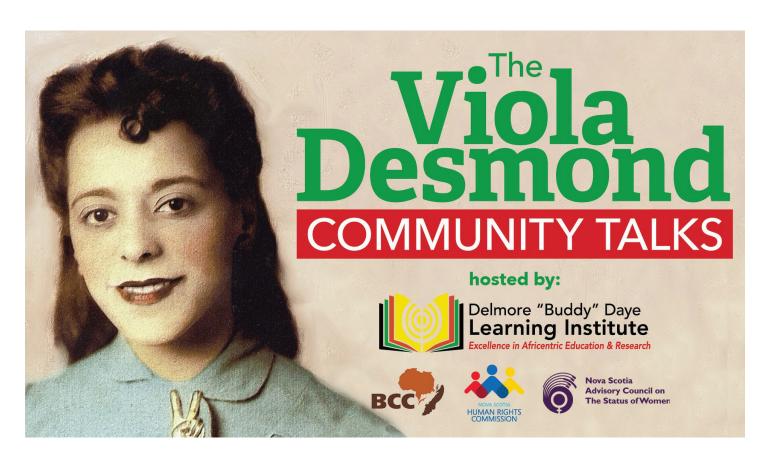
Desmond Community Talks Series

Have you heard about the Viola Desmond Community Talks Series? It is another initiative of the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) to create educational change and inspiration for individual and community successes.

The series launched on November 8, 2020. It is the month and day in which Viola Desmond was arrested at the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow over 74 years ago. The first episode focuses on Viola's life and determination to help and inspire others: https://dbdli.ca/2020/11/07/viola-desmond-community-talks-episode-1

Please stay tuned to **https://dbdli.ca** for the next episode on February 21, 2021.

Viola will indeed inspire the leadership in all of us.



Regional Updates

CAPE BRETON REGION

Ho, Ho, Hold on for another update from the #1 island in Canada – Cape Breton. Things have been moving along, although nothing has been the same. But, facing obstacles, adapting, and readjusting has been part of us for many years.

While large gatherings and major events such as the Cape Breton African Heritage Month Gala 2021 had to be 'paused,' the community is still planning various projects and initiatives. They are also working hard to make 2021-2022 that much better.

◆ In **Fall 2020**, the Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) added new programs, including one for after-school, funded by the Department of Community Services. It operates twice a week, focusing on ten youth activities (virtual and in-person sessions) following COVID-19 guidelines. There are a few openings left. Other great programs include initiatives for both youth and seniors and the creation of a food hamper located close to the hall on Jessome Street. For more information, please email the Chairperson, Theresa Brewster, at

uniaculturalmuseum@hotmail.com or phone (902) 842-5389.

- ◆ On **September 30, 2020**, the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Breton launched their "Boys and Girls Value Project" via YouTube. It features African Nova Scotian youth's voices and perspectives from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Halifax, the Boys & Girls Club of Preston, and the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Breton Whitney Pier.
- On **November 18, 2020**, the Menelik Hall on 88 Laurier Street, Whitney Pier, held a revitalization project community session with a limited number of individuals and others joining virtually. It was very positive and included steps on moving forward with the project. There was a call for community-minded individuals to be part of an ongoing working committee, with a first group meeting held in early December.



- ◆ In **December 2020**, the Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) remained open during this challenging time, thanks to another Federal program specifically designed for museums. The UNIA operates with no sustainable income, no paid employees, and relies solely on a board of volunteers. However, they are fortunate to receive some assistance through grants and programs which have allowed for specific programs or employment opportunities, such as the summer student employment program.
- ◆ In **December 2020**, the Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), in partnership with the Red Cross and Federal government, provided food hampers to seniors. This project is, and was, very much needed and appreciated by the community.
- ◆ In **December 2020**, the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Breton added new board members, two of which are from the African Nova Scotian community. The club also revamped its website: www.bgccb.ca
- ◆ In **December 2020**, the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Breton launched an alumni group to allow the club to connect with former Whitney Pier Youth Club members, volunteers, and staff. More information is available at https://www.facebook.com/groups/wpycbgccbalumni
- ◆ On **December 11 and December 12, 2020**, the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Breton alumnus Riley Hollohan, Head Chef of 7By7 Restaurant and Soulcured Cuisine Owner, and his co-worker, Nick Young, prepared the Club's 2020 Holiday dinner. Instagram: @soulcuredcuisine_rileyhollohan
- ◆ On **December 17, 2020**, the UNIA held a holiday dinner for youth and seniors, both eat-in and take-out, following COVID-19 guidelines.

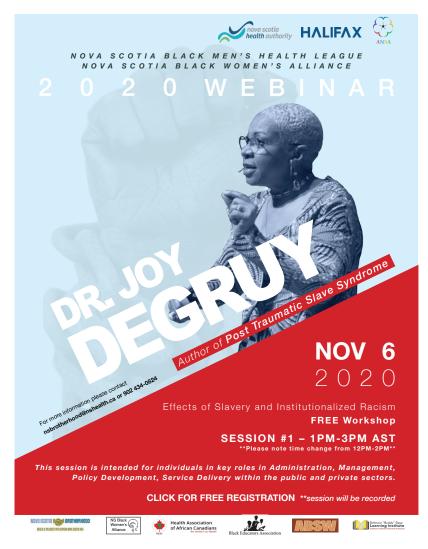


CENTRAL REGION

- ◆ Starting **October 2, 2020**, through to November 7, 2020, the United African Canadian Women's Association (UACWA) hosted a series of COVID-19 workshops via Zoom for the newcomer community. UACWA provided information in seven different languages: Arabic, Amharic, Somalian, French, Oromo, English, and Swahili.
- From **October 7 to 9, 2020**, the Emerging Lens Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary of being a cultural and diverse film platform. This year it screened new and past selections.



- ◆ On **October 15, 2020**, a Community Zoom Talk entitled "A World without Police Begins at Home" was hosted by the Nova Scotia Men's Health League and the Nova Scotia Black Women's Alliance.
- ◆ On **October 24 and November 21, 2020**, descendants of Africville, community members, and the public held a protest calling for reparations and return of the Africville land. The demonstrations were at the Africville museum and Halifax City Hall.
- ◆ On **November 6, 2020**, Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative and the Nova Scotia Black Women's Alliance hosted a webinar with Dr. Joy DeGruy. The webinar was about the effects of slavery and institutionalized racism.



◆ During **late Fall 2020**, the United African Canadian Women's Association (UACWA) hosted two successful virtual youth sessions about the COVID-19 pandemic.



- ◆ On **November 19, 2020**, was the first session with Medical Officer for the Central Region, Dr. Claudia Sarbu. Over 200 youth attended.
- ◆ On **December 19, 2020**, was the second session with Dartmouth General Psychiatrist Dr. Mutiat Sulyman on mental health. Over 150 youth attended.
- ◆ In **December 2020**, the Ebony Shopping Plaza, founded by Jessica Bowden, was launched. It is an online mall highlighting African Nova Scotian-made items and Black-owned businesses from across the province. For more information, visit https://www.ebonyshoppingplaza.com.
- ◆ In **December 2020**, African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) welcomed a new Community Navigator Karalee Oliver.



◆ Karalee Oliver was born and raised in the community of Upper Hammonds Plains. She is a graduate of Eastern College with a diploma in Criminology. Before joining African Nova Scotian Affairs as a Community Navigator, Karalee worked for eight years at the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (Family Division) as a Justice Officer assisting families in the court process. She enjoys working in her community and serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Upper Hammonds Plains Community Development Association. Karalee is also a Site Coordinator for the Upper Hammonds Plains Cultural Academic Enrichment Program with the Black Educators Association and an Administrative Justice of the Peace who presides over civil wedding ceremonies.



NORTHERN REGION

- From **August 7 to 14, 2020**, was the New Glasgow Black Gala Virtual Homecoming. The online event featured daily themes, historical information about the community, and the Second Baptist church's role.
- In **September 2020**, residents gathered to help paint "Black Lives Matter" on Provost Street, in New Glasgow and on the North Main Street sidewalk in Westville.



- On **November 3, 2020**, newly elected to Town Council, Hal Davidson was named Deputy Mayor of Amherst.
- On **November 11, 2020**, the African Nova Scotian community of Truro hosted a Remembrance Day event to honour Black Veterans' contributions and those of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.



- ◆ During **November and December 2020**, the Nova Scotia Works Employment Service Centres, in partnership with the Centre for Employment Innovation (CEI) and the Department of Labour and Advance Education (LAE), hired four Career Practitioners of African descent across the Northern Region. It is a project developed to help strengthen Nova Scotia Works community-based and employment services providers to reflect the communities they serve.
- On **December 7, 2020**, the Town of Truro, in partnership with Dalhousie University, hired a Mentoring Plus Community Engagement Facilitator to draw upon seniors' skills and knowledge to help support initiatives for young adults in the African Nova Scotian community.



- ◆ In October 2020, Rural Water Watch, in partnership with ANSA and community volunteers, introduced a Healthy Wells Day initiative for marginalized communities that involved water testing. The goal was to make this day an annual reminder to encourage regular well water testing and information about contaminants, like bacteria or metals, which can potentially be harmful. Studies have shown that a large percentage of well water users do not test their water regularly. Healthy Wells Day held two main activities:
 - Develop, deliver, and educate schools and communities on safe well water practices and to check their drinking water quality
 - Collaborate with local community partners to host the annual Healthy Wells Day sample collection event

The communities of Greenville and Weymouth Falls participated in Healthy Wells Day. Twenty-three homes participated in Greenville and 26 in Weymouth. The group sent the water samples to Halifax, FREE of any charges.

- On November 8, 2020, Rural Water Watch conducted the second round of testing with community organizers participating in sample collection activities. The event was successful, and residents were eager to receive their results.
- On **November 18, 2020**, Southwest Nova Scotia held its first Regional Service Providers Network (RSPN) Virtual Meeting. Ten people volunteered to participate. The first meeting consisted of an overview of how an RSPN works, its value in marginalized communities, and creating the terms of reference. The second meeting was on December 15, and the third will be on January 21, 2021.

SHOUT OUT!

Shout Out!!! Black Girl Magic

Black Girl Magic is a new, not-for-profit organization dedicated to working with women, girls, and African descent children who live in Colchester County. Their mission is to help ensure nobody gets left behind due to the many systems of anti-black racism. Black Girl Magic aims to promote awareness in the following areas: education, (un)justice, seniors, mental wellness and community capacity building through services, resources and supports.

Founder of Black Girl Magic, Tracey Dorrington Skinner, values the protection and promotion of human rights for all people. She is especially interested in the security, safety and wellbeing of African Nova Scotian women and girls. Tracey has been a reliable source of support to the people she serves and engages with community members and organizations to meet specific needs.

Tracey has extensive knowledge about the systemic issues, societal barriers and oppression affecting Black women and girls. She strives to promote awareness and positive change towards outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. Tracey is a voice and advocate for women's rights protection, mainly as they affect the African Nova Scotian population.

For more information about Black Girl Magic, contact **blackgirlmagiccolchester@gmail.com** or (902) 956-1136.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & HERITAGE: GRANTS AND AWARDS

Call for applications and nomination!!!

The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH) supports community infrastructure needs to help build stronger communities across the province. In addition, CCH appreciates the valuable time and contributions of volunteers through its provincial awards.

PROVINCIAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Every April in celebration of National Volunteer Week, the Province of Nova Scotia celebrates volunteers nominated by organizations and communities at the Provincial Volunteer Awards. There are several awards available to provide nominee for:

- Speciality Awards
- Youth Volunteer Award
- Family Volunteer Award
- Nova Scotia Strong Award

Deadline to submit a nomination is March 1, 2021: https://novascotia.ca/NonProfitSector/ProvincialVolunteerAwards/

COMMUNITY FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This program supports community-led projects to enhance public use of existing facilities such as repairs to building exteriors and interior features that are integral to the long-term sustainability of the facility. Grants up to \$50,000.

Deadline to apply is February 28, 2021: https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future/community-facilities-improvement-program.





CENSUS 2021

JOIN THE 2021 CENSUS TEAM!

Looking to make a lasting contribution to Canada, its communities, and people? Canada's next census will take place in May 2021. Statistics Canada is hiring approximately 32,000 people across the country to work on the collection phase of the 2021 Census. In the current context of COVID-19, we are always committed to ensuring the safety of our employees.

Available jobs for the 2021 Census include supervisory and non-supervisory positions that require collecting census data from residents in your community, mostly on evenings and weekends. Start and end dates vary by position and location, and are between March and July 2021.

If you're interested in helping your community to plan for the future, and meeting new people while earning extra income, then this is the right opportunity for you! Apply online at **www.census.gc.ca/jobs**.

FAITES PARTIE DE L'ÉQUIPE DU RECENSEMENT DE 2021!

Souhaitez-vous apporter une contribution durable au Canada, à ses collectivités et à sa population? Le prochain recensement du Canada se tiendra en mai 2021. Statistique Canada embauchera environ 32 000 personnes partout au pays pour travailler à la collecte des données du Recensement de 2021. Dans le contexte actuel de la COVID-19, nous nous engageons à assurer la sécurité de nos employés en tout temps.

Les emplois offerts au Recensement de 2021 comprennent des postes de supervision et des postes sans fonction de supervision qui exigent de recueillir des données de recensement auprès des résidents de votre collectivité, surtout le soir et la fin de semaine. Les dates de début et de fin d'emploi varient selon le poste et le lieu de travail, et se situent entre mars et juillet 2021.

Si vous souhaitez aider votre collectivité à planifier pour l'avenir et faire de nouvelles rencontres tout en gagnant un revenu supplémentaire, c'est l'occasion idéale pour vous! Postulez en ligne à www.recensement.gc.ca/emplois.



Statistics Canada Statistique

ANSA REGIONAL OFFICES

