

Winter 2022

PASSAGES & PROSPERITY

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

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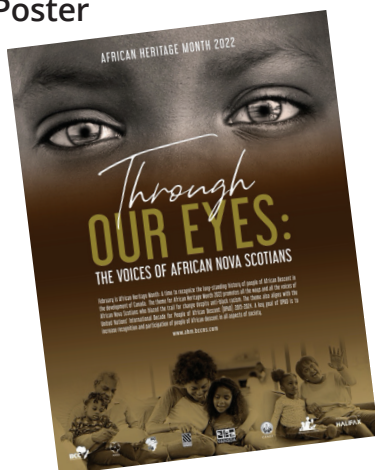
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On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, I am honoured to introduce the Winter 2022 edition of the ANSA Newsletter: Passages and Prosperity.

In August 2021, I was appointed to serve as Minister for African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA). My priorities are working with the more than 50 African Nova Scotian communities and sharing this important work with my colleagues and fellow cabinet members to advance the interests and needs of African Nova Scotian communities within government.

I will rely on Associate Deputy Minister Dwayne Provo, ANSA staff, and African Nova Scotian community members as we address issues that impact African Nova Scotian communities. We are working on some exciting initiatives to advance ANSA's key priorities, including expansion of ANSA's presence across the province, and we are pleased to share more information about that in this newsletter.

I am dedicated, both personally and professionally, to doing my best to help address the systemic racism, discrimination, and historical injustices that continue to impact African Nova Scotian communities.

I hope that through my actions I can help bring positive change and build trust. Thank you and please enjoy the ANSA Newsletter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Pat Dunn, M.L.A.

Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs
Minister of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives

ASSOCIATE DEPUTY MINISTER'S MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Winter 2022 edition of the ANSA Newsletter: Passages and Prosperity. This newsletter is a great source for sharing, promoting, and supporting community initiatives and information related to African Nova Scotians. African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) is a vital link connecting our African Nova Scotian communities to government. The office works with provincial government departments and community organizations to champion the work to bring better solutions for people of African descent.

In my role as Associate Deputy Minister of ANSA, one of my priorities is to increase communication to make sure community members are well-informed about ANSA's role, what we are working on, and how we can serve the communities' needs. I see three key areas of focus for our work:

- Increasing access - Making sure all our African Nova Scotian communities feel informed and empowered on how to access what they need from government programs and services
- Building capacity - Helping equip communities with the knowledge, tools, and resources to grow and thrive
- Taking Action - Working with communities to address pressing issues and needs

I am happy to say that ANSA is currently working on next steps to advance these key priorities, including recently announcing the expansion into three additional regions with offices in Digby (supporting Annapolis, Digby and Kings counties), New Glasgow (supporting Antigonish, Pictou and Guysborough), and the Preston area (supporting North Preston, East Preston Cherrybrook and Lake Loon). This is in addition to our regional offices in Sydney, Truro, Halifax, and Yarmouth, which will allow for enhanced supports for the African Nova Scotian communities they serve. Please stay tuned for more news and do not hesitate to reach out to ANSA at any time.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dwayne Provo'.

Dwayne Provo

Associate Deputy Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs



ANSA Says Goodbye to Wayn Hamilton

With mixed emotions, ANSA is wishing a warm goodbye to executive director Wayn Hamilton, who retired from the civil service on January 28. Wayn has been with ANSA since Day One, moving from what was then the Department of Education to help establish the new office in 2005. Under his guidance, ANSA has grown to include regional offices across Nova Scotia, with a reach that goes beyond provincial borders.

Wayn has excelled as a bridge-builder and connector: between ANSA and other departments; between government and community; between historic African Nova Scotian communities and newcomers; and between Nova Scotia and the broader African Diaspora.

With his support and leadership in initiatives like hosting the African Diaspora Heritage Trail conference in 2011 and positioning Nova Scotia as a leader in recognizing the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, Wayn has helped raise the profile of Nova Scotia's historic African presence across Canada and throughout the world.

We could fill a whole issue of Passages & Prosperity reflecting on the impact of his legacy, but on a more personal note, ANSA staff will miss Wayn's sneaky sense of humour, his commitment to celebrating everyone's birthday—never miss an opportunity for cake!—and above all, the warmth and generosity that shines through in everything he does.

We will miss you, Wayn, and we know you will not be a stranger. All the best in the next phase of your journey.

~ Dwayne Provo



Wayn, from your Cape Breton ANSA employees/family who also beat to the sound of their own drum, we want to thank you for your wisdom, your leadership, and your humility. Always treating us with the upmost respect and trusting us to work and support our Cape Breton African Nova Scotian communities. We will be forever thankful, knowing we have learned from the best, straight out of Beechville, Nova Scotia, Mr. Wayn Hamilton, with much gratitude...

~ Chantel, Lillian & Shequinta ANSA Family

Thank you Wayn for the years of "service." But I think it's better stated the years of devotion to ANSA, the African Nova Scotian community, government, civil society, and individuals/groups in which you have without doubt; made a difference!



Thank you, sir (I know, I know take out the sir). However, in this instance its well-earned and deserved. And from our African roots: Asante Sana, Nana Wayn

~ Colin

Dearest Wayn,
There is so much that can and will be said about you, your contributions, and the legacy you have created. Just know, your guidance, patience and upmost respect for others have been and will continue to be cherished. There are many different types of people in this world, and Wayn, YOU are in a class all your own, next level. You will be truly missed.

~ Troy

Dear Wayn,
Thank you for your leadership, guidance, and determination in helping government along the way. You remained committed and unwavering on the importance of change for the betterment of our communities. We have experienced many challenges and triumphs together. You were never afraid to share your knowledge, skills, or experiences along the way so others could learn and grow. Thank you for remaining who you are and teaching us that family always comes first. It is my hope that our paths will cross again. Wishing you good health and happiness in your next chapter. As you say...stay tuned!

~ Margo Hampden

NEW REGIONAL OFFICES

New Regional Offices Increase Support for African Nova Scotian Communities

On January 17, the Province announced the establishment of new African Nova Scotian Affairs regional offices in Digby, New Glasgow, and the Preston area.

The three new regional offices will give African Nova Scotian communities across the province increased access to government support, programs, and services.

"We've heard loud and clear that rural African Nova Scotian communities have unique needs and concerns, and they need greater access to supports and services," said Pat Dunn, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs. "This is a step to make sure we're serving African Nova Scotian communities from one end of the province to the other."

The hiring process is underway to support the regional offices will begin soon, and the offices are expected to open in the coming weeks.

"Access is paramount if we are to strengthen our support to African Nova Scotian communities," said Dwayne Provo, Associate Deputy Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

Read the full news release at
<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20220117003>.

Celebrate African Heritage Month 2022

Sharing the History and Culture of African Nova Scotians

2022 Theme: Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme, Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians, recognizes the long-standing history of people of African Descent in the development of Canada. This theme explores and examines the effects of anti-Black racism and the voice of African Nova Scotians who blazed the trail for change. 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 in support of people of African descent, increase awareness, and the passage towards presence in all aspects of society.

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

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.

For more information about African History Month, please contact:

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

Website: <https://bccns.com>

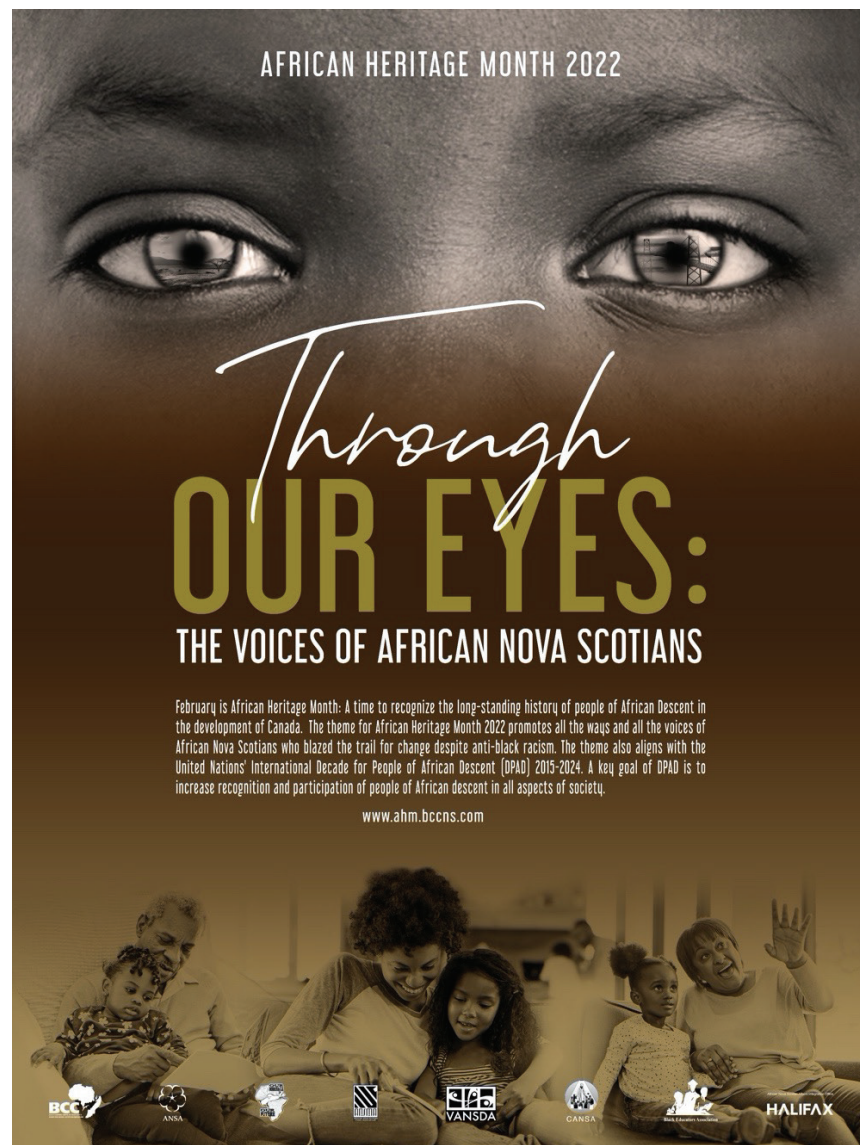
Phone: (902) 434-6223

Email: contact@bccns.com

2022 AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH POSTER

To download a digital copy of the 2022 African Heritage Month Poster or find a location to pick up a physical copy of the poster in both English and French, please visit <http://www.ahm.bccnsweb.com/wp/home>.

To view events happening during African Heritage Month in your area and across the province, please visit the calendar at <http://www.ahm.bccnsweb.com/wp/events>.





Covid-19 boosters are now available for youth 12 to 17 years old who:

- have an underlying medical condition that may put them at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, including those who are immunocompromised and who have already received a three-dose primary series (for adolescents who are immunocompromised, a booster dose would be their fourth dose)
- are residents of congregate living settings, including shelters, group homes, quarters for migrant workers and correctional facilities
- belong to racialized or marginalized communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Read the full news release at

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20220209002>.

People can still book their first, second or booster appointments online at

<https://novascotia.ca/vaccination>

or by calling the toll-free line: 1-833-797-7772.

NOVA SCOTIA REOPENING PLAN

Nova Scotia is moving up the timeline for easing public health restrictions. Starting Monday, February 28, Phase 1 of the Province's reopening plan will be adjusted to end the current requirement to show proof of full vaccination before participating in non-essential, discretionary events and activities. Other Phase 1 restrictions continue.



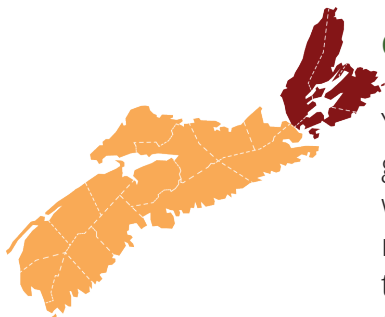
Phase 2 will start March 7. capacity limits and gathering limits will increase. p Masks and distancing are still required in Phase 2. All public health restrictions outside the health care system will end when Phase 3 starts on March 21, including the need for masks and distancing. Some restrictions may continue in high-risk settings.

Details of each phase can be found at

<https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan>.

A Look Back

CAPE BRETON REGION

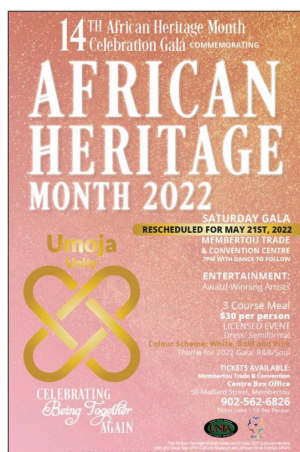


Year two of the pandemic has left our African Nova Scotian community groups pivoting to keep the community spirit alive. This roller-coaster that we are all on is very challenging and at times tests our patience. Our communities are left feeling exhausted, overworked and definitely over-volunteered. But at the end of every rainstorm there is a rainbow. Our groups in Cape Breton will keep on abiding by all guidelines and restrictions for the betterment of their communities.

In August 2021, in Cape Breton we held the first annual Emancipation Day Celebration at the Fortress of Louisbourg. This was a great first annual event with a great community turnout. Many thanks to the Fortress for their partnership and leadership. Our African Nova Scotian youth were there in full participation, and we are looking forward to planning the 2nd annual Emancipation Day in August 2022.

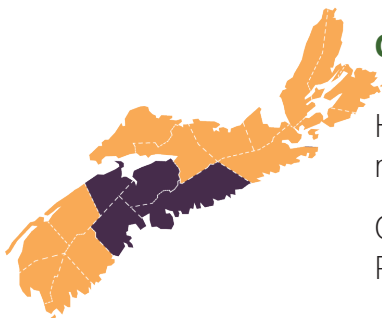
The Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) held Covid-19 vaccination clinics in two of our communities in June 2021. Glace Bay UNIA Hall in the community of Glace Bay and the Menelik Hall in the community of Whitney Pier were able to recruit volunteers and both clinics were very successful and had a great turnout from our African Nova Scotian communities. In late December, ABSW brought back the vaccination clinic to Whitney Pier - Menelik Hall and again there was a lot of interest for our African Nova Scotian community members who, if eligible, were able to receive 1st and 2nd doses as well as boosters.

This latest wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has left planning for African Heritage Month 2022 a challenge to say the least. After several changes, we realized community is always the most important. Each African Heritage Month, our communication and messaging is always the same, we let it be known that African Heritage should not be celebrated just one short month out of the year but it should be celebrated daily. Well, 2022 will put that to the test. This year's African Heritage Month Gala and Opening Proclamation will be rescheduled to May 20-21, 2022. The African Heritage Month Proclamation will take place on Friday, May 20 at noon at Centre 200 (481 George Street) and is open to everyone. The 14th African Heritage Month Gala will take place on Saturday, May 21 at Membertou Trade & Convention Centre; this event is sold out. We are hoping these celebrations will give our communities something to look forward to. And when it is safe to do so we will 'Celebrate Being Together Again.'



Until then we will remain committed to doing things that keep us all safe and for now that may mean working together virtually. The work doesn't stop, just like the world doesn't stop. We will keep going knowing that one day we will have learned a lot of new techniques and working structures that will make us all more multi-functional and versatile.

Until next time, stay safe, stay connected and stay kind!



CENTRAL REGION

Here's a snapshot of some key community events over the past several months:

On October 15, the Road to Economic Prosperity Action Committee (RE-PAC) held a Summit to report back to the community.

On November 1, Dalhousie & King's University jointly held a preconference event for the 2023 Universities Studying Slavery Conference with Keynote Lecture by Sir Hilary Beckles.

On November 20, Dalhousie African Student Society (DASS) hosted African Night 2021 at Dalhousie University.

On November 26, Black Business Initiative (BBI) celebrated its 25th Anniversary at a Dinner and Gala.

Black Business Initiative
25th
1996-2021

25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

A Milestone with Momentum

Friday, Nov. 26, 2021
5:30pm: Networking Reception
7:00pm Dinner

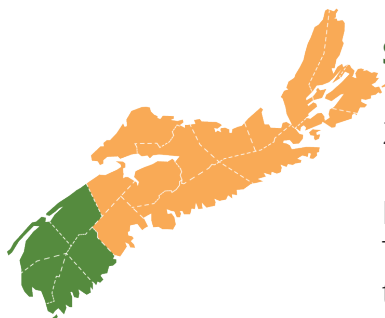
Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel
Nova Scotia Ballroom
919 Upper Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

To purchase tickets or corporate tables:
www.bbi.ca/events
Attire: Business Formal.
Proof of vaccination is required.

Keynote Speaker:
Ross Simmonds
Founder & CEO
Foundation Marketing

On December 10, North Preston Day Care celebrated its 50th anniversary.

On December 11, United African Canadian Women's Association (UACWA) held its annual Holiday Gala in the Rosario Hall at Mount Saint Vincent University.



SOUTHERN REGION

2021–2022 Public Engagement on Derogatory Names in Shelburne County

Historical Background:

The public engagement team consulted with more than 200 participants in the summer of 2021 to find new names for four locations in the Barrington and Shelburne areas. The current names are perceived to be derogatory in nature and need to be changed.

The process started with Geographical Information Services receiving two similar applications from citizens in 2016 and 2018 requesting a change of derogatory names in Shelburne and Barrington Districts including Cape Negro (community), Cape Negro Island, Cape Negro (cape on the island), and Negro Harbour.

Subsequently, a meeting was held with Shelburne and Barrington District Municipalities, the Black Loyalist Heritage Society, Communications Nova Scotia, African Nova Scotian Affairs and others, and public engagement was held from June 7 to July 23. The primary focus was to create awareness of the initiative and to seek new place names from Shelburne County residents and other key stakeholders through mail, online, or by phone. We encouraged names that reflect African Nova Scotian heritage and culture. Ultimately, the name changing process will result in new place names, mailing addresses and civic address changes.

Where we are today:

Suggestions for new names reflecting our African Nova Scotia heritage were received and researched, and a short-list was created for residents to participate in the final selection in November. In the beginning of December, a letter and survey were mailed to the residents in Shelburne County and we will accept name suggestions until the end of February. The plan is to have all suggested names reviewed by early March and for the new chosen names to be announced by the end of March.



Transit Association of Guysborough (TAG): A New Community Transit Service Helping the African Nova Scotian Community in Guysborough

The Transit Association of Guysborough (TAG) is finally up and on the roads for residents in Guysborough County. Although consultations and talks with the Rural Transportation Association, African Nova Scotian Affairs, the NS Department of Business and community organizations and residents of Guysborough began in 2019, conversations about a transit service in Guysborough County has been in the works for more than a decade. Through a lot of hard work, dedication, and collaboration with the volunteers all having the same vision, TAG is up and providing transportation for residents in Guysborough County, especially for members of the African Nova Scotian Community.

*Left to right:
Sabrina Skinner,
TAG Board Member;
Catherine Hartling,
TAG Board Chair;
and Mary Desmond,
Municipal Councillor
cutting the ribbon
at the TAG launch
November 27, 2021.*



Left to right: Sabrina Skinner, TAG Board Member; Catherine Hartling, TAG Board Chair; and Mary Desmond, Municipal Councillor cutting the ribbon at the TAG launch November 27, 2021.

TAG is a non-profit, community-based public transit provider serving communities of Guysborough, the Town of Mulgrave, Canso, and surrounding areas. TAG's mission is to improve the quality of life for residents by providing dependable, affordable, and inclusive community-based transportation through our door-to-door and book a ride service. TAG is made possible with funding support from the Government of Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. TAG is also the twentieth organization to join the Rural Transportation Association throughout the province of Nova Scotia.

How the transit works: The transit is booked on a first-call, first-serve basis, with medical appointments taking priority. This option will have a driver come to your door, pick you up and take you where you need to go, whether it be an appointment, a shopping trip, or just a social outing. TAG currently operates two vehicles: a Toyota Sienna Hybrid and a Dodge Caravan being adapted for wheelchair accessibility.



TAG vehicle at the Food Pantry near Upper Big Tracadie

TAG had their official launch and ribbon cutting on November 27, 2021, at the Guysborough Lifestyle Complex. It was opened to the public with light snacks being served. It was a great opportunity for the public to meet our drivers, Executive Director and Board members to ask questions about our services. Municipal Councillor Mary Desmond, who represents the African Nova Scotian communities of Lincolnville, Sunnyville, Upper Big Tracadie, mentioned "For many years, members of the African Nova Scotia community have been deprived of activities and events due to the lack of transportation. This is a great day for all citizens of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough and the Transit Association of Guysborough." Desmond called on all community members to support the service. There will be upcoming launches for the African Nova Scotian communities sometime in 2022.

Email: guysboroughtransit@gmail.com

Website: guysborough.ruralrides.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/guysbroughtransit.ruralrides>

Women Unlimited

If you are thinking about changing or starting a new career path, then Women Unlimited might be right for you!

We help women explore careers in trades and technology. Want to learn more? Contact us at one of our 3 locations and learn about our 14-week program.

CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM: New Program starting March 2022

Halifax- (902)471.5901
yvette.jarvis@nscc.ca

Dartmouth - (902)943.9786 shelley.wallace@nscc.ca

Cape Breton - (902)919.2616 bernadette.johnson@nscc.ca

Our website: <https://www.womenunlimitedns.ca/>

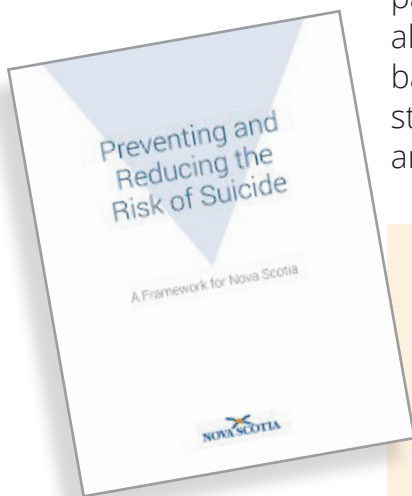


Suicide Prevention Framework Campaign

We want to hear from you!

The Government of Nova Scotia launched an online survey to hear from a broad and diverse range of Nova Scotians on the topic of mental health and help-seeking. If you reside in Nova Scotia and are 18 years of age or older, you are welcome to take this survey. Responses are anonymous and will be used to inform the actions under the Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction (SPRR) Framework. The SPRR Framework guides partners with 20 recommendations over six areas of action and holds health equity as a foundational principle.

As you know, January 26 was 2022 Bell Lets Talk Day, and this year's campaign has a heartfelt message about reaching out for help. This is not always easy for some to do for a variety of reasons; there can be many barriers that stop someone from seeking help when they need it. Understanding how and why people seek help is important to reducing stigma and providing the right supports.



NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, please call the Provincial Mental Health Crisis Line toll-free at 1-888-429-8167 or call 9-1-1. Or go to your nearest hospital or emergency department.

If the situation is less urgent, but you are still experiencing mental distress, please seek support. Mental health and addiction services are available at <https://mha.nshealth.ca/en/services>.

Or you can call 2-1-1 to find supports in your area.

If you are a young person ages 5 to 20, you can also call Kids Help Phone toll-free at 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868 for urgent or less urgent support.

BRIDGE INTO AGRICULTURE:

A PROGRAM FOR AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIANS

Learn the steps of gardening! From planning and design, straight through to maintenance and harvest.

March 21, 2022 - August 15, 2022

Application Deadline: February 27, 2022

The majority of this course will be delivered online. Participants will hear from guest speakers and be given the opportunity to tour farms and farming facilities.

A Dalhousie certificate will be given to those who successfully complete the course.

For more information, to register, or to apply, please contact Caitlyn Clements:
cclements@nsfa-fane.ca
(902) 893-2293



Thanks to our funders, African Nova Scotian Affairs and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, bursaries to cover the full costs of this course are available to those selected as participants.





Through Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (CCTH) there are a variety of funding programs, grants, and awards available for individuals and organizations in Nova Scotia. They are an important part of sustaining and growing our culture and heritage sectors. By investing in innovation, creativity and arts, these programs help industries succeed, create jobs, support artists, and enhance our communities.

Where can I find these funding programs? Visit the CCTH website

Information about all funding programs, grants and awards are available on the CCTH website. Click the link to visit the webpage -

<https://cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future>

Need help Applying? Contact your Program Officer.

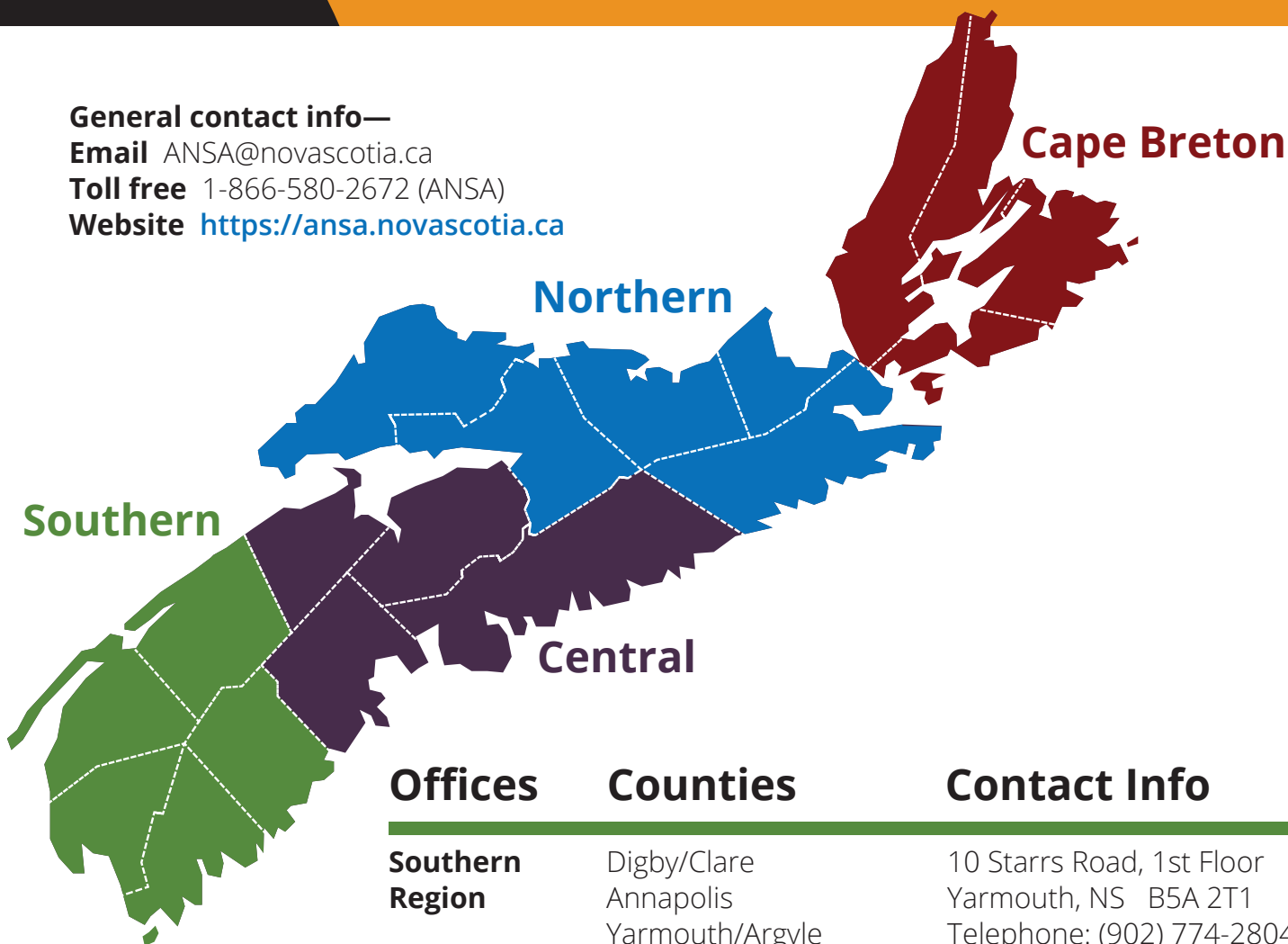
Program officers are available to assist you with your application and answer any questions about their programs. Names and contact information are included in the funding program overviews.

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, Second Floor, Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1P 5T9 Telephone: (902) 563-3735 Fax: (902) 563-2700