



# **Community Voices: A stakeholder initiative**

## **Community Profile Template**

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The Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) assists, supports, and enhances the provincial government's delivery of services to African Nova Scotians. It acts as a conduit in developing innovative solutions that lead to self-reliance and sustainable development for African Nova Scotians and their communities.

This guide is a template developed by the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) for the Community Voices initiative.

Communities are encouraged to:

- Complete the community template provided in this guide and submit to ANSA.
- Think in terms of local, provincial and international positioning of the importance of African Nova Scotian culture and communities.

### **Who is this guide intended for?**

The answer to the question: Who is responsible to research information about the African communities in NS? simply stated, is African NS communities, who are self-empowered and interested in promotion and advancement of their culture and heritage.

### **Examples of who may submit information**

Organizations, non-profits, businesses, or societies dedicated to the promotion, protection and advancement of African Nova Scotia culture, heritage and advocacy. Also these identified groups are encouraged to work in partnership with;

- Municipal offices or societies focused on community development and asset mapping
- Local archivists, historians, librarians.

- Tourism and development personnel within the communities interested to increase the amount of information available about the area.
- Active community volunteers or established community leaders.
- Summer students of African Nova Scotian descent working with affiliate organizations.

### **What is the purpose of this guide?**

The purpose of this guide is to encourage communities to preserve, promote and celebrate aspects of the African Nova Scotian experience.

### **Why is collection, storage and sharing of community profiles important?**

The information submitted by the more than 48 communities in the Province of Nova Scotia, will help elevate over 20,000 persons of African Descent to an international scale.

This information will also be used to help educate communities about one another, education Nova Scotians and Canadians about the history of Black populations as being among the first settlers and as an important part of the NS tapestry.

\*Also see the documentation regarding criteria for asserting sites of significance to help gain a sense of the why this matters.

### **Why does this work matter outside of NS?**

This aspect of Community Voices Initiative is paramount to aligning our communities as part of Trans-Atlantic slave project which is attempting to globally map sites of significance of African Diaspora settlements.

The Community Voices initiative is in alignment with the ANSA mission to advance African Nova Scotians. While ANSA acts as a catalyst for this important work, this project cannot be accomplished or successful without community champions and leaders who are willing to own the responsibilities for advancing their own communities.

- ANSA will act as the facilitator of data collected.
- The role of ANSA will be to assist in determining what standard content should be collected, and how that information will be presented, shared and stored.
- This project cannot be accomplished without community champions and leaders.
- ANSA will not be sending researchers out to collect the information in suggested in the template.

# Information Collection Storage and Sharing

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Data to be used as the corner stone to mapping the history of our communities electronically and in the archives. The goal is that completed templates will be compiled into an online virtual tour of Nova Scotian African Communities.

## **Where can the information be collected from?**

- Captured oral traditions (transcribing and recording elders)
- Church records.
- Starting points may be libraries, history books, and online data bases, archives
- Searching old news papers (micro fiches found in libraries)
- Registered land claims and other deeds and titles found in municipal and provincial records systems.
- Statistics Canada

## **In addition to the information suggested for submission on the template below, also consider submission of:**

- Copies of the archives or newspapers used.
- Citations for the information submitted.

# Community Profile Template

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Please complete:

This form is completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

In association with: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit to ANSA via email, fax or mail.

## **ANSA Main Office**

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The following template provides a fake community profile for communities to use as an example when developing their own community profiles.

**COMMUNITY NAME:**

**Model Community**

*Novaville* is located in the Northeastern portion of the province on Cape Breton island in Inverness county.

The community is bounded by the Gulf of St Lawrence to the east, Highway 219 (Shore Road) to the west and is 6 KM north of the town of Inverness.

*Novaville* was originally called Pierpoint for its beautiful view of the pier in the town of Inverness.

In 1827 a number of black families from Beakerville were sent to Pierpoint to help maintain Pierpoint and Sea Wolf Island, 17 km north of Inverness in the Gulf St Lawrence with the expectation of receiving their land promised as Black Loyalist from the War the British loss of the colonies.

Those black families that settled began to call their community *Novaville* in relation to the community from where they came, in South Carolina.

By 1899, *Novaville* officially became the name of the community with now 40+ families and population of 340.

Many of the families

**LOCATION:**

**HISTORY:**

*Things to include- Name and any previous name(s) of the community and how did its current name come about; when the community was founded; any churches and/or schools that were built in the community; prominent family names, workers in the past, 1 or 2 events of historical importance*

worked.....

- In the mid 1900s.....
- In the 1940's, 1950's, 1960's

Today you will find residents working in occupations such as:

The Population of the area from the most recent census is 789. Over 50% of the population are 55 and older  
OR  
It is estimated that population of the area maybe around 903 since the most recent census does not give a true reflection of the population. Over 50% of the population are 55 and older.

**POPULATION TODAY:**

*Can include population characteristics as- gender percentage, age demographics (i.e. 20% are under 14; 40% are over 65) any population trends (decline or increase in population over the past 10-20 years)*

There are 2 churches in *Novaville*, the Novaville African Baptist Church which has been part of the AUBA since 1866 and at its current location and building structure since 1891.

A Church hall was constructed in the 1960s adjacent to the church Baptist Church.

The "Rose community hall" or "Rose Hospital" as it was referred to; doubled for both a community gathering place and a hospital on the small 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the late 1890s to the early 1960s.

Most of the early residents

**Sites of memory or significance:**

*These are monuments, places of interests and/or historical landmarks that say "we are here" and have been here for sometime (churches, cemetery with war veterans, a park, community halls, a statue, etc.)*

of Novaville if not birthed at home, were born at “Rose hospital” and similarly most who were not buried at either of the two church sites were buried at the back of “Rose”. The site was labelled “Rose” for the countless roses and other flowers that appeared every spring.

Capt. Jon “Hope” Franklin-fought in WWII with the 197<sup>th</sup> battalion, being the only Black soldier of this all Cape Breton battalion

Rev. Colin Winstin and his wife Sis. Betty were the first religious leaders in the community.

Rev. Williams began the first church in *Novaville* in 1833 as a 26 yr old pastor. He was pastor of the Baptist church until his passing in 1867 a year after the church joined the AUBA.

*Novaville* Ratepayers Association (est. 1970)-responsible for lobbying government on community infrastructure

Seven Day Adventist church Women’s Auxiliary (est. 1959)

In the 1970’s the first Girl Guide troop was formed.

In the 1990’s the Youth Voices Society was formed.

**People of memory or significance:**

*These are individuals who are no longer with us, yet have contributed to development or advancement of African Nova Scotians in your community and in the province and/or for people of African descent in Canada, or prominent sports or musicians who may draw a following to visit the community.*

**Community Organizations in your community**

*What are current community organization or groups working in the your community*