

Fall 2021

October 2021

# PASSAGES & PROSPERITY

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

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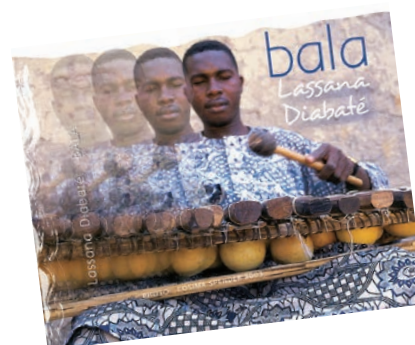
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## Land Titles Initiative Update

A \$3 million compensation fund to accelerate efforts to address the legacy of systemic racism relating to land ownership in historic African Nova Scotian communities has been established. This fund will be used to resolve cases that involve parties with competing claims and help speed up efforts under the Land Titles Initiative (LTI). The LTI was established in 2017 to provide clear title to residents of the communities of East Preston, North Preston, Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, Lincolnville and Sunnyville who qualify under the initiative.



*Honourable  
Valerie Miller*

The Land Titles Clarification Act allows for Commissioner/s to be appointed to examine claims and provide mediation or arbitration resolution services to help resolve contested claims. The Honourable Corrine Sparks and The Honourable Valerie Miller (retired), have been appointed as Commissioners to adjudicate disputes. These esteemed jurists will be responsible for examining claims and providing alternative dispute resolution methods.



*Honourable  
Corrine Sparks*

Under the Land Titles Initiative all legal and surveyor fees are covered at no cost to the applicant. To date, the Land Titles Initiative has been successful in clearing approximately 194 parcels from more than 527 applications received, and more than 850 eligible parcels. A community liaison committee comprised of residents from the five Land Titles Initiative communities has been formed to ensure the province receives input from affected citizens and ensure government accountability.

### THE LAND TITLES INITIATIVE ACCELERATION ACT

On March 23, 2021, the government tabled legislation aimed at removing barriers to land ownership in five of the province's historic African Nova Scotian communities. The Land Title Initiative Acceleration Act became law in April 19th, 2021. The Land Titles Initiative Acceleration Act will speed up the settling of land titles in the communities of North and East Preston, Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, Lincolnville and Sunnyville. The proposed changes would recognize the province's Land Titles Initiative in law and expand the role of commissioners by creating a dispute resolution process that he said will help avoid claims getting bogged down in the courts. The bill also establishes the \$3-million compensation fund that was announced earlier this year. Residents seeking title would also be exempted from the requirement to receive approval for subdividing their land. In addition to the legislative amendments, the investment also includes hiring additional staff to boost the Land Titles team.

For more information about the Land Titles Initiative, please visit  
<https://novascotia.ca/land-titles/>

To speak with a Community Navigator or schedule a meeting by  
calling toll free number or emailing

Phone: 1-833-424-6100

Email: [communitynavigator@novascotia.ca](mailto:communitynavigator@novascotia.ca)

After the municipal election we were remised in acknowledging the following African Nova Scotina officials. Our Apologies.

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Gail Smith

*Municipality:* Deputy Mayor for the Town of Middleton

*Term:* First elected in a by-election in 2012 and elected once again in October 2020

*Contact:* gsmith@town.middleton.ns.ca  
(902) 825-6783



### Francis Kangata

*Municipality:* Deputy Mayor for the Town of Mahone Bay

*Term:* 1st term

*Contact:* francis.kangata@townofmahonebay.ca



## CENTRAL REGION

### June Granger

*Municipality:* Municipality of the County of Kings

*District/Ward:* District 1

*Term:* 1st term

*Contact:* councillor.granger@countyofkings.ca  
(902) 582-7083



### Norval Edward Mitchell

*Municipality:* Deputy Warden for the Municipality of East Hants

*District/Ward:* District 2 - Elmsdale-Belhan

*Term:* First elected in 2008 and again 2012, and returned as councillor in 2020

*Contact:* 902-888-9167



Previously profiled elected African Nova Scotian Councillors featured in the ANSA Winter 2020/2021 Newsletter were:

Steve “Bear” Berry (Town of Yarmouth)

Iona Stoddard (Halifax Regional Municipality)

Lindell Smith (Halifax Regional Municipality)

Wilfred “Hal” Davidson (Town of Amherst)

Mary Desmond (The Municipality of the District of Guysborough)

Russell Borden Jr. (The Municipality of New Glasgow)

Jocelyn Dorrington (The Municipality of New Glasgow)

Wayne L Talbot (Town of Truro)

Lorne Green (Cape Breton Regional Municipality)

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Vaccine Reminder



**Be part of rolling up our sleeves to beat this thing together.**

Leona Atwell, Dykeland Lodge, Windsor, is part of our way forward.

 **NOVA SCOTIA**



**Be part of our way forward. #VACCINATENS**

[novascotia.ca/VaccinePlan](https://novascotia.ca/VaccinePlan)

# REGIONAL UPDATES: A LOOK BACK

## CAPE BRETON REGION

As we reflect on the events in the last 4 to 6 months, we are staying hopeful, keeping busy and doing the best we can at a time that is challenging for many people. With 2021 being a different year due to COVID-19, groups found themselves working hard to do something special. Although there was no African Heritage Month Gala, groups were still able to hold a virtual proclamation.

On January 29, 2021, the 14th Virtual African Heritage Month Proclamation and Poster Unveiling for Cape Breton Regional Municipality took place for the first time at the Glace Bay UNIA Hall featuring Mr. Owen Lee and The Drummers from Home. The event was led by our African Nova Scotian youth. Jaxon Macdonald, a Grade 9 Student at Sydney Academy, was the master of ceremonies (his third time in this role). Jaxon was joined by two sisters from the Glace Bay community, Kenya Estwick, a grade 7 student at OVEC Middle School and Hunter Estwick, a grade 9 student at Glace Bay High School. Kiana King MacDonald, a grade 5 student at St. Anne's Elementary, was our youngest volunteer. The video production was done by Mr. Jason LeFrense of JLF Production. Participants wore t-shirts celebrating the month which were created by the owners of Powerful Creative, Ms. Robyn Martelly and Ms. Whitney Green. With over 6,000 views, the Cape Breton Proclamation can be watched on:

Facebook: @CBRMgov

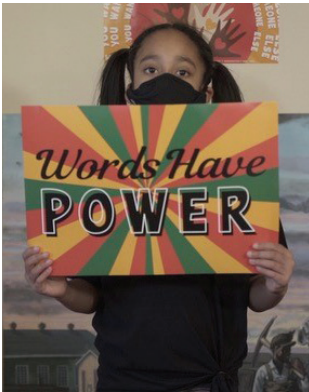
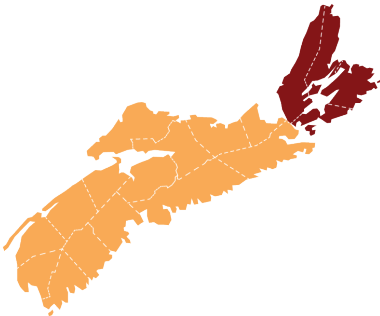
YouTube: [youtube.com/CapeBretonRegionalMunicipality](https://www.youtube.com/CapeBretonRegionalMunicipality)

In February 2021, virtual events for African Heritage Month were held at the Glace Bay UNIA, the Boys & Girls Club of Cape Breton, and Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education.

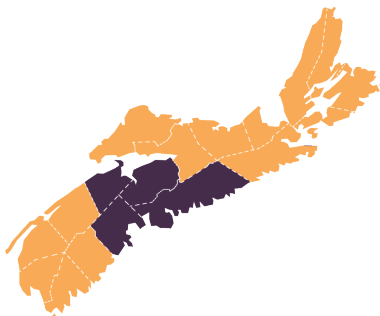
If you have a story and photo submission that we should feature in the Cape Breton Regional updates, please email Chantel Reid-Demeter, Program Administration Officer, at [Chantel.Reid-Demeter@novascotia.ca](mailto:Chantel.Reid-Demeter@novascotia.ca).

## CENTRAL REGION

On January 15th, 2021, the Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) hosted a Town Hall Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 vaccine and the Black community



*14th Virtual African Heritage Month Proclamation and Poster Unveiling*



On January 18th, 2021, the Black Student Advising Centre (BSAC) organized an African Heritage month event to honour Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the topic, "Resiliency at Difficult Times While Hoping for a Better Future".

On January 23rd, 2021, the United African Canadian Women's Association (UACWA), in collaboration with Public Health, organised a Town Hall Zoom meeting with youth on the topics: COVID-19: Vaccines, Facts vs. Fiction, and the Social Impact on youth.

On February 1st, 2021, the Nova Scotia Health Authority organized a presentation on the African Nova Scotian Health Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to create equitable health care, services, and programs as well as lowering the level of health disparities.

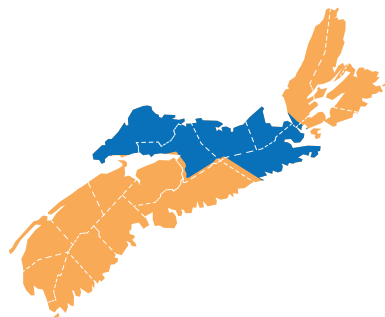
On February 12th, 2021, the United African Canadian Women's Association (UACWA), in collaboration with Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI), organized an African Youth Forum on the topics: Leadership/Mentorship, Employment, and Coping Strategies for Black Youth in Schools and Workplaces.

On March 6th, 2021, the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) hosted a Financial Education Workshop to help communities make informed choices to foster financial stability.

## NORTHERN REGION

In January 2021, the Town of Truro officially kicked off African Heritage Month with the raising of the Pan-African flag at the town hall office.

In February 2021, Upper Big Tracadie (UBT) Quilters started a new project - the Loyalist Quilt. This quilt will be an educational tool to share with schools and organizations across the province. The goal is to represent all 52 African Nova Scotian communities. They are currently looking for digital photos from each community. For more information or to send a photo, please contact Mary Desmond [handonmom@hotmail.ca](mailto:handonmom@hotmail.ca) or 902-870-5680.



In February 2021, the Sand Hill 10-piece art exhibit and new publication “Places and Faces” was held at the Cumberland County Museum and Archives. This generated interest and enthusiasm.

In February 2021, the Town of Truro Diversity Committee, in partnership with the Mentors Plus Strategy, held the first in-person concert of 2021 at the Marigold Cultural Centre. This event, in recognition of African Heritage Month, featured Ced Upshaw and Marty Williams. All COVID-19 protocols were in place.

In February 2021, the Colchester East-Hants Public Library displayed an African Heritage Month exhibit of African dolls on loan from the private collections of local African Nova Scotians.

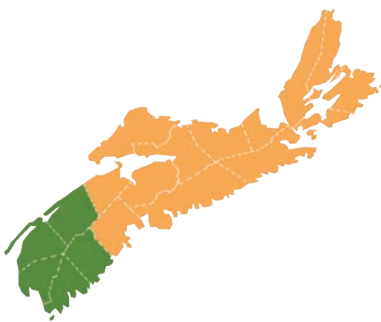
In February 2021, Life of Riley: Career of N.S. hockey trailblazer Bill Riley, from Amherst featured on CTV News Atlantic. The feature can be viewed at: <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/life-of-riley-career-of-n-s-hockey-trailblazer-bill-riley-remembered-during-black-history-month-1.5302816>

In February 2021, the Upper Big Tracadie Seniors Action Club, in partnership with the Wish for Senior Foundation, distributed chocolates and food cards for Valentine’s Day. The seniors were very appreciative and thankful which put many smiles on faces.

On February 14th, 2021, Black Girl Magic, in collaboration with the We Are Young non-profit organization, delivered 86 packages of chocolates to seniors in the Truro area for Valentines Day. This was very well received by the community.

## SOUTHERN REGION

In February 2021, it was announced that Vanessa Hartley, of Shelburne, is the recipient of the “Volunteer of the Year Award” for 2020. She was honoured by the local community and the municipality of Shelburne for her selfless contributions and commitments. Vanessa is currently the chair for the South End Environmental Injustice Society (SEED) and has been involved with community groups, fundraisers, and projects. She also spends her time sitting on the Black Loyalist Heritage Society and other boards across the region.



On February 20th, 2021, local community volunteer Wanda Doucette took on the enormous task of raising close to \$24,000, surpassing the \$20,000 goal, for the SHYFT House in Yarmouth– “The Coldest Night of The Year Event”. Wanda works with discouraged youth by providing shelter and meals when needed. Wanda says, “Even though most of the work is being done virtually right now, we are eager for a time when we can re-open SHYFT to allow youth to come into the house to access services such as meals, shower/laundry access, and socialize again”.

In March 2021, the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) and Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) COVID-19 Information Newsletter was circulated in the communities of Yarmouth, Greenville, and Pleasant Lake to make sure everyone is up to date on the supports available concerning health.

In March 2021, a virtual meeting was held with African Nova Scotian community members to discuss the Black Lives Matter Solidarity Fund Nova Scotia (BLMSFNS) eligible projects and fund distribution. The BLMSFNS donated \$25,000 to projects in the local area in the southern zone. and the South End Environmental Injustice Society (SEED) was designated the co-ordinator. The community was extremely excited to be included with such generosity.

As of Monday March 22nd, 2021, the Greenville Community Centre, in Yarmouth, is now available for community meetings and small gatherings as per covid-19 protocols.

On March 25th, the Southwest Regional Service Providers Network (RSPN) held their monthly virtual meeting. They are now up to 12 participants and two co-chairs. The February meeting was vibrant with great discussion and, now that they have a Mental Health Co-ordinator joining them, things can only get better.

## Stories from Community

Many stories and photos are shared with the ANSA Office. For this issue of the newsletter, we would like to share one submitted by Mrs. Kim King-MacDonald from Glace Bay.

### **KIM KING-MACDONALD**

This year's theme for African Heritage Month is "Black History Matters: Listen, Learn, Share, and Act." Which is fitting for the time we are currently living in with the Black Lives Matter movement and Covid 19 pandemic. We have had a trying year with the loss of our Dad/Poppy, combined with navigating through the pandemic. This little girl has had a lot of experiences this past year.

This year celebrations looked a little different going virtual. We are grateful Kiana was able to take part. We grieved the loss of our patriarch, which was a huge loss for our family. She experienced firsthand the impact of the Black Lives Matter Movement and participated in her first peaceful protest. We had a lot of conversations about racism and micro aggressions as she continues to make sense of the world. A lot of tears were shed, and hugs given, as we put the "Talk" into context. She is strong, yet gentle, and determined. I am so proud; we are raising such a socially conscious young girl who will continue to honour and celebrate her African/ Caribbean heritage 365 days a year.



*Kim King-MacDonald*

Emancipation Day (& Month) Events also happened in the communities of:

- Amherst
- Aylesford
- Cape Breton
- Halifax
- North Preston
- Sackville
- Truro
- Yarmouth

and many other events were organized online by various community group.

## EMANCIPATION DAY: RECOGNITION & REMEMBRANCE IN GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY (at the Bolyston Post Office)



*Alicia Clyde, youth representative from NSCC taking Social Services program*



*Mary Desmond, Catherine Hartling and Joanne Reddick. Joanne Reddick sang "Lift Every Voice"*



*Steve Wright wrote a song "39 Stripes" about Sarah Ringwood, a free Black woman, who stole a pound a butter and was found guilty and was sentenced to 39 stripes on her naked back at the whipping post in Manchester which is now the Boylston Post Office.*

## EMANCIPATION DAY: RECOGNITION & REMEMBRANCE IN DARTMOUTH (at the Henry G Bauld Centre)



*MLA Ince, HRM Councillor Hendsbee, Senator Thomas Bernard and other guests*



*Burundi Drummers Performing*



*Members of the African United Baptist Association (AUBA) celebrating Emancipation Day*

## SAND HILL (AMHERST)

Turning off Poplar Street and onto the Golden Mile, Sand Hill is located in the historical Town of Amherst. Sand Hill has several areas including Winston, Central, Belliveau Avenue, Poplar, East Pleasant, and Church Streets. Bordering on Sand Hill was the famous and well-known Christie Pond. The pond was lined with some of the most beautiful shaded trees.

Sand Hill has a vibrant history. Some of the descendants are able to trace their roots back to the arrival of the first enslaved Blacks on Prince Edward Island in 1785. Some of these early Black settlers were named Martin, Halfkenny, Jones, Johnson, Fairfax, Izzard, Riley, Gibson, Cook, Gero, Treadwell, Gay, Sickie, Joseph, Parsons, Moses, along with many others.

Before the turn of the century, there were five churches, one being the Highland African Methodist Episcopal Church at 35 Poplar Street, plus six stores, a bank, a post office, a grocery store, three hotels, a jail, and accessory businesses and services that contribute to all villages. It also should be noted that some women in the community were significant property owners and had places to rent.



*AME Church built in 1973 at its second location at 236 Church Street, Amherst. Courtesy of CANSA (photo 2006)*



*AME Church built in 1973 at its second location at 236 Church Street, Amherst. Courtesy of CANSA (photo 2006)*



*2006 Community Homecoming – (from left to right) Marva Fairfax, Margaret Barton-Fox, Elizabeth Sumbu and Theresa Halfkenny*

## Full community credit:

This story comes from the voices of the community. Stories, memories, and information emerged from community talking sessions over the course of several months.

Thus, the ‘authors’ of this story are the people. This narrative is not to be seen in the context of archaeology, the examination of primary sources, or an examination of the historical records; but rather thru the prism of community residents speaking and sharing what they know of the place they call home.

For more information about Sand Hill, please visit Historic Nova Scotia at <https://historicnovascotia.ca/items/show/232>

## NEW GLASGOW

African Nova Scotians have a long tradition of survival and perseverance in New Glasgow dating back to mid-to-late 1700s (particularly in the Vale Road Area).

New Glasgow includes the Second United Baptist Church established in 1903 by Rev. W. A. White, and an Africentric Heritage Park erected in loving memory of the first Black Settlers in Pictou County. The park opened in 2000 and includes a gracefully designed ten-metre-tall glass-peaked pyramid, modeled after the Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt.

The “Vale Quilters”, a group of African Nova Scotian women from New Glasgow to pass on the stories of the past through their craft. These women have gained momentous notoriety in the region.



*Street Sign of Viola's Way in Downtown New Glasgow. Courtesy of the NS Government Virtual Library (Photographer Darren Pittman)*



In 1990, the New Glasgow Homecoming Committee started a family-and-town reunion for all current and past residents near and far. This event occurs every five years during the month of August. New Glasgow is home to notable African Nova Scotians such as Dr. Carrie Best and Viola Desmond.

On August 16th, 2010, a commemorative plaque was placed honouring the African Nova Scotian trailblazer Viola Desmond at the New Glasgow Africentric Heritage Park who was arrested for sitting in the segregated “Whites Only” section of New Glasgow’s Roseland Theatre.

To learn more about New Glasgow, please visit <https://historicnovascotia.ca/items/show/95>

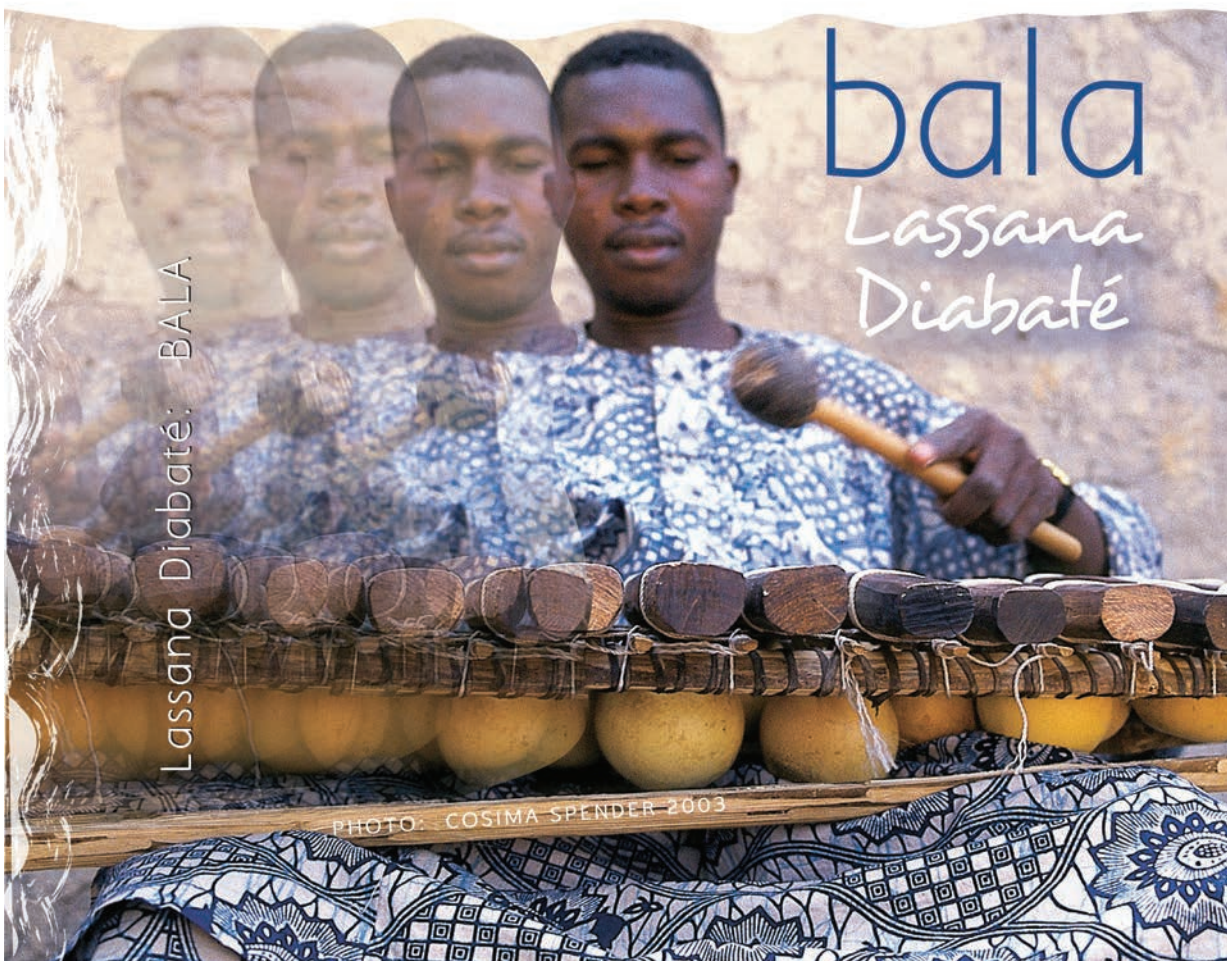
*Africentric Heritage  
Park, Courtesy of  
African Nova Scotian  
Directory (ANSO)  
(Photographer  
Tyson Tolliver)*



## Exciting Program of Youth & Community Engagement Successfully Launched

### More Opportunities to Participate Coming Soon!

March 13th, 2021 marked a watershed moment for global connection as internationally acclaimed virtuoso balafón musician Fodé Lassana Diabaté premiered Bala — a unique CD recorded at The Centre for Sound Communities (CSC), Cape Breton University — in a virtual concert from Mali, West Africa. The Grammy-nominated musician/composer/culture-bearer and descendant of a griot family of balafón masters in Guinea has made several visits to Cape Breton. Collaborating with CSC Director Dr. Marcia Ostashewski to present performances and workshops through a program funded by African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) called: “Songs and Stories in Celebration of the International Decade of People of African Descent”.



The recording of Bala at the CSC symbolizes an important shift in Canadian music production, representing an important bridge between two continents with so much of their history intertwined. The first African settlers in Nova Scotia can be traced to the 1700s, over time forming communities that today contribute to the cultural diversity of an area that is an ocean away from their antecedents. Lassana first came to Cape Breton in 2014 as part of a project connecting local residents with global scholars and performers; his return visits solidify the link between countries and cultural heritage and represent optimism and appreciation across a geographic divide somehow made narrower by similarities and shared experience.

Inviting widespread participation, Bala is part of a larger project focusing on Black and Indigenous lives and musics to develop a new model for global music education during the pandemic; it is funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Engage COVID-19 Special Initiative which will soon include a pilot project with Whitney Pier Boys and Girls Club, to be expanded across Nova Scotia. Partnerships with African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq community leaders, libraries and organizations are paving the way for upcoming lectures, workshops, and instructional materials. Find out more:

The Centre for Sound Communities website —  
<https://soundcommunities.org/>

Find out more about Bala and Lassana Diabaté, culture-bearer and founder of Association Foli-Lakana fostering the vitality of local musics, youth and communities in Mali — <https://balafondiabate.ca>

Follow CSC posts (Sound Communities) on social media: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or e-mail The Centre for Sound Communities at [sound\\_communities@cbu.ca](mailto:sound_communities@cbu.ca)



A group of young Black professionals coming together to start conversations, My Melanin focuses on decoding the elements of the social determinants of health and its influence on the Black experience. As persons of African descent living in Atlantic Canada, My Melanin is a place to help inform, facilitate, and connect the diaspora in the Atlantic region and beyond. Acknowledging our rich diversity and culture, we explore these experiences through meaningful and insightful conversations.

You can find us on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Anchor.fm, and more!



# HOMEWARMING PROGRAM



HomeWarming has helped over 10,000 Nova Scotians save on heating costs and enjoy a more comfortable home by offering no-charge energy assessments and free home upgrades to eligible homeowners.

If you participate in the HomeWarming program our team will assess your entire home, from top to bottom. If we discover that draft-proofing, insulation or other efficiency options can help make heating and cooling your home more affordable and comfortable, we'll cover the cost of installing the upgrades. We'll also take care of arranging contractors to have the approved home upgrades completed—all at no cost to you.

Apply for HomeWarming at [www.HomeWarming.ca](http://www.HomeWarming.ca) or call toll-free 1-877-434-2136.



ADMINISTERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## Charting a new path for housing in Nova Scotia



Housing is a basic human need, a key social determinant of health, and a critical infrastructure to support economic growth. It is essential to one's sense of dignity, safety, inclusion, and ability to contribute to the fabric of our families, neighbourhoods, and societies.

To address the pressures in the housing system, which have been exacerbated by the global pandemic, the Province established the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission in November 2020. A diverse group of 17 commissioners were appointed with cross-sectoral representation from various sectors and regions, including from communities of interest such as Nova Scotians of African descent and Indigenous peoples. Over six months, they worked together to identify sustainable solutions to increase the supply of, and access to affordable rental housing.

The Commission engaged with the public and key stakeholders to learn about what matters to them and their community. More than 2,000 Nova Scotians provided feedback, with 11% of respondents self-identifying as racialized persons. The Commission also directly engaged people of African descent through a focus group, which helped inform its recommendations.

In its report, the Commission made 17 recommendations to address the challenges associated with affordable housing and provide more diverse affordable housing options. Among its findings, the Commission heard that people of African descent continue to experience systemic barriers throughout their lives when they try to access affordable housing, including:

- discriminatory land use policies;
- limited access to financial services;
- financial exclusion; and
- racism and discrimination from landlords.

On July 6, the Province announced a commitment of \$25 million to initiate a series of short-term actions recommended by the Commission. The Department of Infrastructure and Housing (DIH) is leading this work. In the upcoming weeks to months, staff will engage with representatives from African Nova Scotian communities and other underrepresented groups. This process will provide a better understanding of the systemic barriers

and specific housing needs of racialized and marginalized Nova Scotians and help inform the Province's next Action Plan under the National Housing Strategy.



## **NEW TARGETED HOUSING BENEFIT: CAN HELP PAY A PORTION OF YOUR RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENT**

The Province offers a wide range of flexible and inclusive housing solutions to help Nova Scotians who are struggling to find or maintain a safe and affordable place to call home. In 2020, the federal and provincial governments committed \$120 million over 8 years to provide direct support to at least 6,000 Nova Scotian households through the Canada-Nova Scotia Targeted Housing Benefit. This program provides eligible renters and homeowners in core or severe housing need with a direct-to-household monthly benefit to help pay for rent or a mortgage. It includes targeted streams for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, seniors, and single individuals under the age of 58 with no dependent.

To qualify, applicant must have a total before-tax household income of \$64,000 or less (this amount varies depending on where the applicant lives). The benefit is only available to those who pay or would pay more than 30% of their total before-tax household income for their rent and homeowners who spend more than 50% of their before-tax household income on their housing cost. Housing Nova Scotia encourages you to apply even if your household earns slightly more than the household income limit.

Funding for this program is limited and available on a first-come first-served basis. Applications will be accepted until the funds have all been committed for the fiscal year and will re-open in April 2022.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Targeted Housing Benefit is an important tool in the Province's toolbox to address the inequities and barriers faced by racialized and marginalized communities in the housing system and help people of African descent meet their housing need. Help us share this information within your community and professional and personal networks.

For more information or to download a copy of the CNSTHB application form, please visit <https://housing.novascotia.ca/programs/canada-nova-scotia-targeted-housing-benefit>

## Saying Good-bye: ANSA Staff

### TRACEY THOMAS



It is sad - but with joyful tears - to announce that as of April 5th, Tracey Thomas joined the Public Service Commission (PSC) with the Province of Nova Scotia as the "Executive Director for People and Culture"!

During Tracey's time with ANSA, her positions included "Senior Policy Analyst" then "Director of Government and Community Relations". With over fifteen years of experience working in government and the non-profit sector, many have witnessed Tracey's commitment and incredible work. Her boundless energy and professionalism shine in every endeavor she takes on.

We know Tracey will bring her leadership skills and partnership building to the new position. In addition, her expertise in organizational and project development, and holistic approach to community engagement will benefit the PSC. We are certain she will continue to advance a people-centred style that connects government and citizens to each other.

A few of Tracey's achievements include:

- Supporting the creation of the African Canadian Women in Public Service Network
- Working on the reconstruction of the Africville Interpretive Church/Museum Project
- Helping lead the African Nova Scotian Tourism Guide
- Managing and planning the 7th International African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference
- Providing policy and strategic advice to the Commission on Effective Electoral Representation
- Leading the implementation of the Government Employee African Nova Scotian Current & Historical Realities Course
- Helping lead the creation of Count Us In: Nova Scotia's Action Plan in Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015-2024
- Co-leading the African Nova Scotian COVID-19 Response Initiative

It has been said, "every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it". We know Tracey will continue to work with excellence. Thank you, Tracey!



## **BABATUNDE AWOYIGA**

It is with mixed emotions to announce that as of April 5th, Babatunde (Tunde) Awoyiga has joined the Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs as the “Director of Housing Programs”.

Since Tunde joined ANSA in October 2019, he has been a valuable and well-respected member of our family. Tunde did an amazing job as “Senior Advisor of Research, Planning and Development” and provided solid contributions to helping the office become more efficient, organized, and operational. His work towards ANSA 2.0 was foundational.

Tunde has worked hard to enhance government and community initiatives. His work is testimony to his commitment to working on behalf of African Nova Scotians.

ANSA will miss Tunde’s charm, professionalism, expertise, and intensity. We wish him all the best on his future endeavours. We will be cheering for you. Thank you, Tunde!



## **FRANCENE COMEAU**

In September 2021, we officially – with joy and sorrow –said goodbye to Francene Comeau; the first Office and Projects Manager under “ANSA 2.0”

Francene will be starting a new position with the Public Service Commission as Manager of Corporate Services. Once again, an ANSA Family member is relocating hence the joy but sad that Mrs. Francene Comeau will not be at her desk to share her talents, experience, and noble words to us anymore.

Nevertheless, Francene gave “ANSA 2.0” an amazing kick start by establishing a strong Operations and Management structure. She made our work during ANSA’s organizational and strategic transition to “ANSA 2.0” manageable in more ways than one.

ANSA is in a better place because of her efforts. She leaves “ANSA 2.0” with a strong foundation.

## Saying Hello: ANSA Staff



### **MARGO HAMPDEN**

Director, Government and Community Relations

Margo, is an innovative, visionary individual offering 27 years management experience. She has performed in Senior leadership roles in various organizations. She has worked across Canada and in the US with a presence in many key areas such as business, education, diversity and Inclusion in addition to the marine industry, Port of Halifax sector. Margo holds an Executive Master of Business Administration, Certification in Negotiation, Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and is a member of the International Personnel Management Association. She is an avid golfer and enjoys spending time with her family, friends and community.



### **JESSICA LEEK**

Executive Assistant

Jessica Leek is the Secretary for the Central Region and has been with the ANSA Office since February 2019 supporting the Executive Director. She is a graduate from NSCC with a diploma in Business Administration and a Concentration in Software and Information Management. When not at work she enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with family and friends.



### **MANFRED EGBE**

Senior Advisor Research Planning and Development

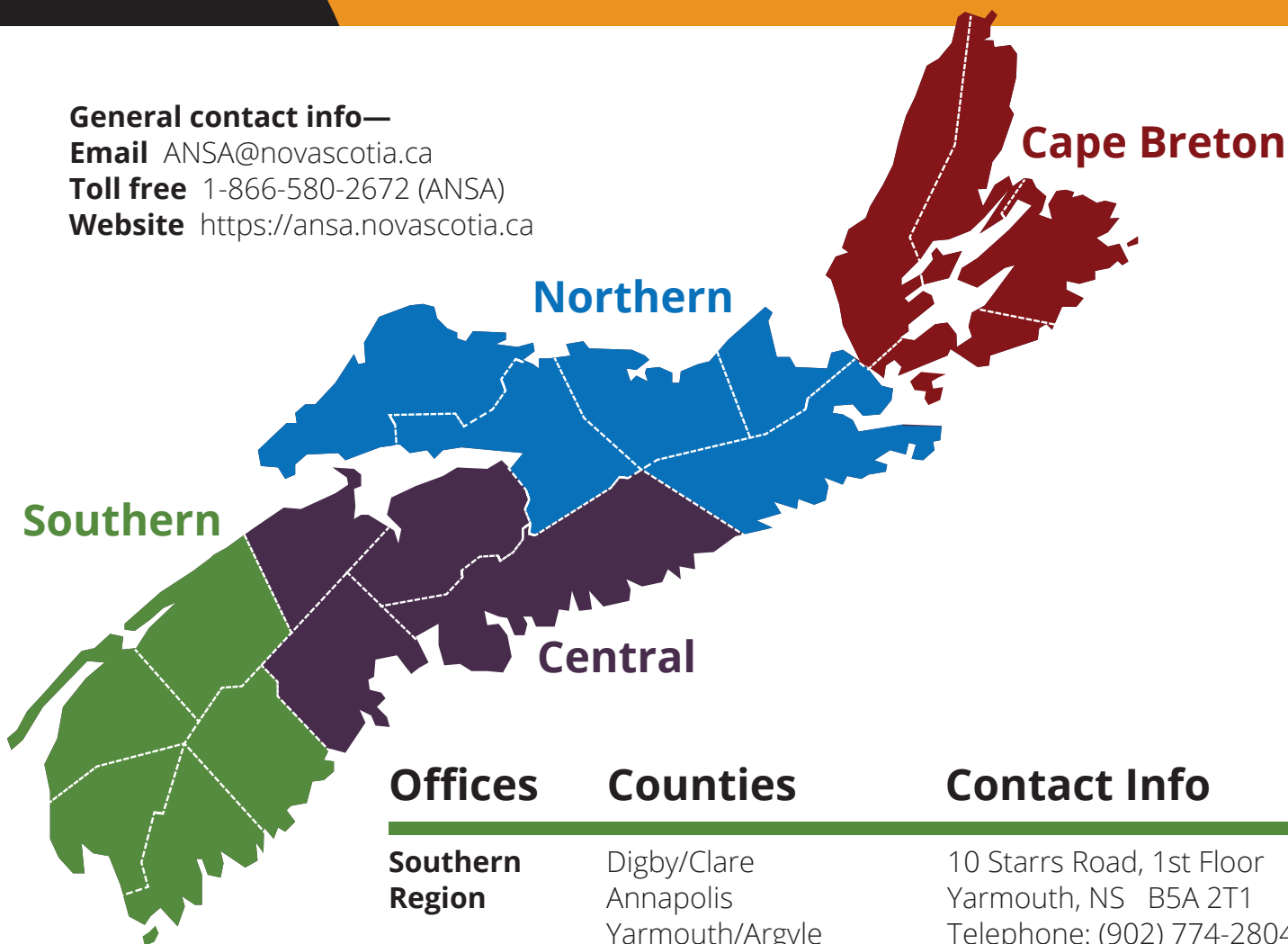
Manfred was born in the Southwestern region of Cameroon and holds a doctorate degree in Anthropology from the Rovira i Virgili University in Spain. He has over 15 years of experience working in research, project co-ordination, implementation and evaluation, community development and capacity building and teaching. He is community grounded and committed to making things better for all.

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