

Road to Economic Prosperity: **An African Nova Scotian Economic Action Plan**

Information Report for Community Planning
and Economic Development Standing
Committee

Ayo Aladejebi – Senior Advisor, ANSAIO

Carolann Wright – Director, Capacity Building
and Strategic Initiatives, Halifax Partnership

HALIFAX ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 2016-21

Background

Key Actions for the ANS Community:

- **Action # 10** – In partnership with the Province, develop an approach to resolving ownership, taxation and planning issues on residential and community-owned properties without clear title
- **Action # 12 – Develop and implement an African Nova Scotian (ANS) Action Plan to advance ANS economic development and community priorities.**
- **Action # 33** – Establish ANS and Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples streams under the Halifax Connector Program.
- **Action # 34** – Identify and share existing programs, services and outcomes related to the workforce attachment of Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples, African Nova Scotians and other groups at risk of exclusion.
- **Action # 38** – Connect newcomers, African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples, youth and persons with disabilities to employment opportunities at HRM
- **Action # 43** – Ensure HRM's culture investments reflect Halifax's diversity
- **Action # 59** - Consider and, where possible, incorporate community benefits as part of the development approval process in HRM communities.

VISION

& GDP **\$30 billion** (2.9% Per year)



VALUE PROPOSITION



Ocean Advantage



Educated/Innovative Community



Excellent Rural/Urban Lifestyle



YEAR STRATEGIC



Promote & Maximize Growth



Attract & Retain Talent



Make Halifax a Better Place to Live and Work

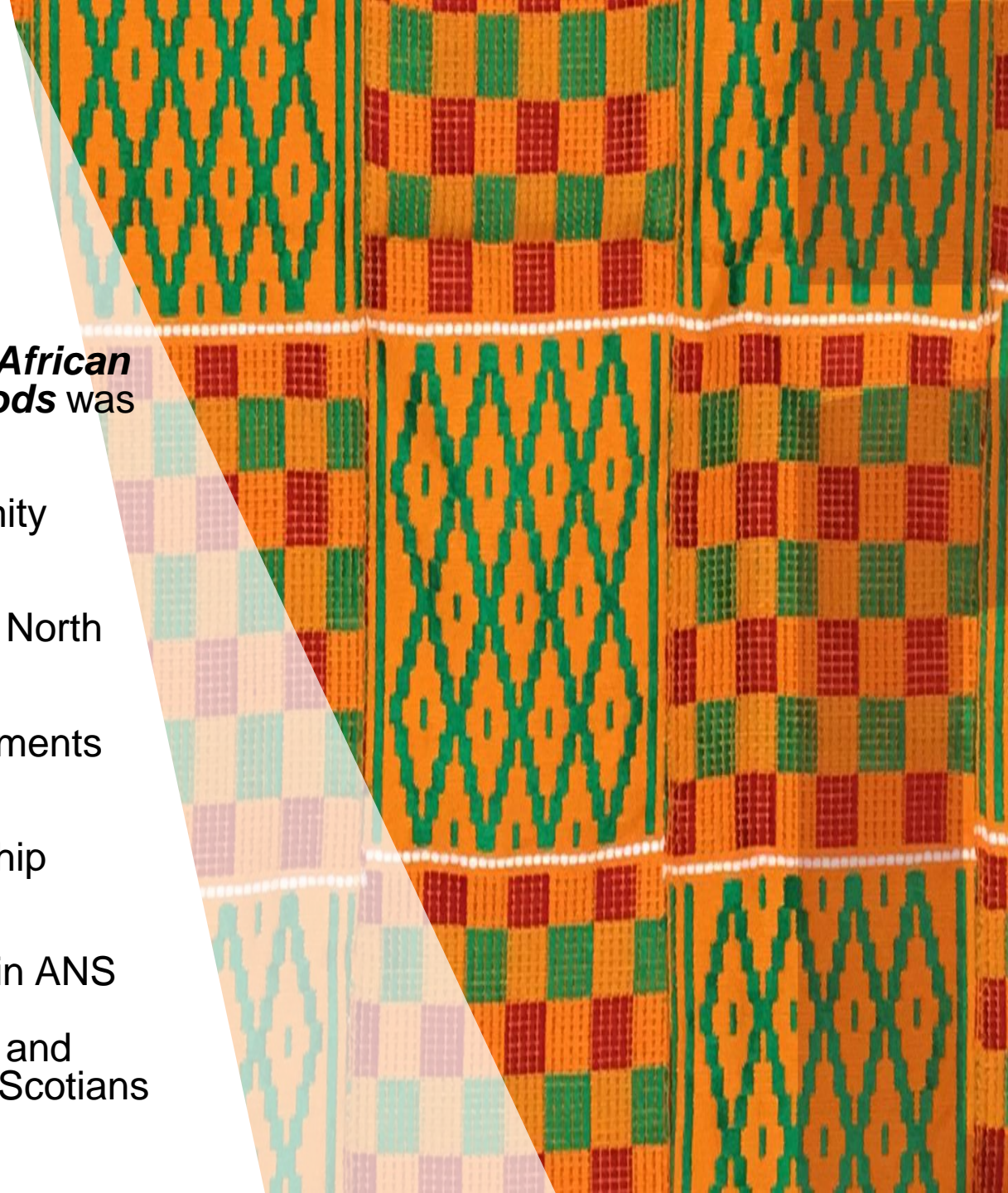


Align Economic Development



Community Engagement

- ***Road to Economic Prosperity: A Gathering of African Nova Scotian Communities and Neighbourhoods*** was held June 7 & 8 in North Preston.
- Ongoing engagement through ANSAIO's community outreach
- Further consultations were held in Beechville and North Preston and with Akoma Holdings in early 2019.
- Emerging themes from consultations and engagements include:
 - The need to build unity, capacity and leadership among and within ANS communities
 - The issue and challenge of establishing land ownership and developing infrastructure within ANS communities
 - The need to improve education, employment and entrepreneurship outcomes for African Nova Scotians



The Plan

Road to Economic Prosperity consists of three Strategic Priorities:



Build Unity and Capacity
Among African Nova Scotians



Establish Land Ownership
and Develop Infrastructure



Increase participation in
education, employment and
entrepreneurship

Build Unity and Capacity Among African Nova Scotians



5-year Objectives:

- Increase alignment and collaboration among African Nova Scotian communities and partners to create transparency and collective success
 - Establish the Road to Economic Prosperity Advisory Committee and Elders Council/Working Group to provide leadership and oversight
 - Develop an ethical framework guided by shared principles and practices to promote accountability with bi-annual check-in
- Build community capacity to mobilize and lead the implementation of the Road to Economic Prosperity
 - Connect ANS Communities to training resources to develop leadership and facilitation skills within ANS communities
 - Develop a mentorship program to engage and support the development of ANS youth

Establish Land Ownership and Develop Infrastructure



5-year Objectives:

- Address historic and current issues related to land ownership and environmental racism
 - Identify the best approach to include Community Benefits Agreements (CBA) as part of HRM's Planning and Development strategies for ANS communities
 - In partnership with the Province, develop an approach to resolve ownership, taxation and planning issues on residential and community owned properties without clear title.
- Revitalize ANS communities through investment and development
 - Prioritize and undertake infrastructure projects (capital and renewal) and support development projects across ANS communities.
 - Support ANS to identify and secure funding for the preservation and interpretation of ANS community heritage sites.
- Explore International economic and cultural development opportunities
 - Pursue sister city relationships with countries with ancestral ties to African Nova Scotians
 - Attract international investment into the African Nova Scotian communities

Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship



5-year Objectives:

- Increase Labour Force attachment for African Nova Scotians
 - Expand the ANS stream under the Halifax Connector Program.
 - Identify and share existing programs and services supporting the workforce attachment of African Nova Scotians
 - Connect African Nova Scotians to employment opportunities at HRM
- Increase Entrepreneurship opportunities in African Nova Scotian communities
 - Provide opportunities for ANS-owned businesses into corporate supply chain and government contracts
 - Explore cooperative models and examine their validity for ANS communities

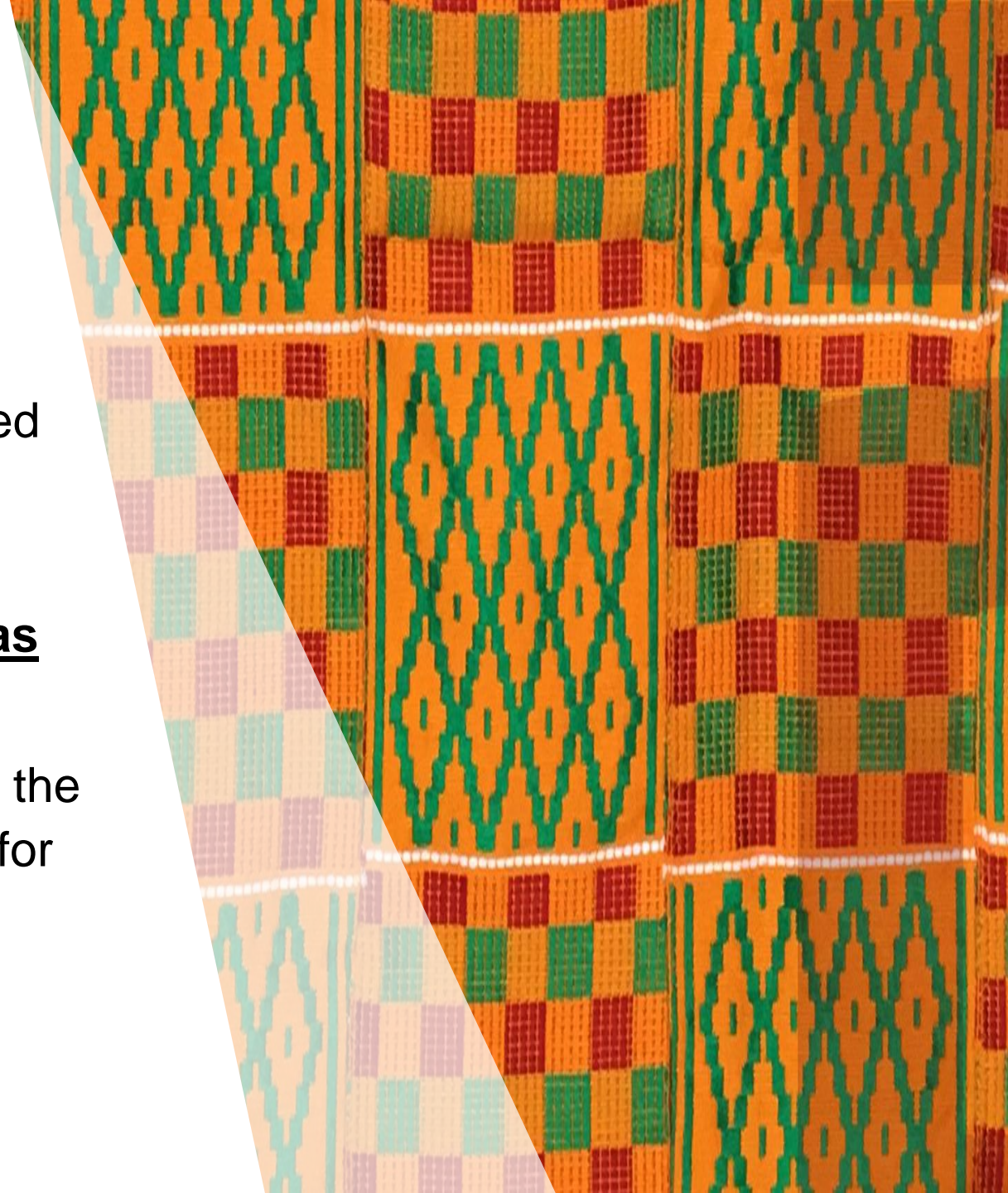
The Road to Prosperity Advisory Committee

The Road to Prosperity Advisory Committee will assist the Halifax Partnership and the Halifax Regional Municipality in its responsibility for developing and implementing The *Road to Economic Prosperity* Action Plan.



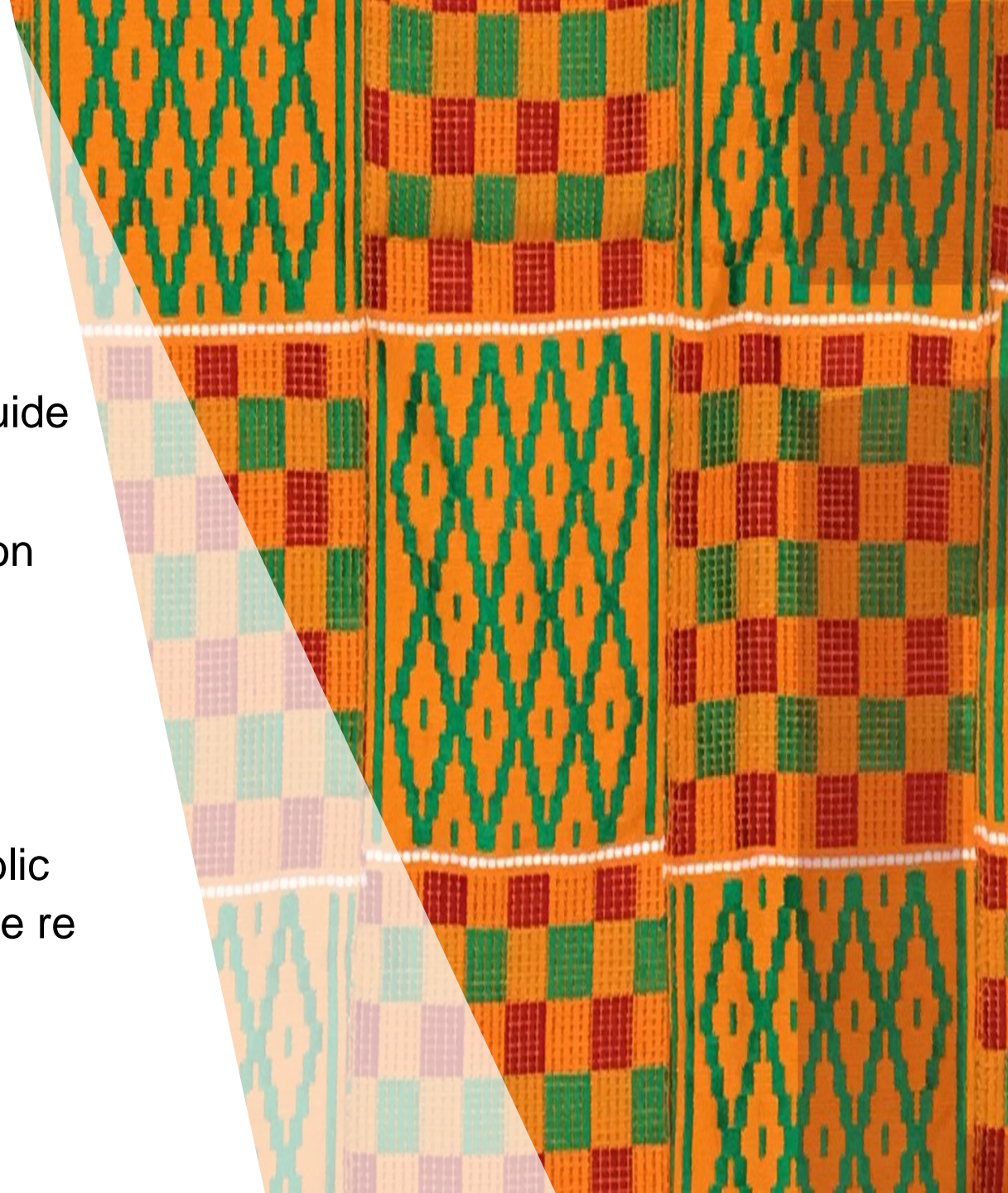
Budget Implications

- The plan's development is being cost-shared between the Partnership and HRM using existing budgets.
- The cost to implement the two-year plan **has not been fully scoped.**
- Financial implications will be outlined when the final draft is submitted to Regional Council for endorsement



Next Steps

- **Advisory Committee – *A Road To Prosperity***
Advisory Committee has been established to guide plan throughout its implementation phases.
- **Presentation of initial draft plan** – Presentation to Regional Council, engagement with HRM business Units and other stakeholders and the ANS Community
- **Final Draft Plan** – To be presented to Regional Council for endorsement and release to the public by the end of 4th quarter. Regular updates will be reported accordingly



Questions?

