

Re: Item No. 9.3.2

A photograph of a Metro Transit ferry boat on the water. The boat is white with a blue stripe and has "Metro Transit" written on its side. In the background, there is a large industrial facility with several buildings and a tall chimney. The sky is overcast and hazy.

Unpacking Anti-Black Racism in the HRM: Creating Sustainable Change for Our Community

The Honourable Wanda Thomas Bernard, PhD, C.M., O.N.S.

Senator – Nova Scotia (East Preston)

Overview

- The Past Informs the Present
- Decade for People of African Descent
- Recognition
- Justice
- Development
- Self-Reflection



The Past Informs the Present

- The legacies of historical anti-Black racism are kept alive through current policies and practices
- All decisions need to be made within the historical context of
 - Colonialism
 - Slavery
 - Segregation
 - African Nova Scotian & Mi'kmaq solidarity



Mayor Mike Savage's Statement

- Statements and trainings are the beginning of the work
- The follow through shows real commitment

HALIFAX



HRM Commitments

- 2010 Africville apology & commitment to compensation & community development
- 2016 African Heritage Month
- 2016 Employment Systems Review
- 2018 Diversity and Inclusion Framework
- 2019 Street check apology & commitment to action
- 2019 CAO's '*Zero Tolerance for Anti-Black Racism*' memo
- 2020 public statements from CAO & Mayor

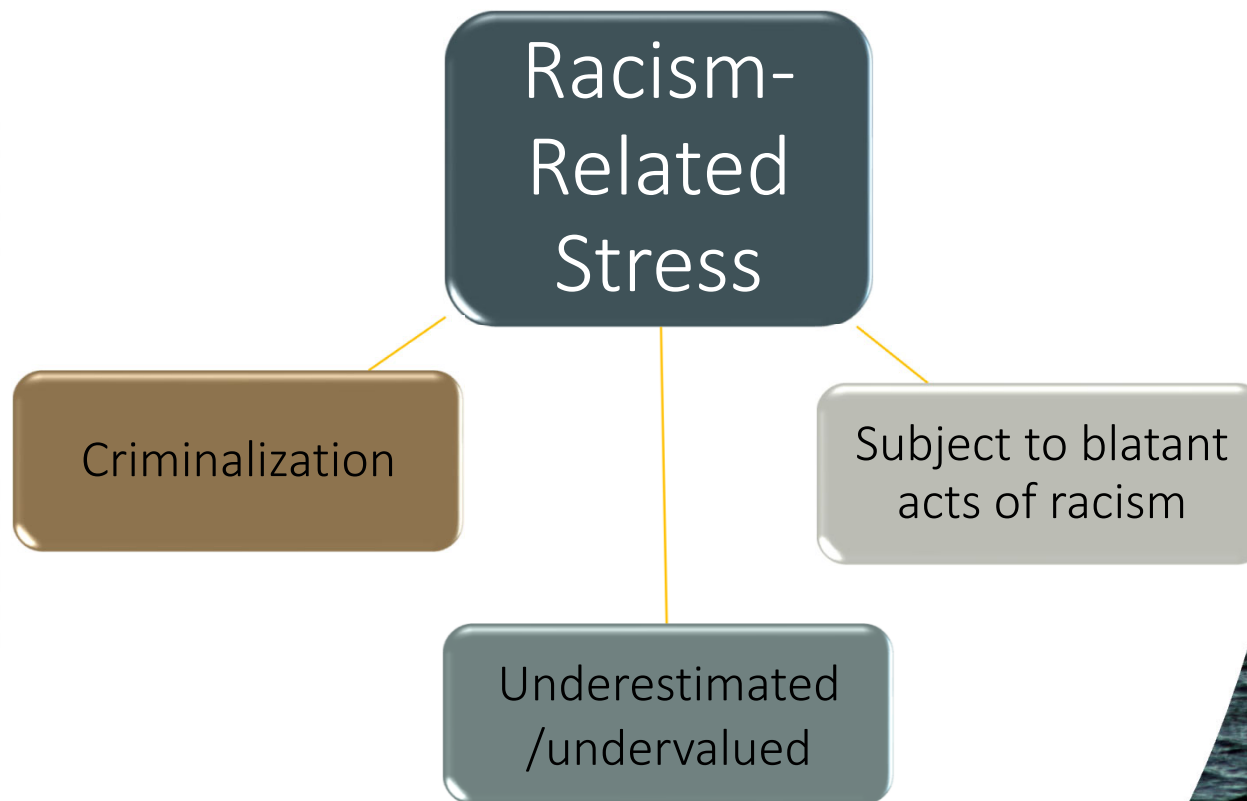


Racism, Health & Violence Study



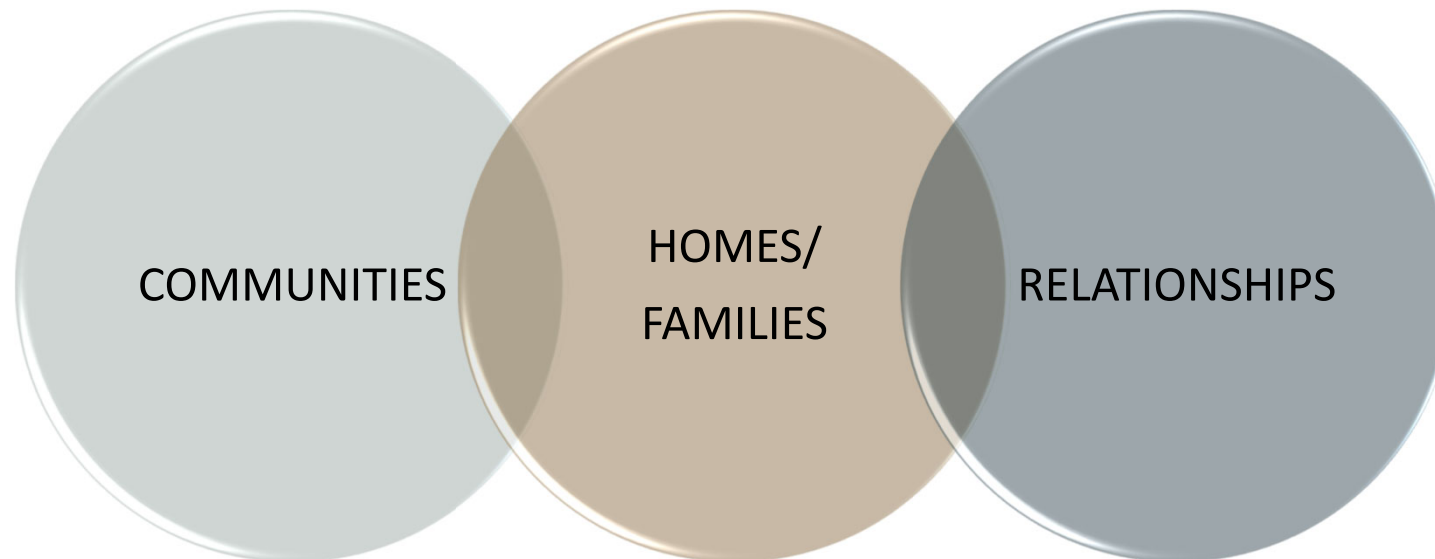
RACE & WELL-BEING
The Lives, Hopes and Activism of African Canadians

Carl James, David Este, Wanda Thomas Bernard,
Akua Benjamin, Bethan Lloyd & Tana Turner

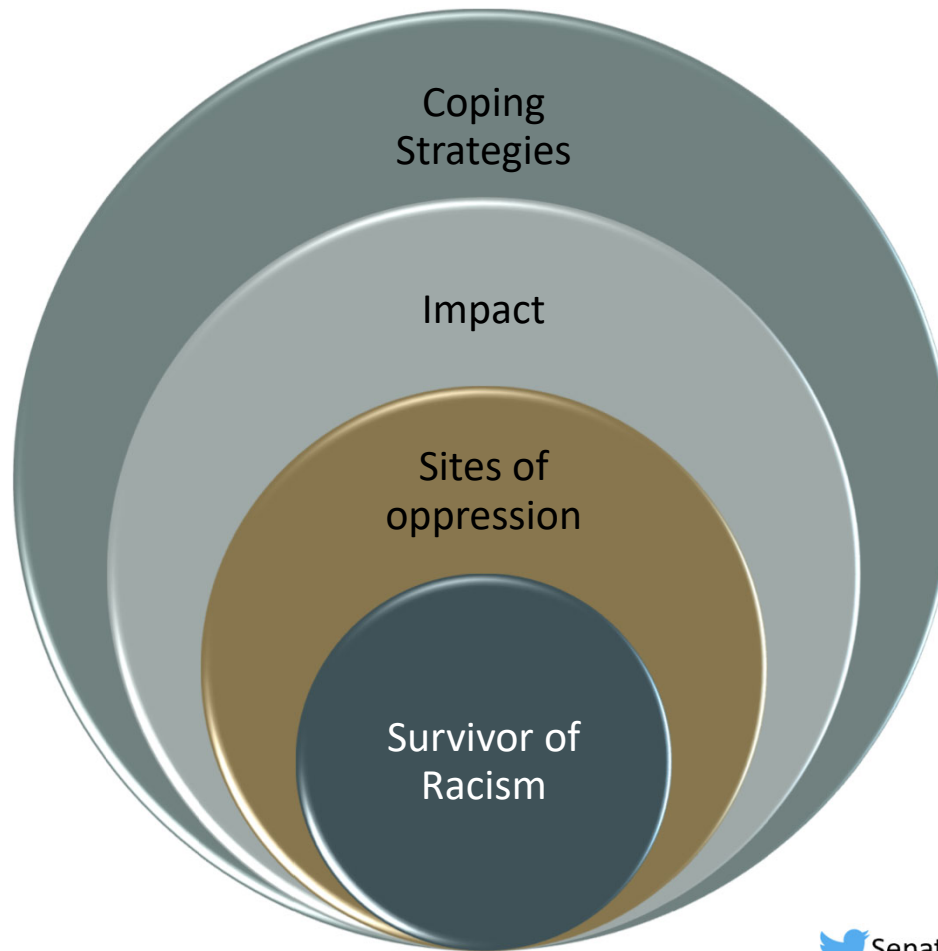


RACISM-RELATED STRESS AS PTSD

- African Canadians are victims and survivors of PTSD
- Racism-related stress not recognized in DSM
- PTSD is visible in our:



IMPACT OF RACISM





A word cloud on a black background with the central theme 'Impact of Racism'. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern, with 'Impact of Racism' being the largest and most prominent. Other significant words include 'Violence of Racism', 'Racism', 'Internalizing Racism', 'Microaggressions', 'Staying Positive', 'Isolated', 'Alone', 'Mistrustful', 'Hard to articulate Thoughts', 'Frustrating', 'Backlash', 'Tired', 'Fear', 'Trauma', 'Challenging', 'Exhausted', 'Emotions', 'Sad', 'Worried', 'Angry', 'Difficult', 'Online', and 'Racism'.

Impact of Racism
Violence of Racism
Racism
Internalizing Racism
Microaggressions
Staying Positive
Isolated
Alone
Mistrustful
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Racism

—

The Pandemic of COVID collides with the Pandemic of Racism

- “COVID-19 does not flatten these disparities; It amplifies them.”
- Racism is a public health issue
- The death of George Floyd was a tipping point
- Black Lives Matter is a movement



Photo credit: CBC

International Decade for People of African Descent

- Balancing historical context with current realities
- Framework developed for countries internationally to address unique barriers and challenges faced by people of African Descent globally
- Three pillars: recognition, justice & development



**United
Nations**



**International Decade for People
of African Descent
2015-2024**

 [SenatorWanda](#)



Recognition

- Immediately:

Halifax Regional Municipality should formally acknowledge the Decade and commit to the enacting change with the United Nation's framework

- Recognition of the trauma of racism
- Recognition and Apology for Africville
 - What about other ANS communities?
 - What about current environmental racism that is happening NOW?



Justice

- Justice comes in many forms
- Legal Justice
- Economic Justice
- Social Justice
- Community Development

WHAT DOES JUSTICE LOOK LIKE ON HRM COUNCIL?



Development

- Shifting from reactionary responses to preventative measures
- Centering Black voices, Black communities, Black engagement
- Focus on **Employment, Education, Health & Housing**
- Community Development
 - East Preston - The 7
 - This infrastructure design is a form of systemic anti-Black racism, as it prevents Black communities from being able to access health, employment, nature, social connection



A foggy cityscape with a Metro Transit ferry in the foreground. The ferry is white with a blue stripe and has "Metro Transit" written on its side. The background shows various buildings and structures, including a tall tower and a large building with many windows. The water is dark and choppy.

The Personal is Political.

The Political is Personal.

**Make the conscious shift to see
your personal impact on collective issues.**

Individual Self-Reflection

- Examining how you benefit from the SAME system that oppresses others
- What risks have you made to support ANS communities?
- What was your takeaway from the ABR Toolkit?

**What specific action
will you personally take
after this presentation?**



Three Take Away Messages

- 1. How will you use your privilege to lead change?**
- 2. How will you integrate ABR lens into your work?**
- 3. How will you help the Black Lives Matter Moment become a Movement for Change**



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Q & A

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