



Proclamation

Day of Black Loyalist Exodus: 15 Ships to Sierra Leone

January 15th, 2024

Whereas, January 15, 2024 is the 232nd anniversary of 15 ships departing the harbour of Halifax in 1792, and that the conditions and causes that led to the exodus of 1,196 self-liberated Black Loyalist were conditions of abject institutionalized racism and that this departure took place at the height of the transatlantic chattel slave trade one of the cruelest chapters in the history of humanity; and

Whereas, People of African descent have been a part of Canadian society since the early 1600s and that their enslavement occurred on this land for centuries and that the Black Loyalists departure is linked to the failure of institutional, political and societal will to fulfill the promises that were made to the communities that left for Sierra Leone; and

Whereas, we are committed to promote histories such as the 15 Ships to Sierra Leone that often have been left in a vacuum of erasure. The resources provided for well known monumentation have historically been funded at the expense of those erasures; and

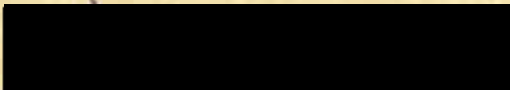
Whereas, we continue to recognize the ongoing significance of the UN Decade of African Descent and the importance of recognizing the history of Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia and how all communities in Nova Scotia continue to be affected by the historic rift of the Black community; and

Whereas, we recognize that secure housing and land was promised to these early settlers and very few received what was owed. No one received the promised 100 acres of land for each head of household despite petitions (by Thomas Peters). For many Black Loyalists, shared Mi'kmaq knowledge was key to survival in the first winters.

Thereby be it resolved that I, Mayor Mike Savage on behalf of Regional Council do hereby declare January 15, 2024 the Day of Black Loyalist Exodus: 15 Ships to Sierra Leone.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia
this 15th day of January 2024




Mike Savage
Mayor