

African Descent Advisory Committee - ANSAIO Update

May-June 2024

In May we continued to provide on-going educational opportunities for HRM employees in the form of our ABR Speaker Series.

Anti-Black racism Speakers Session: From the perspective of newcomers/immigrants of African descent- *Immigrants and newcomers' experiences are multifaceted, especially for individuals of African descent. They not only navigate the challenges of settling into a new country but also face the pervasive issue of anti-Black racism.*

The session was led by Mohamed Yaffa and the focus was on ABR from the perspective of newcomers and immigrants of African descent.

ABR training continues with several assorted business units. May saw seven training sessions completed with approximately 120 HRM employees have engaged with this new offering. Five sessions are scheduled to take place in June with another 90 employees registered thus far.

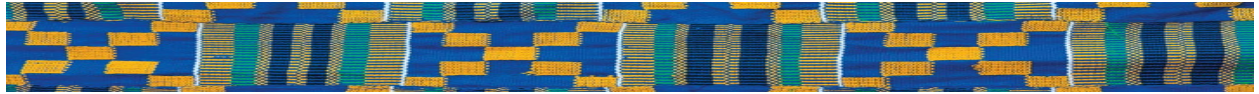
ABR Grants program to be launched August 01, 2024, to coincide with Emancipation Day.

ANSAIO is pleased to share that we held an employment circle in East Preston, featuring key HRM business units such as Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Human Resources, Transit, and Municipal Elections and Dexters. This initiative provided valuable employment opportunities and fostered stronger community connections.

Additional Community circles and Employment circles dates are now being booked/solidified in community.

Other CIRCLE dates once solidified will be sent to the ADAC via the Clerk's office.

In May and up until June 01, 2024, ANSAIO were the hosts for several engagements for Africville Visioning, beside Ignite Consulting as facilitators with Africville descendants and former residents. The engagement portion is now completed which ended with a full room meeting of the Africville Genealogy



members, former residents & descendants of Africville, a “What we Heard” report will now be written based on information collected and submitted early summer; with the hope to have before council late fall.

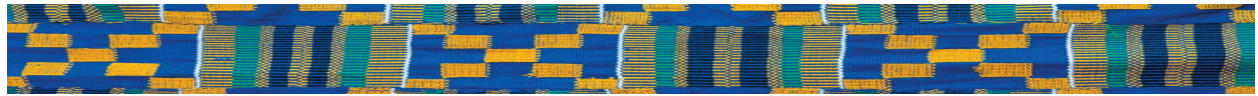
Emancipation Day planning has begun with an all-level government collaboration scheduled for August 01, 2024.

About Emancipation Day:

Emancipation Day is the day The Slavery Abolition Act became law in the British Empire (including Canada) and ended the practice of slavery for millions of African People and their descendants around the world. The Act became law on August 1, 1834, marking the first Emancipation Day. On March 24, 2021, Members of Parliament unanimously voted to designate August 1 as Emancipation Day. On April 21, 2021, the Province of Nova Scotia voted unanimously to designate August 1 as Emancipation Day. On June 28, 2021, the Senate of Canada voted unanimously to designate August 1 as Emancipation Day.

The slated events will start at 10:00 am at the historic Citadel Hill and will include recognition of Emancipation Day through a special proclamation, followed by the Parks Canada, Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaque unveiling ceremony recognizing the Jamaican Maroons migration to Nova Scotia as a national historic event. Followed by a launch of the National Slavery Exhibition at Pier 21 @ 1:30PM. This exhibit will provide a sobering look at the history of Slavery in Canada and was developed in partnership with the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia and guest Curator and noted historian Dr. Afua Cooper.

ANSAIO will also be hosting Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard for an Emancipation Day presentation on July 30th at Halifax Hall for HRM employees.



Additional information below from the BCC relating to the Emancipation Day events:

About The Jamaican Maroons

In 1796, more than 500 Maroons from Trelawny Town in the mountains of northwestern Jamaica were forcibly transported to the British colony of Nova Scotia. Their experiences exemplified the insecure rights and freedoms of African-descended British subjects in the late-18th-century Atlantic world. In spite of an inhospitable reception in Nova Scotia, the Maroons maintained a strong sense of community in exile through adaptation, accommodation, and resistance. They reaffirmed their allegiance to the British monarch and acceded in some cases to local demands for their labour and their attendance at Christian churches and schools, while strongly opposing pressures to abandon traditional Akan spiritual and cultural practices. Although most Maroons left Nova Scotia for Sierra Leone in 1800, it is widely believed that some individuals stayed behind. Their continued presence is suggested by the surnames, accents, idioms, customs, oral histories, and traditions of African Nova Scotians, for whom Maroon dignity, strength, resiliency, and resistance to oppression are a continued source of pride.

About Slavery In Canada

Slavery existed in Canada. For more than two centuries, the majority of Africans in Canada were enslaved. From 1629 to 1834, both the French and British colonial regimes made laws that legalized slavery. Enslavers had property rights that allowed them to buy, sell, trade, and dispose of Black enslaved people in any way they wished.

The enslavement of Black people in Canada was part of the larger system of the Transatlantic Slave Trade which tore upward of 12-15 million people from the shores of Africa to the Americas.