

African Descent Advisory Committee - ANSAIO Update

August 2024

ADAC July update indicated that ANSAIO staff would again be participating as volunteers for the up-coming 41st reunion which was held from July 25-29 this year at Africville Park.

However, the church service was cancelled due to a shooting that took place on the Saturday evening.

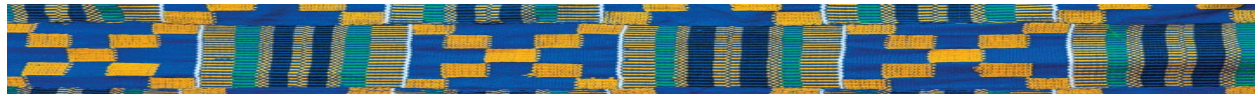
In response to the event that took place during the 41st Annual Africville Reunion on July 27, 2024, several Black community anchor organizations, HRM African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO), and the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs made the following statement.

Today, we stand in solidarity and support of our families, friends, community of Africville and the Africville Museum, as they deal with a tragic situation that unfolded during the 41st Annual Africville Reunion. Our thoughts and prayers are with those that have been impacted by the actions of a few. The community of Africville and the former residents are a symbol of the resilience in the African Nova Scotian community and faith and courage to overcome great obstacles. We do not condone gun violence in our communities, cities, province and country as we work towards a safer society.

The Association of Black Social Workers has activated a community help line at : 1- 855-732-1253 for those seeking counseling and support during this time.

Together, we stand with Africville to ensure that its legacy and spirit live on and are not defined by a tragic event.

ANSAIO has since taken part in debrief sessions with the AGS & the AHT and are working with community to identify future actions.



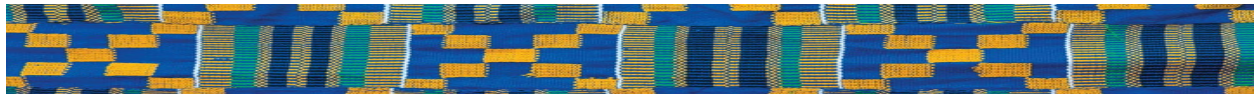
On July 30th, 2024, ANSAIO held an internal Emancipation Day event hosting Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard to help recognize the significance of the day by presenting: *“190 Years of Emancipation: From Freedom to Reparations”*



The event was attended by over 100 employees of HRM and was well received. Honorable Mayor Mike Savage, CAO Cathie O’Toole & Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon were also in attendance.

ANSAIO was also pleased to take part the Emancipation Day Collaboration including the Provincial & Federal Government.





ANSAIO also had a soft launch of the Anti-Black Racism Grants program which is intended empower communities and residents of African descent to address issues of anti-Black racism through community-led, grassroots projects and initiatives on August 01, 2024.

Project grants are to support community-based initiatives developed and delivered at the local level.

Applicants must demonstrate how their project aligns with the municipality's commitment to support communities in addressing anti-Black racism.

[Applications open September 1 and close October 31, 2024](#)

ANSAIO is actively collaborating with the election area officers to foster stronger relationships with African Nova Scotian communities and will be holding a community circle. The municipal election sessions will provide valuable information on how to vote, work at polling stations, and run for office.

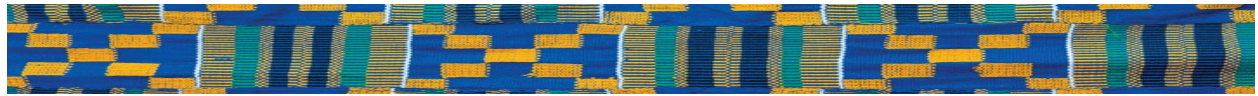
ANSAIO staff hosted our *Reaching Out from an Afrocentric Place* Training for newly hired elections staff and accompanied them to community events including North Preston Days and opening night of the Africville Reunion 2024.

Additionally, employment circles will start again early fall, to support community members finding job opportunities. ANSAIO will provide the dates to the committee through the clerk's office once solidified.

ANSAIO is hosting a community circle on August 19th, in partnership with the UHP Community Development Association for the Upper Hammonds Plains community, where it will be attended by guests Halifax Water as well as ANSCAP & Planning staff, Fire Services & EMO staff.

Related work:

African Nova Scotian Community Action Planning (ANSCAP) staff report is in review & targeting a fall Council date.



Definitions Section:

Community Circles: refer to information-sharing sessions designed to bridge the gap between municipal business units and the community. These events create open, collaborative space where residents can engage directly with municipal representatives, receive important information, updates, and provide feedback on various initiatives. By bringing essential information into the community, Community Circles foster transparency, empower residents with knowledge, and ensure that the diverse needs and perspectives of the community are heard and addressed in municipal decision-making processes.

Employment Circles: refer to a group or network of individuals who come together with the shared goal of supporting and facilitating employment opportunities. It is an approach that involves connecting job seekers with potential employers and industry professionals to enhance their employment prospects. Employment circles often provide a supportive environment for networking, skill development, and guidance in navigating the job market.

ANSACAP:

The African Nova Scotian Community Action Program (ANSCAP) is a new team within the HRM's municipality's Planning and Development department that partners with historical African Nova Scotian communities to develop **Community Action Plans:** roadmaps to addressing gaps in municipal services.

ANSCAP is one part of a two-pronged approach to Community Action Planning. First, the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity (also known as REP) works to build capacity and a strategic plan that outlines specific actions a community sees as a priority. Once a community has identified those priorities with REP, the ANSCAP team can create a plan to address those priorities through municipal services.