



African Nova Scotian
**Road to
Economic
Prosperity**

Presentation to:
HRM Community Planning and
Economic Development Committee

Progress, Impact, and the Road Ahead

November 20, 2025



PARTNERS:

**HALIFAX
PARTNERSHIP**

HALIFAX



NOVA SCOTIA

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY (ANSREP)

Owned and led by community, the ANSREP is the first strategy of its kind dedicated to advancing economic development, growth, and prosperity for African Nova Scotians, in collaboration with partners.

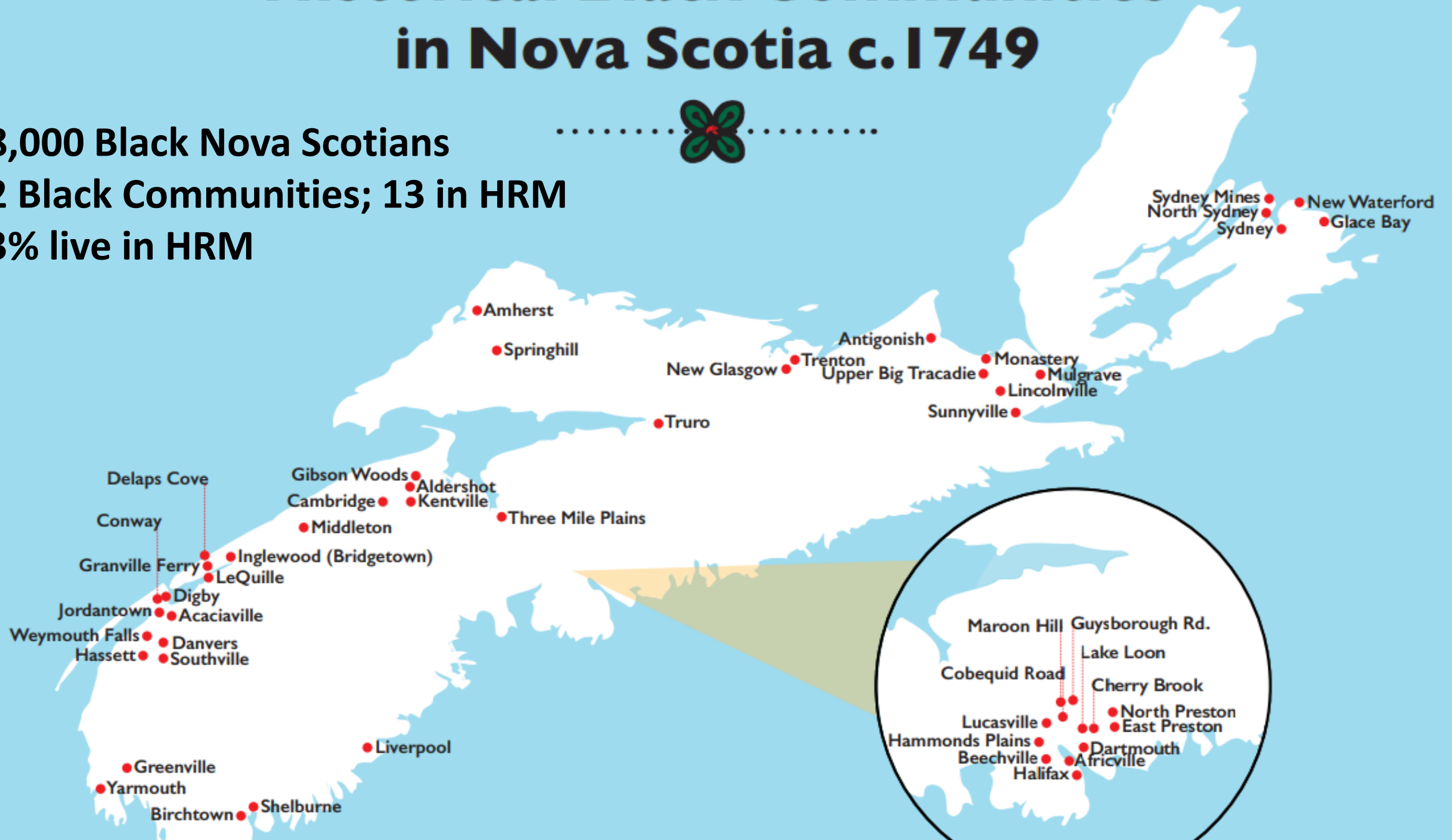


Historical Black Communities in Nova Scotia c.1749

28,000 Black Nova Scotians

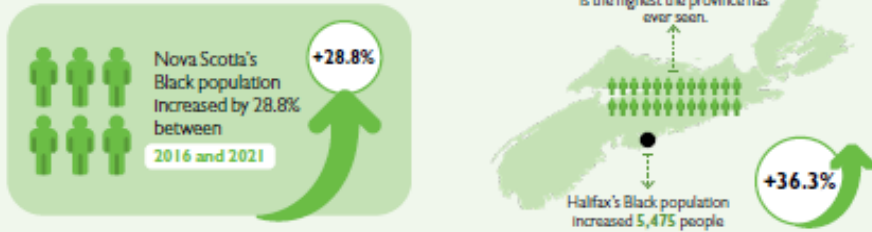
52 Black Communities; 13 in HRM

73% live in HRM



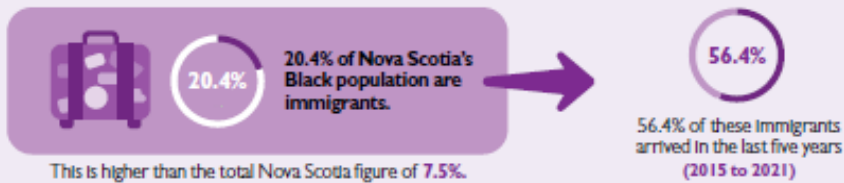
KNOWING OUR NUMBERS

POPULATION



The largest increase in Nova Scotia's Black population was seen for those aged 25 to 54 years, growing by 2,745 people.

IMMIGRATION



EMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate for Black Nova Scotians remains the highest among minority statuses in NS

(Data from 2006-2021, 15 years)

Black Nova Scotian	Other Minority groups	Non-minority
2006 unemployment rate - 10.1%	2006 unemployment rate - 9.9%	2006 unemployment rate - 9.4%
2016 unemployment rate - 14.7%	2016 unemployment rate - 9.2%	2016 unemployment rate - 10.4%
2021 unemployment rate - 14.0%	2021 unemployment rate - 12.9%	2021 unemployment rate - 13.9%

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUITY

- **Higher Unemployment:** 14% unemployment rate, 1.3 percentage points above the general population rate for Nova Scotians
- **Lower Workforce Participation:** Labour force participation rate fell by 3.9 points from 2006-2021
- **Education Gaps:** 12% of Black Nova Scotian adults had no formal educational attainment
- **Lower Incomes & Higher Poverty:** Earn less than non-minorities and a greater share live in poverty

* 2021 Census data

REP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (2021-2026)



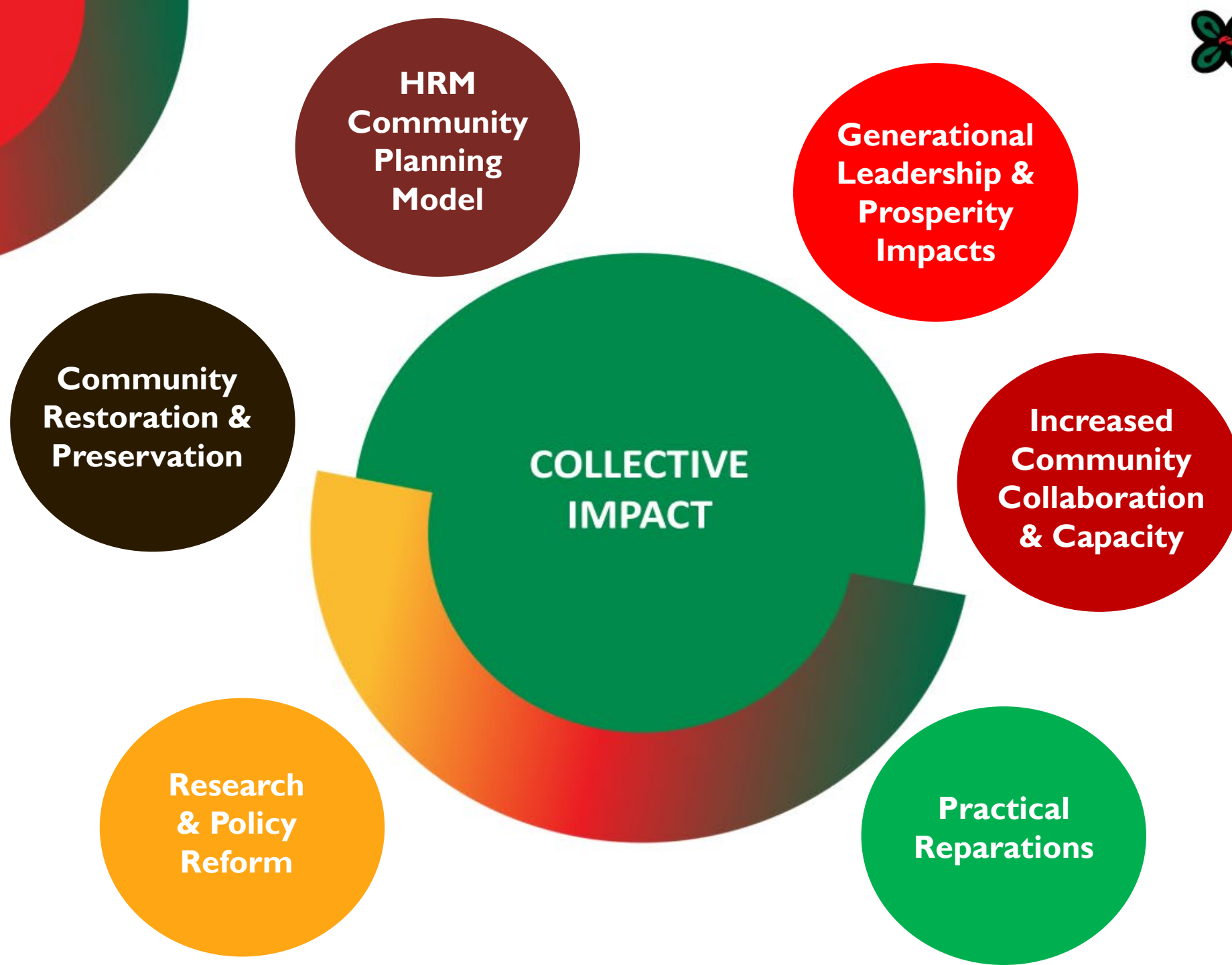
Build Unity and Capacity Among
African Nova Scotians



Establish Land Ownership, Develop
Infrastructure, and Attract Investment



Increase Participation in Education,
Employment, and Entrepreneurship





Strategic Priority	Progress Highlights 2021-26
1. Build unity and capacity among African Nova Scotians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established ANSREP community leadership and governance• Developed African Nova Scotian Community Action Program with HRM• Supported Community Action Planning in five HRM communities• Delivered socio-economic benefits via Cogswell Redevelopment• Launched African Nova Scotian Prosperity & Well-Being Index• Increased ANS awareness/engagement in government policy and planning• Hosted five public REP Summits reporting on progress and success
2. Establish land ownership, develop infrastructure, and attract investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated ANS priorities into HRM planning, policies, and processes• Advanced use of Community Benefit Agreements in HRM• Strengthened land ownership, access, and historic boundaries in ANS communities (incl., Beechville, Africville)• Upgraded community infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks, hydrants, and parks)• Expanded recreation and public spaces in ANS communities• Enhanced ANS cultural visibility (signage, crosswalks, and public works)
3. Increase participation in education, employment, and entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched ANS Workforce Attachment Program• Strengthened inclusive hiring at HRM and within the business community• Expanded youth programs and recreation spaces in ANS communities• Created public art opportunities via Cogswell Outdoor Art Gallery pilot

THE ROAD AHEAD “ROOTS & WINGS”

- Years 6-11 Plan (2026-2031) developed – addition of Policy Reform priority area
- Transition to an independent African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Secretariat Society in 2026
- Expanding and strengthening partnerships for collective impact

Build Unity and Capacity Among
African Nova Scotians

Establish Land Ownership, Develop
Infrastructure and Attract Investment

Increase Participation in Education,
Employment and Entrepreneurship

Advance Policy Reform

BUILDING GENERATIONAL PROSPERITY - TOGETHER

Requesting \$1M annually from HRM to implement ANSREP's 2026-31 Plan

- ANSREP Secretariat Society (11 FTEs)
- 5-year strategic plan, 4 priority areas, 37 actions
- Proven partnership with HRM making generational impacts and practical reparations in ANS communities
- HRM's contribution strengthens REP's ability to secure diverse revenue streams, maximizing return on municipal investment



ADVANCING INCLUSIVE GROWTH

- **Equity & Reparation**

Supports HRM's commitment to inclusive economic growth and practical reparations in ANS communities (addresses long-standing service, infrastructure, and investment gaps).

- **Economic Growth**

Drives employment, entrepreneurship, and development in ANS communities: expanding the tax base, reducing service burdens, strengthening communities.

- **Strategic Alignment**

Aligned with and embedded in Halifax's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy and HRM's municipal planning strategies, policies, and processes.

- **Leadership & Legacy**

Advances HRM's leadership in practical reparative policy and community-driven planning – building community capacity and leadership, improving socio-economic outcomes, and creating generational wealth and prosperity.



LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

- Road to Economic Prosperity Advisory Council provides leadership, oversight, and strategic guidance
- Supported by REP Elder Council, Youth Council, and working groups
- REP Secretariat Society (April 2026)



ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

- Regular reporting to REP Advisory Council
- Regular reporting to ANSAIO, CPED and Halifax Regional Council
- African Nova Scotian Prosperity and Well-being Index - tracks and reports on economic and community progress and well-being metrics
- Annual public REP Summit reports on and celebrates progress with ANS communities HRM residents, funders, supporters, and partners





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Thank You & Questions

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