



Proclamation

**Emancipation Day
August 1st, 2021**

WHEREAS, For over 400 years, more than 15 million African people of all ages were the victims of the transatlantic slave trade – one of the darkest chapters in the history of humanity. African people were forcibly removed from their homes, separated from their families and communities, and alienated from their cultures and traditions. Millions of Africans died in transit even as slavery became a lucrative venture and source of nation buildings in Europe and the Americas;

WHEREAS, The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that 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;

WHEREAS, On August 1st, 1834 the Slavery Abolition Act became law and effectively made slavery illegal in most British colonies resulting in the freedom of over 800,000 enslaved Africans in the Caribbean and as well as in Canada;

WHEREAS, The Province of Nova Scotia has, as of April 19, 2021, legislated August 1st as Emancipation Day;

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/237 proclaimed 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent and designated people of African descent as a distinct group, whose human rights must be promoted and protected in alignment with the pillar of recognition, justice and development;

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day is an acknowledgement of struggle for human rights made by freedom-seeking Canadians of African descent. The day also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the legacy and history of slavery in Canada while celebrating the rich contributions that people of African descent have made to our city and country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Mike Savage, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council, do hereby proclaim August 1st as Emancipation Day in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia
this 1st day of August 2021



ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mike Savage
Mayor