

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: January 27, 2026

Subject: African Nova Scotian Affirmation

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Waive Section 17 of Administrative Order One, requiring a staff report from the Chief Administrative Officer, to include an African Nova Scotia affirmation at Regional Council and Committee meetings during African Nova Scotia Month in February 2026; and
2. direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report regarding amending Administrative Order One to include an affirmation of the contributions of African Nova Scotians to Mi'kma'ki at Regional Council and Committee meetings.

Reason:

African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched Nova Scotia and HRM for over 400 years.

HRM is home to a number of historical African Nova Scotian communities including Beechville, Upper Hammonds Plains, Lucasville and the Prestons.

As institutions, individuals and organizations strive to recognize and eradicate systemic racism, and its historical and current impacts, there is an increased desire to acknowledge the history and richness of the African Nova Scotian people.

The addition of such a statement is not meant to replace any other acknowledgements, especially not acknowledgements meant to recognize the Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous Peoples.

An African Nova Scotian affirmation represents just one way of recognizing the resistance, resilience, creativity, spirituality and hope that has profoundly shaped our families and communities — and this municipality, province and country.

An affirmation statement is a starting point. Continuing to implement strategies to address discrimination that will lead to change that empowers our African Nova Scotian communities.

An affirmation could be used to educate and incite implementation of short-term and long-term actions which aim to break down systemic and institutional racism faced by African Nova Scotians.

The Province of Nova Scotia identifies African Nova Scotians as a founding culture.

Outcome sought:

Affirmation used during African Nova Scotia History month in February 2026. Suggested affirmation.

We also recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched the part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotian for over 400 years.

Change to Administrative Order to permit ongoing affirmation of the contributions of African Nova Scotians to Nova Scotia and HRM.

Councillor Janet Steele

District 12