

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

IN FEBRUARY, NOVA SCOTIANS RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH, honouring the culture, achievements, contributions and legacy of African Nova Scotian communities. This year's African Heritage Month theme is "Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress."

This year's theme speaks to the power of collective action, recognizing unity as a key element for change in opportunities, community and justice. The Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia stated that this theme also highlights the importance of elders and their role as knowledge keepers within the African Nova Scotian community. Honouring African Heritage Month is one small way to celebrate the more than 400 years of African presence in Nova Scotia and the enduring legacy of the province's 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities.

The 2026 theme also aligns with the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, carrying forward the principles of recognition, justice and development.

Celebrating and honouring African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia cultivates a future where the leadership, culture and contributions of African Nova Scotian communities are reflected in every part of the province.

Connection to Doctors Nova Scotia's Work

Anti-Black racism in healthcare remains a critical issue. The provincial government's 2023 Health Equity Framework identified systemic barriers to equitable healthcare for African Nova Scotians, including racial bias, a lack of representation of Black healthcare providers and insufficient culturally relevant resources for African Nova Scotian communities. Doctors Nova Scotia's efforts align closely with these findings, as identified through the association's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, (Reconciliation) and Accessibility Framework, released in 2025. Doctors Nova Scotia is working to address these inequities through sustained advocacy and action informed by community members, the Section of Black Physicians and system partners. Doctors Nova Scotia is committed to educating staff and members about the impacts of anti-Black racism in healthcare, examining and addressing internal biases, and advocating for systemic change to support health equity.

Resources:

- African Heritage Month Calendar of Events: bccns.com/events
- Black Cultural Centre African Heritage Month 2026: www.ahm.bccnsweb.com



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Find more EDIRA resources, videos and tools in the DNS SharePoint EDIRA Hub.