

AUGUST

EMANCIPATION DAY

EVERY AUGUST, CANADA MARKS EMANCIPATION DAY, COMMEMORATING THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT OF 1833, which abolished slavery across the British Empire, including Canada, on Aug. 1, 1834. This historic day marked the liberation of millions of African people and their descendants in Canada and globally.

On March 24, 2021, Canada's parliament unanimously designated Aug. 1 as Emancipation Day. Nova Scotia soon followed suit, enacting legislation on April 13, 2021, to recognize Emancipation Day annually on Aug. 1. This day celebrates the abolition of slavery within the British Empire and acknowledges the significance of this event in Canadian and Nova Scotian history.

Connection to Doctors Nova Scotia's work

Physicians can support their patients by recognizing Emancipation Day and addressing the ongoing impacts of systemic anti-Black racism. Physicians can engage in discussions about historic and current issues affecting African Nova Scotians, fostering awareness and collaboration to combat systemic racism.

This year, let's engage in courageous conversations about race and racism, creating a space for patients to share their experiences and concerns. By incorporating these practices and pausing to acknowledge the pain of the past, physicians can play a pivotal role in supporting the health and well-being of African Nova Scotians.

One way we can do this is by continuing to support and engage with initiatives such as PLANS (Promoting Leadership in health of African Nova Scotians), which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. This initiative aims to increase the representation of African Nova Scotians in health professions and works to improve health outcomes within the African Nova Scotian community.

Resources:

- Emancipation Day Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia commemorates Emancipation Day
- Dalhousie's Black Health Initiative - PLANS



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