

NATIONAL ACADIAN HISTORY DAY

AUGUST 15 MARKS NATIONAL ACADIAN DAY, A TIME TO HONOUR THE RICH CULTURE, RESILIENCE AND HISTORY OF ACADIAN PEOPLE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES. In Nova Scotia, Acadian communities continue to thrive and shape the province's identity through language, music, culinary traditions and enduring spirit.

The history of Acadian people in Nova Scotia is deeply shaped by Le Grand Dérangement (the Acadian expulsion). This forced displacement was a traumatic event that led to the loss of communities, the disruption of cultural traditions and a weakening of the strong alliance between the Acadian and Mi'kmaq peoples in their resistance to British occupation. Despite these hardships, their cultural bonds remain deep rooted today and continue to influence both communities. At Doctors Nova Scotia (DNS), we recognize and celebrate the diversity and strength that Acadian communities bring to the healthcare system, our members and the fabric of Nova Scotia.

We asked Debbie Traer, Administrative Coordinator about growing up Acadian in Chéticamp:

Growing up in Chéticamp, immersed in Acadian culture among family, friends and all the folks in our hometown, meant being surrounded by a strong sense of community. A people of resilience, adaptability and hard-working character, Acadians have held onto these strengths as a way of life through the generations – lessons passed down from our ancestors. It's in our nature to welcome strangers from all walks of life with open arms and a smile, to chat about where you're from, offer a cup of tea and a biscuit or even a full feast of traditional cuisine, and lend a helping hand when someone's in need. You'll feel like part of the community whether you're just passing through or setting down roots.

We are blessed with deep musical roots and talents that keep us connected, both at home and afar – music that stirs a longing for home with just a familiar tune. And when we meet others from the many Acadian communities throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it's like "old home week" – each speaking in our own dialect as if we've known each other forever. This is the village that raised my generation.

If you ever walk by my desk and see me gazing into the distance, smiling to myself, earbuds in, tapping my foot, and enjoying some *pâté à la viande acadienne* (*Acadian meat pie*), don't worry – I'll be back in a Cape Breton minute. I've just gone home for a tasty treat and a tune.

Connection to Doctors Nova Scotia's work

At DNS, we are committed to fostering inclusion and cultural safety in healthcare. Recognizing and celebrating the unique heritage and lived experiences of Acadian people is part of that commitment. From bilingual and rural healthcare advocacy to supporting our members serving Acadian communities, our work is stronger when it's informed by cultural knowledge and care.

Resources

- Acadian Celebrations and Commemorations | Acadian Affairs and Francophonie – tinyurl.com/Acadian-Celebrations
- National Acadian Day in Halifax – tinyurl.com/Acadian-Day-Halifax
- Discover Acadian History, Culture, and Food in Pubnico – tinyurl.com/Pubnico
- Connection between Acadians and Mi'kmaq during Le grand dérangment – tinyurl.com/Christmas-Cormier



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