



African Nova Scotian  
**Road to**  
**Economic**  
**Prosperity**

## Community Presentation

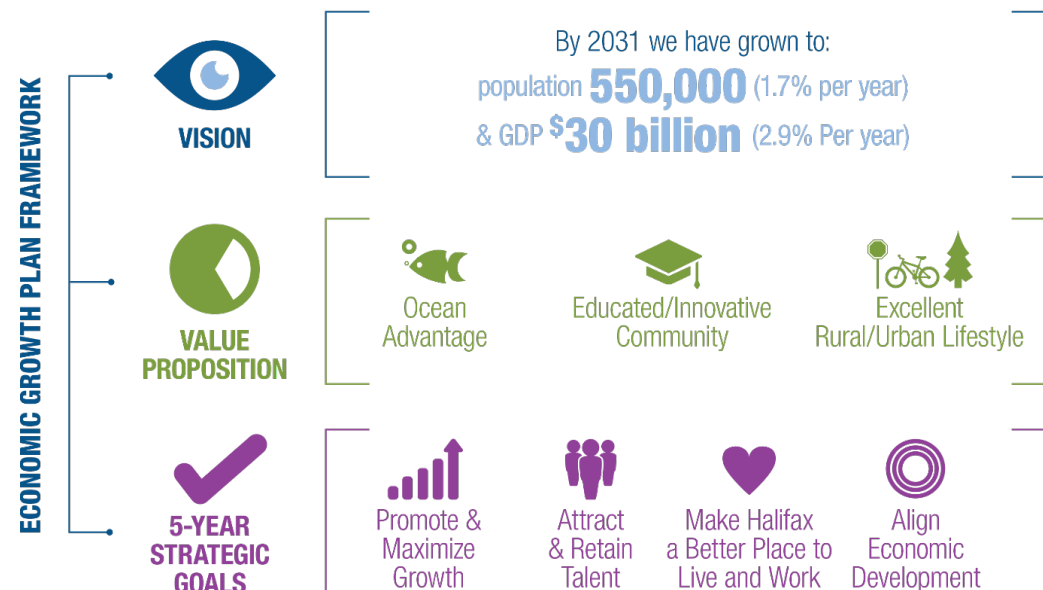
African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan developed and owned by the Community in partnership with the Halifax Partnership and HRM

March 3, 2020

# HALIFAX ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN 2016-21

## Key Actions for the ANS Community:

- ❖ **Action #10** -- In partnership with the Province, develop an approach to resolving ownership, taxation and planning issues on residential and community-owned properties without clear title.
- ❖ **Action # 12** - Develop and implement an African Nova Scotian (ANS) Action Plan to advance ANS economic development and community priorities.
- ❖ **Action #33** - Establish ANS and Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples streams under the Halifax Connector Program.
- ❖ **Action #34** - Identify and share existing programs, services and outcomes related to the workforce attachment of Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples, African Nova Scotians and other groups at risk of exclusion.
- ❖ **Action # 38** - Connect newcomers, African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Peoples, youth and persons with disabilities to employment opportunities at HRM.
- ❖ **Action #43** - Ensure HRM's culture investments reflect Halifax's diversity.
- ❖ **Action 59** - Consider and, where possible, incorporate community benefits as part of the development approval process in HRM communities.



# COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

- Halifax Regional Municipality's African Nova Scotian Affairs and Integration Office (ANSAIO) and the Halifax Partnership have hosted three consultations to better engage and connect with ANS communities.
- North Preston June 7-8, 2018 - The first and largest consultation was the **Road to Economic Prosperity: A Gathering of African Nova Scotian Communities and Neighbourhoods.**
- Additional consultations were held with Beechville, Akoma and North Preston communities in early 2019.
- Key economic development themes from the consultations include:
  - The need to build unity, capacity and leadership among and within ANS communities
  - The issue and challenge of establishing land ownership and developing infrastructure within ANS communities
  - The need to improve education, employment and entrepreneurship outcomes for African Nova Scotians



# SETTING THE CONTEXT

- ANS communities must focus on priorities and activities that bring unity, demonstrate value and can be understood and replicated by others.
- This pursuit should be done with honesty and integrity and be grounded in African identity.
- Focusing on priorities and taking action worthy of emulation is the best demonstration of community progress.
- This is how we will build critical mass.



# ROAD TO UNITY - CRITICAL ELEMENTS



## **FIRE:**

This speaks to discipline, commitment and uncompromising energy, the energy to make things go forward, promote clarity and bring about definitive outcomes. For a community to thrive, the fire energy must be focused, efficient and effective. These include the people who continue to challenge the system and the status quo - those who fight racism and are often very vocal within the community.



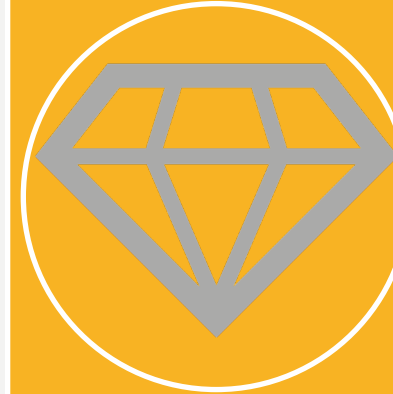
## **WATER:**

Represents healing, tranquility, sustenance, support, and cleansing. These are the peace makers, the mediators, and those who bring the community together.



## **EARTH:**

Mother earth provides what is required physically to stay alive – nutrition, medicine etc. These are the people who are always concerned about everybody's welfare. They feed, they nurture, and they heal.



## **MINERALS / ROCKS:**

This represents the memories and history African Nova Scotians carry within – the story telling, instructions, information on history, parables, proverbs and all the things that are vital to the essence and values of the community. This shapes and grounds the community and keeps it focused on how it ought to work. These people are the story tellers, those who carry the memories of the community, the archivists who help sustain the history and traditions of the community.



## **NATURE:**

This is the creation of balance of everything that exists. It provides the alignment and coordination needed to promote creativity, exploration, curiosity, innovation and knowledge utilization. These are people who are filled with good energy for innovation and exploration.



**UNITY**

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Irvine Carvery (Co-chair) - Africville
- Dolly Williams (Co-chair) - East Preston
- Bobby Taylor - East Preston Ratepayers Association
- Patsy Crawford - Beechville
- Jareeca Jones - Upper Hammonds Plains
- Miranda Cain- North Preston
- Veronica Marsman - Akoma
- Sherry Bernard - Lake Loon Cherry Brook
- Rosella Fraser - North Preston Rec Centre Advisory Committee
- Miranda Cain - North Preston
- Chavasse Bain - Office African Nova Scotian Affairs
- Matthew Martell - Black Business Initiative
- Antonio Simmonds - ANSAIO
- Ayo Aladejebi - Halifax Regional Municipality African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO)
- Carolann Wright - Halifax Partnership

## Membership

- ❖ A member from each Black community in HRM
- ❖ Community organizations involved in economic development and/or capacity building
- ❖ Resources/support person from the primary agencies
- ❖ Youth and elder representation

## Role

- ❖ Review and approve terms of reference
- ❖ Use five elements for developing ANS communities
- ❖ Discuss & support the action plan
- ❖ Prepare for presentation to community at large
- ❖ Develop a work plan and timeline for completion
- ❖ ANSAIO & Halifax Partnership will provide support

## How We Work

- ❖ Listen with care and sensitivity to the full range of all members' interests
- ❖ Remain open to new ideas and concepts
- ❖ Offer possible alternatives when an agreement cannot be reached
- ❖ Discuss everyone's positions on matters of group interest
- ❖ Agree on how to communicate these as a group to external parties

## Values

- ❖ Ethical and competent leadership
- ❖ Strong, progressive and effective institutions with Afrocentric representation and values
- ❖ Economic infrastructure that gives back to the community
- ❖ A coherent strategy for healing, for trauma, and emotional well-being.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Build Unity and Capacity Among  
African Nova Scotians



Establish Land Ownership and  
Develop Infrastructure



Increase participation in education,  
employment and entrepreneurship

Strategic Priority	5 Year Objectives	Years 1 – 2 Actions
<b>I. Build unity &amp; capacity among African Nova Scotians</b>	<b>I.1 Increase alignment and collaboration among African Nova Scotian communities and partners to create transparency and collective success</b>	Establish the Road to Economic Prosperity Advisory Committee and Elders Council/Working Group to provide leadership and oversight
		Develop an ethical framework guided by shared principles and practices to promote accountability with bi-annual check-in
		Bring ANS communities together to celebrate and share best practices and lessons learned
		Report annually on Road to Economic Prosperity, highlighting successes and progress against outcomes
		Recognize and promote the historical legacy and value of ANS communities
		Collaborate with public, private and post-secondary partners to establish an African Nova Scotian Equality Index modeled after the Halifax Index
	<b>I.2 Build community capacity to mobilize and lead the implementation of the Road to Economic Prosperity</b>	Bring changemakers to the table who are ready and able to constructively and positively create change
		Connect ANS communities to training resources to develop leadership and facilitation skills
		Develop a mentorship program to engage and support the development of ANS youth
		Develop a speakers series hosting thought leaders on economic development in African communities globally



Strategic Priority	5 Year Objectives	Years 1 – 2 Actions
<b>2. Establish land ownership and develop infrastructure</b>	<b>2.1 Address historic and current issues related to land ownership and environmental racism</b>	Identify the best approach to include Community Benefits Agreements (CBA) as part of HRM's Planning and Development strategies for ANS communities
		In partnership with the Province, develop an approach to resolve ownership, taxation and planning issues on residential and community owned properties without clear title
		Support the Akoma-led master plan for the restoration of the historic Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children
		Review the naming, boundaries and zoning of historic ANS Communities, and zoning affecting ANS communities
		Identify and prioritize the remediation of government-owned contaminated sites in ANS communities
	<b>2.2 Revitalize ANS communities through investment and development</b>	Prioritize and undertake infrastructure projects (capital and renewal) and support development projects across ANS communities
		Support ANS communities to identify and secure funding for the preservation and interpretation of ANS community heritage sites
		Prioritize and develop vacant lands within ANS communities
		Redevelop and market spaces within ANS communities for commercial or/ community use
	<b>2.3 Explore International economic and cultural opportunities</b>	Pursue sister city and international trade and development relationships with African countries with ancestral ties to African Nova Scotians
		Attract international investors into the African Nova Scotian communities

Strategic Priority	5 Year Objectives	Years 1 – 2 Actions
<b>3. Increase participation in education, employment, and entrepreneurship</b>	<b>3.1 Increase labour force attachment for African Nova Scotians</b>	Expand the ANS stream under the Halifax Connector Program
		Identify and share existing programs and services supporting the workforce attachment of African Nova Scotians
		Connect African Nova Scotians to employment opportunities at HRM
		Provide opportunities for ANS-owned businesses into corporate supply chain and government contracts
	<b>3.2 Increase entrepreneurship opportunities in ANS communities</b>	Explore cooperative models and examine their validity for ANS communities
		Connect ANS entrepreneurs to business development programs and services

# GAPS IDENTIFIED

## Research:

There is a lack of past and present **economic data and qualitative research** to fully understand the historic and current human rights concerns, educational issues, and the economic situation of African Nova Scotians.



# PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

- **Advisory Committee** – *A Road to Prosperity Advisory Committee* has been established to guide the plan throughout development and implementation.
- **Presentation of the draft plan** – Presented to HRM Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, engagement with HRM business units and other stakeholders, consultations with the ANS community.
- **Final draft plan** – to be presented to Regional Council for endorsement and release to the public (Spring 2020).
- **Road to Prosperity Summit** – launch of *The Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan* (June 2020).



# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION