

1792 Proclamation

Whereas the Municipality proclaims January 15, 2022 is the 230th anniversary of 15 ships departing the harbour of Halifax in 1792, and that the conditions and causes that led to the exodus of 1,196 self liberated Black Loyalist were conditions of abject institutionalized racism and that this departure took place at the height of the transatlantic chattel slave trade one of the cruelest chapters in the history of humanity.

Whereas the Municipality recognizes that people of African descent have been a part of Canadian society since the early 1600s and that their enslavement occurred on this land for centuries and that the Black Loyalists departure is linked to the failure of institutional, political and societal will to fulfill the promises that were made to the communities that left for Sierra Leone.

Whereas the Municipality is committed to promote histories such as the 15 Ships to Sierra Leone that often have been left in a vacuum of erasure. The resources provided for well known monumentation have historically been funded at the expense of those erasures.

Whereas the Municipality continues to recognize the ongoing significance of the UN Decade of African Descent and the importance of recognizing the history of Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia and how all communities in Nova Scotia continue to be affected by the historic rift of the Black community.

Whereas we recognize that secure housing and land was promised to these early settlers and very few received what was owed. No one received the promised 100 acres of land for each head of household despite petitions (by Thomas Peters). For many Black Loyalists, shared Mi'kmaq knowledge was key to survival in the first winters.

Thereby be it resolved that I, Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, declare January 15, 2022, the Day of Black Loyalist Exodus: 15 Ships to Sierra Leone.



Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson

January 11, 2022