

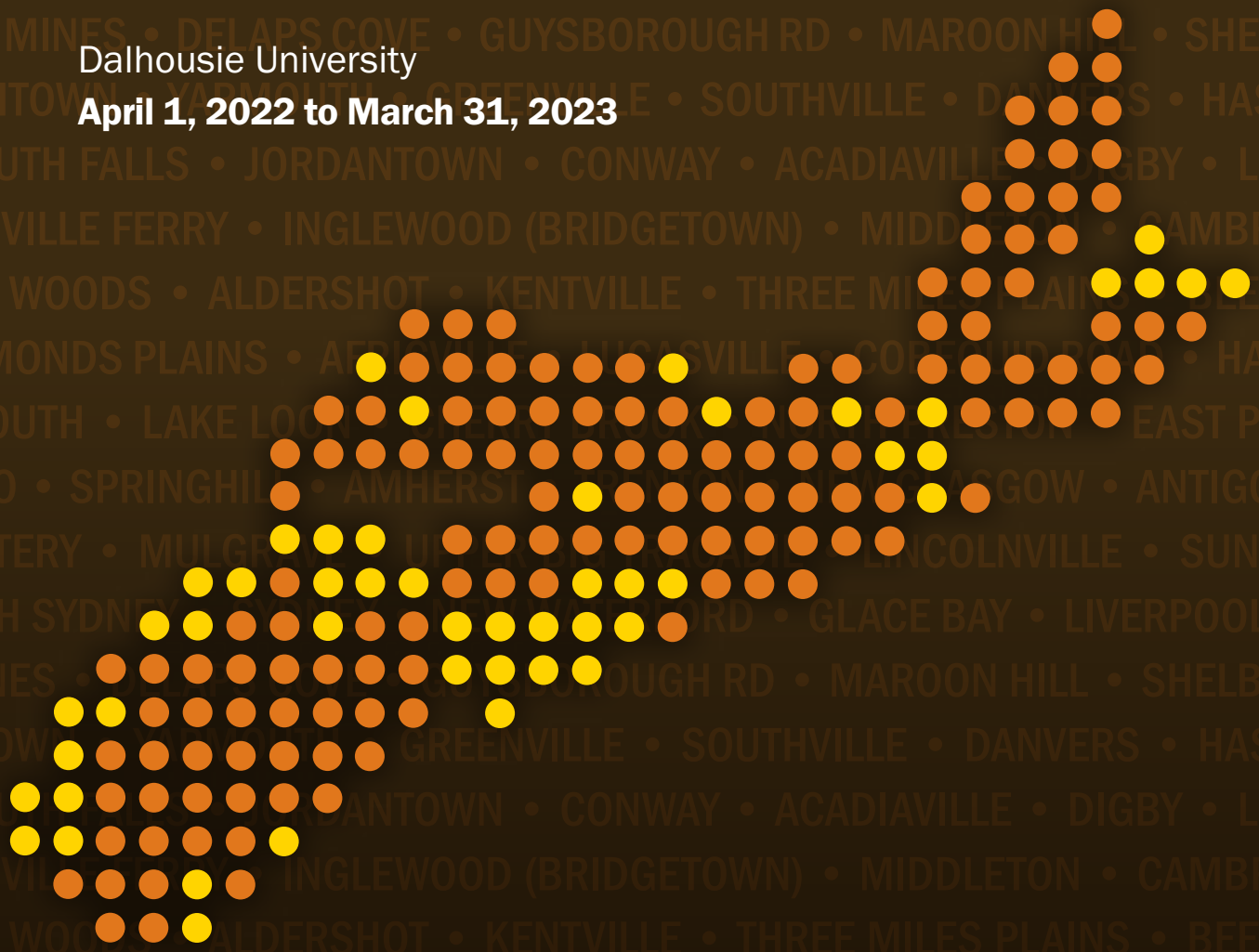
# Annual Report

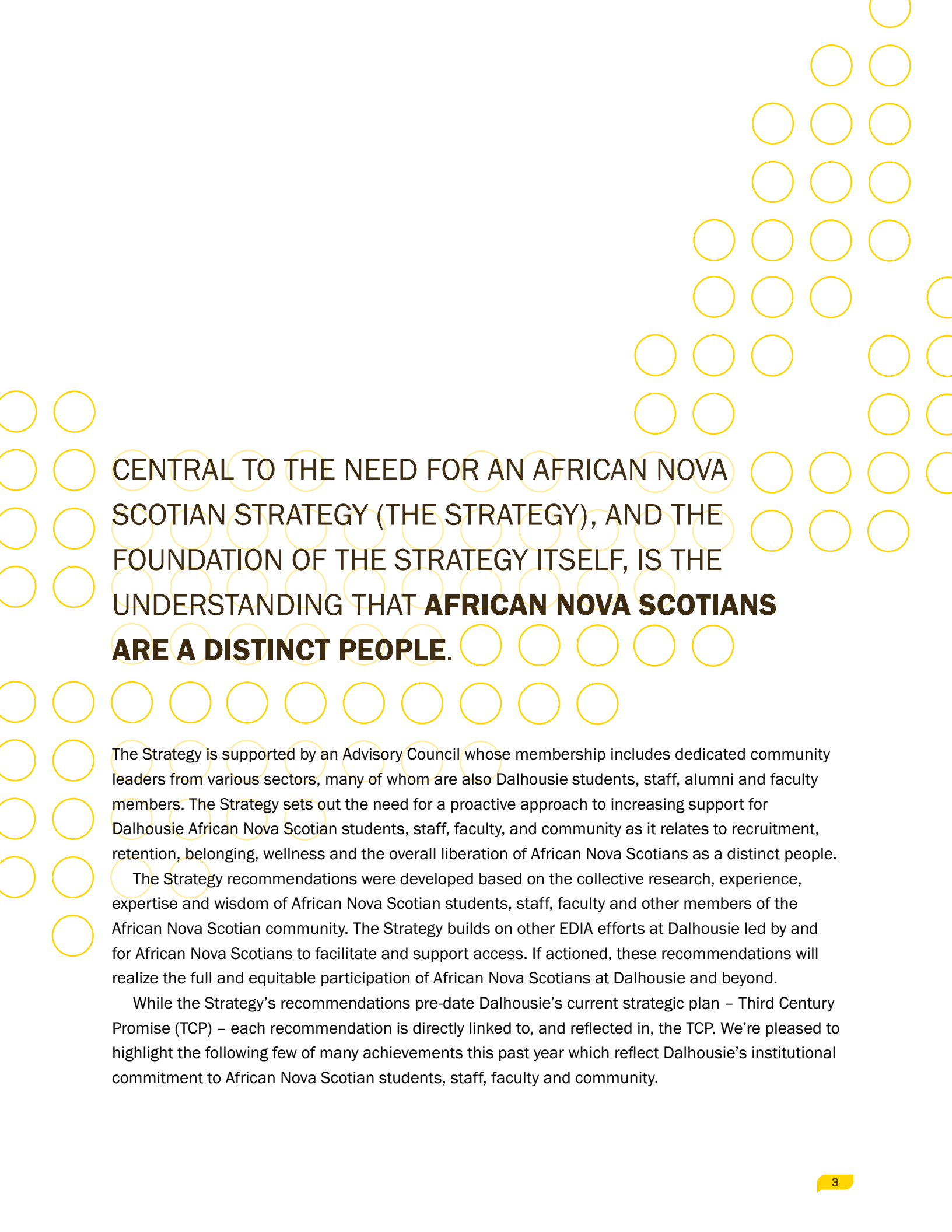
# African Nova Scotian

# Strategy Highlights

Dalhousie University

April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023





CENTRAL TO THE NEED FOR AN AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN STRATEGY (THE STRATEGY), AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE STRATEGY ITSELF, IS THE UNDERSTANDING THAT **AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIANS ARE A DISTINCT PEOPLE.**

The Strategy is supported by an Advisory Council whose membership includes dedicated community leaders from various sectors, many of whom are also Dalhousie students, staff, alumni and faculty members. The Strategy sets out the need for a proactive approach to increasing support for Dalhousie African Nova Scotian students, staff, faculty, and community as it relates to recruitment, retention, belonging, wellness and the overall liberation of African Nova Scotians as a distinct people.

The Strategy recommendations were developed based on the collective research, experience, expertise and wisdom of African Nova Scotian students, staff, faculty and other members of the African Nova Scotian community. The Strategy builds on other EDIA efforts at Dalhousie led by and for African Nova Scotians to facilitate and support access. If actioned, these recommendations will realize the full and equitable participation of African Nova Scotians at Dalhousie and beyond.

While the Strategy's recommendations pre-date Dalhousie's current strategic plan – Third Century Promise (TCP) – each recommendation is directly linked to, and reflected in, the TCP. We're pleased to highlight the following few of many achievements this past year which reflect Dalhousie's institutional commitment to African Nova Scotian students, staff, faculty and community.

## Exceptional Student Experience – Pillar 1

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The Third Century Promise has set as a priority the expansion of international academic opportunities for students. Student exchange data shows that African Nova Scotians do not generally take part in outbound exchange experiences. In efforts to address this gap is the Strategy’s participation in the Global Skills Opportunity program (GSO). The GSO launched to address barriers to student participation in international learning opportunities and is a key component of the federal government’s International Education Strategy. The GSO has set as a goal to increase the participation of young Canadians, particularly students who are underrepresented, in international learning opportunities whether domestically or abroad.

Under the leadership of Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch (Assistant Vice-Provost Equity and Inclusion), and Jalana Lewis (Director, African Nova Scotian Community Engagement), four African Nova Scotian students from the Faculty of Health and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences attended the 2022 African Youth and Governance Convergence conference in Zambia.

Each student at the conference, which drew participants from 20 African countries and the Diaspora, was assigned an area of specialty. Once assigned, the groups were tasked with developing solutions to mitigate some of the most common challenges in that speciality area – such as healthcare, gender and women, education, and the environment.

The impact of the GSO is best conveyed by Dal Nursing student Arielle Noseworthy, who when interviewed for a Dal News story shared, “In healthcare, we were talking a lot about ways to expand in the communities that are remote like with telehealth,” she says. “Here in Nova Scotia, we have a lot of virtual health programs that help those in remote communities, and those that are without family doctors. We would come up with ideas such as those and made a proposal with the General Assembly to see if these ideas will be passed into motion and potentially implemented.”

Preceding and following this international learning opportunity was a 2-week intensive academic component, followed by a 1-week intensive where student participants earned the equivalent of 3- credit hours towards their degree.

## High-impact Research – Pillar 3

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Led by researchers, Michelle Williams (Co-Chair, African Nova Scotian Strategy), Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch (Assistant Vice-Provost Equity and Inclusion), and Vanessa Fells (Director, African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition), the ANS Strategy launched the development of an African Nova Scotian Research Ethics Framework and Protocol.

This SSHRC-funded research evolved through a partnership between the African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African

Descent (ANSDPAD) Coalition and Dalhousie's African Nova Scotian Strategy.

This initiative has five key objectives, which are to:

- explore how African Nova Scotians understand and envision research,
- examine how research has harmed African Nova Scotians,
- develop a new research ethics framework to guide future research,
- build capacity and training for African Nova Scotian student and community-based researchers, and
- develop training modules for both African Nova Scotian and non-African Nova Scotian researchers.

Focus groups were held with the African Nova Scotian communities of Cape Breton, Guysborough/Antigonish, New Glasgow, Truro, Kentville, Greenville, Halifax, Preston Townships, Central Halifax.

African Nova Scotian faculty members Maria Dugas, Kelsey Jones, Melisa Marsman, Shawna Paris-Hoyte and Michelle Williams at the Schulich School of Law formed the African Nova Scotian Research Cluster and Project to deepen the study of African Nova Scotian legal issues and to apply the research to address the legal needs of African Nova Scotian as a distinct people.

## Civic University with Global Impact – **Pillar 4**

### INITIATIVE 1 COMMUNITY WEEKEND

Offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development (OLCD) at Dalhousie, the ANS Community Weekend was conceived as a means to host engagement activities centred on bringing the Dalhousie classroom experience to members of the ANS community. A three-day event, Community Weekend started with an informal Meet and Greet held in community at Hope Blooms Friday evening; a full-day immersive session at OLCD which included two workshops Access & Preparation for Post-Secondary Programs at Dal and Beyond, and Career and Professional Development Pathways on Saturday, closing with a church service on Sunday, focused on lifelong learning.

Community Weekend acknowledged and celebrated the history of African Nova Scotians championing education within the community, despite historical and continued systemic and structural barriers to access. The theme of Community Weekend, lifelong learning, connected to the Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development's key value of pursuing being better through constant learning.

Partnering with Emmanuel Baptist Church: The Meeting Place, located in Upper Hammonds Plains, and Hope Blooms in the North End of Halifax, this initiative provided a strong connection to the role that community centres and religious institutions have played in supporting and encouraging lifelong learning among community members.



In development is a resource for churches in the African United Baptist Association, and other churches with large Black congregations, that wish to host a special sermon on the topic of Lifelong Learning, similar to the Community Weekend church service that took place at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Thank you to the Community Weekend partners:

- African Nova Scotian Strategy Advisory Council
- Emmanuel Baptist Church: The Meeting Place
- Faculty of Open Learning & Career Development
- Hope Blooms
- Office of Equity and Inclusion



PHOTOS FROM COMMUNITY DAY







## Civic University with Global Impact – Pillar 4

### INITIATIVE 2 WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Third Century Promise recognizes the pivotal role Dalhousie has as a civic university, prioritizing “creating safe, culturally-specific academic, research, social, intellectual and physical spaces to nourish and facilitate meaningful and safe integration *both on our campuses and in our engagements with the broader African Nova Scotian community.*” [emphasis added]

St. Joseph’s-Alexander McKay Elementary School (SJAM) students and staff have been temporarily displaced from their home school in the north end of Halifax and are now being bussed to a temporary location on Walnut Street. During their relocation, SJAM has accessed some of Dalhousie’s facilities until their new school is built. To note, the school has a sizable population of ANS students.

Led by Jalana Lewis (Director, African Nova Scotian Community Engagement), three key actions were accomplished this past year:

- **St. Joseph’s-Alexander McKay Elementary School Spring Reading Blitz**
  - o Weekly book-buddy support with grade two African Nova Scotian students
- **St. Joseph’s-Alexander McKay Elementary School (SJAM) & Dal Dentistry**
  - o Facilitated Dentistry’s donation of 390 kids’ toothbrush and toothpaste packs

Perhaps the most impactful was our hosting of a welcome lunch at the School

The ‘welcome to the neighborhood’ lunch for the SJAM school community was held in partnership with Food Services, Athletics, and Communications, Creative Services and Marketing. Dalhousie:

- Provided lunch for all 390 students, led outdoor activities and coordinated a mural activity for each class.
- ANS staff, faculty and others, along with a few varsity athletes and the Tiger mascot also participated in this welcome event.

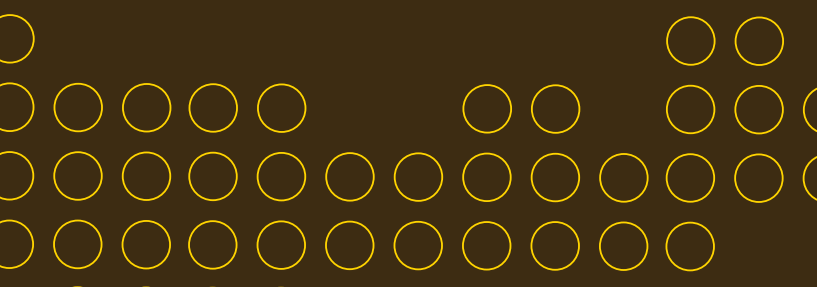
African Nova Scotians know how it feels to be displaced. African Nova Scotians also know how to respond to being displaced by creating community. One outcome of the outreach initiatives is an improved sense of belonging for students and community navigating an unfamiliar neighbourhood with limited amenities. Woven throughout each initiative with SJAM was a commitment to relationship culminating with the students’ participation in Dalhousie’s launch of African Heritage Month.



ABOVE: **SJAM WELCOME 1**  
(Courtney Bragg)

RIGHT: **AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
(Danny Abriel)

BELOW: **ANS CRT CLASS**  
(Danny Abriel)





## Civic University with Global Impact – Pillar 4

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### INITIATIVE 3 DEEPENING AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

African Nova Scotian faculty at the Schulich School of Law worked to significantly expand African Nova Scotian law courses. The mandatory first-year course on *African Nova Scotian Legal History & Issues and Critical Race Theory (ANS/CRT)* was offered for the first time in 2022-2023 using a community-based design involving immersive education at important African Nova Scotian sites such as the Black Cultural Centre and Africville. A new intensive course on African Nova Scotian Land Titles was offered and the African Nova Scotians and the Law seminar course was offered for the eighth year.

Numerous students from the course have received the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Race and the Law Paper prize for their research. In addition, the national Julius Isaac critical race theory moot was approved for credit and a team from Dalhousie will participate in 2023-2024.

Similarly, a course in the Faculty of Health, Centering Black Health was approved by senate and offered for the first time as a three-credit hour course in the 2023 winter term. This course focuses on the inequities in health for people of African descent with a strong focus on African Nova Scotians. This course was initially developed under the leadership of Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch and Michelle Patrick as an Interprofessional Health Education course for three years prior and has been part of the physiotherapy curriculum for the past two.

Respectfully submitted,  
May 23, 2023



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Quenta Adams'.

Quenta Adams, Co-chair ANS Strategy



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Williams'.

Michelle Williams, Co-chair ANS Strategy