



The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (DPAD) recognizes today, August 1st as Emancipation Day. On this day in 1834, the horrendous act of slavery was officially abolished throughout British North America (now Canada).

Today we honour our African ancestors who fought tirelessly for their freedom, we acknowledge those who persevered in the face of oppression and we pay homage to the millions of our African Ancestors who did not survive the middle passage.

Acknowledging this important day is an essential step to increasing awareness and education on anti-Black racism faced by African Canadians. Although slavery was abolished, the lived realities of systemic anti-Black racism are perpetuated, still, by Canada's deep roots of colonial violence, assimilation, segregation and slavery.

Commemorating Emancipation Day will not only highlight the incredible work of countless Canadians, but also allows all Canadians to take responsibility to hold courageous conversations about racism, work collectively to advocate for reparations as we acknowledge our history and strive to realize equity, and justice for all people of African Ancestry worldwide.

