



AKOMA

Newsletter

Winter-Spring 2021



CONNECT WITH US

1018 Main Street Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

902-434-0674

www.akoma.ca



100 Years of Caring

Founded by J.A.R. Kinney and incorporated in 1921 as a non-profit agency funded through the Department of Community Services, the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children was formed to meet the needs of disadvantaged black youth and over the course of 100 years, supported and cared for young people from all walks of life.

On June 6, in recognition of the 100th anniversary, a virtual commemorative event was held online to recognize the Home, its people and its role in the African Nova Scotian community.

Acknowledgements and recognitions were provided from dignitaries including the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Hon. Author J. LeBlanc, the Nova Scotia Premier, Hon. Iain Rankin, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs, Hon. Tony Ince, Senator Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard, MP Darrel Sampson and Mayor Mike Savage.

The virtual event took viewers on a virtual tour of the renovation being conducted at the Home. Hosted by Dr. Wayne Adams, Honorary Board Member, the multi-generational event featured guest speakers, musical performers, poetry readings, cultural presentations, and a video clip showing the vast property. Special presenters included Dr. OmiSoore Dryden and Nova Scotia Family Court Judge, Corrine Sparks as well as performances from J-BAE's, Beechville Youth, Poet Dr. George Elliott Clarke and a visit down memory lane with video clips from the Annual Telethon Broadcasts from decades past that were a big hit with viewers.

To view the 100-year commemorative event online visit Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children 100th Anniversary - Virtual Event on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VleLZSwjrv8&t=1s>

We invite you to please join us in the fall of 2021 for the grand opening of the newly refurbished Old Home. For more information go to www.akoma.ca





For additional information
 novascotiaworks@halifax.ymca.ca
 www.ymcaworks.ca
 902-466-7649

BAULD CENTRE ANNEX

The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent (ANSDPAD) Coalition is an open group representing organizations that serve African Nova Scotian people, communities, interests and needs.

To best achieve our goal, we need the participation of African Nova Scotians who can join one of our 11 working groups in the following categories:

- *Community Services * Justice Strategy* Health Strategy
- *Arts & Culture * Education * Environmental Racism
- *Immigration * Land/Infrastructure * Reparations * Youth
- *Economic Development

Becoming a member of the Coalition is easy; just go to www.ansdpad.ca/membership/ and select the working group of which you want to be a part.

For additional information go to:
www.ansdpad.ca
 902-462-3723
office@ansdpad.ca

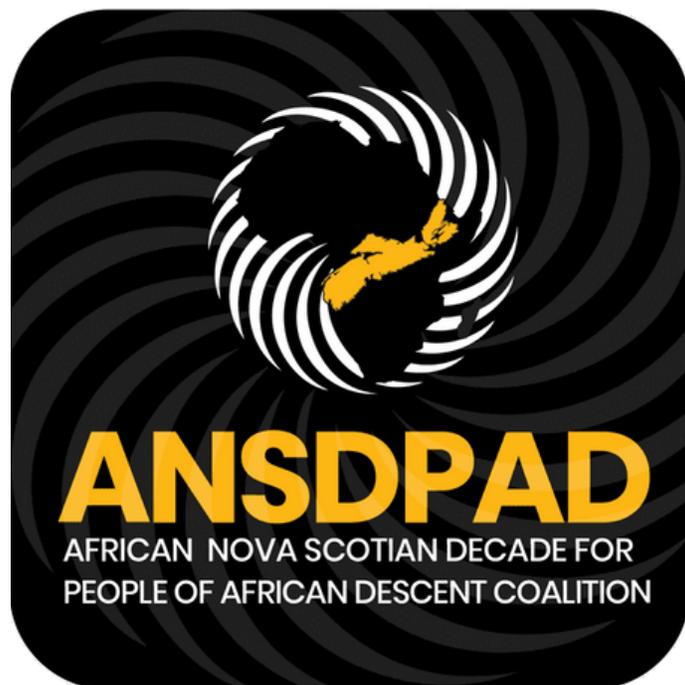
BAULD CENTRE TENANT

The Y-Nova Scotia Works Employment Services Centre identified the need to form a stronger relationship with the North Preston community through partnerships and collaboration. Two positions were identified and have been staffed.

The North Preston Community Navigator position will work to bridge the gap between the community and YMCA/Nova Scotia Works employment services. Erin Fraser from the community of North Preston was hired to fulfill this very important role.

Also, this spring the Centre has a new Job Developer. Colter Simmonds has been hired to provide Job Developer services to our Wilfred Jackson Way and Cole Harbour Centres. Previously working with youth in the community, Colter brings a great deal of knowledge and community experience to this position. Please join us in welcoming Erin and Colter to the Y-Nova Scotia Works Team.

The Centre, in partnership with the East Preston Empowerment Academy, is participating in the roll out of the Back to Work Pathways to Construction program. Our involvement sees us assisting with participant interviews, working with employers in providing participant career exploration and placements, as well as assisting with soft skills workshops





The Akoma Family Centre provides temporary care for children with complex behavioural, developmental, and cognitive needs, between the ages of 3-13. Applying an innovative approach that blends Africentric, trauma-informed care principles, with best practices in the Autism field. Our environment is designed to protect children's health, and support their need for fresh air, play, sensory stimulation and proper nourishment.

Only children in the care of the Department of Community Services (DCS) can access our services. The children stay with us while their DCS social worker, in collaboration with our Clinical Social Worker, develop the best plan of care for the child.



Akoma Family Centre is pleased to announce the recent addition of Merilee Rowse as our new Social Worker. Hired in February, Merilee has already enhanced the program in the brief period she has been with us. She is a huge advocate for the children and brings with her a strong knowledge base and skill set to work with our kiddos and team.

Merilee can be reached at:
 902-434-0674
 mrowes@akoma.ca
 www.akoma.ca

BAULD CENTRE TENANT



The Women Unlimited Association is a not-for-profit women's organization in Nova Scotia that promotes the full participation of women in trades and technology. We work with industry, governments, educational institutions and the community to address the systemic barriers that limit the participation of diverse women in these fields.

Our programs offer a continuum of services from career exploration, support during trades and technology training, and transitional services that support women entering these fields to retention services that ensure women maintain employment in these fields.

For general program and employer inquiries contact:
 Vivian Dixon, Program Manager HRM
 c. 902-220-6627
 c. vdixon@womenunlimitedns.ca
 www.womenlimitedns.ca

Since 2006, **640** diverse women have participated in WU programs





BAULD CENTRE ANNEX

EPEA seeks to empower and equip members of our community with the necessary skills, tools and confidence to fulfill their lifelong dreams, and ultimately, enhance their employability.

EPEA began in September 2014 and initially started with a basic, Adult Learning Program (ALP) and expanded to a preparation course for the Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) Exam.

In 2016, we expanded the program offerings to include a Trade Apprenticeship Program known as the Pathways Initiative. Through Pathways, people with experience in various trades, including plumbing, electrical, vehicle mechanics, and hairdressing are prepared to write exams for Red Seal Certification with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA).

In 2018, we partnered with a number of organizations to create Pathways to Shipbuilding for African Nova Scotians. Twenty participants were accepted into the program and all 20 graduated in June 2020. A Youth in Trades program was offered in 2020/21, with support from NSAA, the Association of Black Social Workers and the NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Some of our upcoming programs will include: Seniors Technology, Back to Work, Public Speaking and ongoing preparation for exams for participants to obtain Red Seal Certification.



For More information about the East Preston Empowerment Academy, their programs and services visit:
www.epeacademy.com
902-434-2255

AKOMA COMMUNITY GARDEN

Spring is here and the Akoma Community Garden is once again ready for avid gardeners to grow flowers, fruits and vegetables. This year, we have added a greenhouse to get seedlings off to a strong start.

Greenhouse Plots (4 square feet) are available for \$15

Community Garden Plots are available for \$75*
(*\$25 will be reimbursed in the fall for plots clear of debris and weeds.)

For more information or to reserve your community garden or greenhouse plot contact:

Joanna Pugh
jpugh@akoma.ca
902- 434-0674 ext. 2





OLD HOME RESTORATION

DORA Construction is pleased to play a role in bringing people and ideas together in Akoma's Old Home restoration project.

Our role includes completing the interior fit up and the civil work, including bringing power and communications to the building. This will be done with significant community involvement, such as inviting all known Black business owners to bid on work and having community members employed as workers and apprentices.

DORA is working with the East Preston Empowerment Academy on their Back to Work Program and is looking forward to working with those interested in gaining experience in their trade.

In mid-May work began on floor insulation and wall spray foam, followed by under floor fire rating. Following we will award and have mechanical and engineering rough-ins completed. Work is progressing and we are excited to see the finished product.

DORA is working diligently to complete the project by the end of November.

AKOMA PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, May 4 the Halifax Regional Council held a public hearing on Case 21875 Akoma Holdings Inc. - an application to amend the Regional plan to enable the adaptive reuse of the former Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children along Highway 7 in Westphal. This would allow a mix of economic and social opportunities including a café, hair salon, gym space for seniors and office space, as well as other development plans including senior housing, low-income housing and market value housing, among other things.

Council approved the application and once approval is received from the province, an ad will be placed in the local newspaper at which time the amendments will officially come into effect.

For more information visit the Akoma Holdings website at: www.akoma.ca

