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Town of Truro to form Committee to develop a Local Action Plan with the African Nova Scotian Community

Truro Town Council is very proud to enter into what many in Truro's African Nova Scotian community are calling a historic partnership to develop an action plan that will help guide the Town and the community to find solutions to longstanding issues around recognition, communication and understanding. Council will work collaboratively with the African Nova Scotian community to enhance their relationship and to recognize their historical contribution to the community. Council will also work to support the Community's efforts in seeking social justice and development through provincial and federal governments.

To enable the partnership, a Special Committee of Council will be formed, consisting of members of the community and Council appointed representatives. The Committee will be guided by the development of terms of reference and objectives, using the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, Nova Scotia's Action Plan for the Response to the International Decade for People of African Descent, the 2015 UN Decade of People of African Descent Action Plan and the 2017 Report by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. These documents will help to identify broader issues at the federal and provincial levels and should enable the Committee and the community to develop strategies that initiate real and positive change for Truro.

The first step will be to seek members for the Committee. It is important to get people with the right mindset that can work as partners, for both Council and the Community. "We need people that recognize the value of participation in the community and that understand the importance of cooperation; people that have the patience to deal with the many complex issues, and have the ability to listen," said Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Truro, Mike Dolter. A qualified, independent Chair will also be selected. This person will need to be agreed upon by both the Town and the community. A call for nominations for both the Committee and the Chair will be initiated shortly.

Truro Town Council envisions the action plan to be a living document that deals with local concerns, while still establishing the foundation to help the community address some of the larger issues at the provincial and national level. Council hopes that other municipalities will take similar action toward developing an environment within their communities where truth, education, understanding, dialogue and awareness can flourish to help heal and unite.

“We enter this partnership, with the pride of taking our first step on this journey, while knowing there is much more work to do”, stated Mayor Bill Mills.

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