



**Nova Scotia**

## **Proclamation**

# **Day in Recognition of the Exodus to Sierra Leone**

**WHEREAS** *people of African descent have contributed to Nova Scotia's history and culture for more than 400 years, including more than 3,000 Black Loyalists who arrived in the 1780s and were settled in Birchtown and other historic African Nova Scotian communities following the American Revolutionary War; and*

**WHEREAS** *Black Loyalists faced harsh conditions, racist practices and policies, and broken promises of land grants and assistance, which contributed to almost 1,200 community members leaving Nova Scotia for the promise of a better life in Sierra Leone; and*

**WHEREAS** *this exodus of 15 ships bearing many community leaders on January 15, 1792, had a profound impact on Nova Scotia's Black communities and the province as a whole, and this historic event calls us to remember the resilience and determination of people of African descent who have worked hard for generations to make a better way for themselves and their descendants;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** *that January 15, 2022 be recognized in Nova Scotia as a day to commemorate the 230th anniversary of the departure of 15 ships from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone, and a time for all Nova Scotians to honour and learn more about the history of African Nova Scotian communities during this, the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.*



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Houston".

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.  
Premier of Nova Scotia

*Signed at Halifax, Nova Scotia*