



## To a Black Loyalist headed for freedom

I'm writing to you as you aboard the Morning Star. Is there fear running through your veins? Can you feel your heart through your chest? Are you hoping for the best but preparing for the worst? I know you are anxious. I cannot imagine travelling that far away from your family. I hope your journey to Sierra Leone will be safe.

You were promised land, jobs and way more opportunities when you came to Nova Scotia. But you did not receive what you were guaranteed. The hardship and dedication you have building your own land from nothing is remarkable and breathtaking. As I look back to the dream of freedom I'm interested in hearing your thoughts about racism. Although I am a young female living through a global pandemic in 2021 that is allowed to go to school every day with different people, racism is still alive in Nova Scotia. Sometimes, I do not understand why people hate. I feel privileged to go to school even though it is a pandemic. There are restrictions and expectations. Getting an education would not be possible without your plight for freedom. I would say we have come far because of your austerity. We still have a long way to go and we are stronger for that. I think about my little cousins and wonder if they will have to endure the same racism that exists because of the colour of our skin. I think about the Black Lives Matter movement and what took place in 2020 with George Floyd's killing. It brings sadness to my eyes that we are still fighting for these rights. Nevertheless, we are still thriving in the communities of Cherry Brook/Lake Loon, North Preston and East Preston because we are united as one group. I love my community of Preston. It is also known as Preston Township. In my community I feel safe, happy and free to be myself.

I hope that you will feel free once you reach Sierra Leone. It would be great to hear how you were treated after travelling such a distance. I hope you are respected once you arrive in Sierra Leone. I would love to hear about your experience and your new life in Africa. I hope you are happy in Sierra Leone. Your story is important to me as a young Black woman and as part of our history. Until we meet, please stay safe during your trip aboard the Morning Star.

Sincerely,

Samara Hudson-Ash

Dear Black Loyalists in Sierra Leone

The British were badly outnumbered and were in desperate need of people for the war with that being said they offered you freedom and land if you fought the Americans on their behalf. As you were jammed on a 3 month long boat journey watching your people die from starvation, illness and being tortured, how did you survive that?. Over 30 000 of you escaped to join the British even with that you still faced hostility, racial segregation, low-paying jobs and inequality when arriving in Nova Scotia. As defeat became inevitable, you now, free black loyalists were evacuated to Nova Scotia with the other Loyalists. The land they promised you was never given in the ways you ever imagine, your land was very rocky and poor soil which prevented farming. Most of you chose a new life in Sierra Leone, away from the cold lands of Nova Scotia. Now in 2021 many loyalists are living in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, you helped create heavily influenced politics and culture in Canada. All of your families deserve to be heard and known world wide. You fought for the British and never received what you risked your life for.

Sincerely, Zai

A fellow Black Loyalist