

What words come to mind that reflect a government that is representative and responsive to community?



From your perspective, what does AGENCY look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

platforms to speak and ask and understand outside of protest

having a voice that impacts change

the ability to make decisions for self; living a life of confidence, autonomy and independence, where your wisdom is honoured. You drive policy and reality for your communities.

Open discussions, a place to share our experience and be heard, educating our youth, speaking our history in order to understand where we come from.

Voices of African Nova Scotians are leading the way.

It is both vertical (the ability to initiate and drive change in the community) and horizontal (the ability to influence government policy).

Autonomy

Recognition of the power in the community, both from white/settler folk and from the community itself.

Moving the barriers to changes. Putting Black (and Indigenous) voices in the centre of decisions.

From your perspective, what does AGENCY look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

As a white person, I want to hear from African Nova Scotians about what they need to have agency. It is my responsibility to listen, move over and know when I don't have to weight in.

Agency looks like something that I can access as a person of Afrikan ancestry and feel welcomed. It needs to have people there who look like me and understand the systemic barriers I have had to endure for over 400 years. It must understand me now

not having to work so hard to be heard, and automatically contributing to the provincial narrative and conversation.

The space and support to lead.

Collective approach by communities and government with shared perspectives and outcomes

The infrastructure discussion is potent, in relation to self-determination. Really stimulating. Reparations way to assure NS Black communities are obtaining real resources \$\$ in their own hands, no strings attached, for them to sort out themselves.

Inequitable

able to act

Ability to be at the table of government for all decisions. Being acknowledged as a people and respected as such with political power

From your perspective, what does AGENCY look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

For us by us

Continued self determination

Agency looks like a place where we as people of Afrikan ancestry can go to a place and see people who look like us, who understand our blithe and are sympathetic to our needs. The agency listens to our concerns and acts on them in our best interest

Claiming our identity while claiming our rights in education, employment, housing, etc.

power in decision making and ongoing influence in government.

Having this very meeting and discussion is an example of accountability and self-determination. Hearing everyone's viewpoints is bringing the community to analyze the issues. This is awesome work. This to me is agency and responsibility.

In terms of education the Africentric cohort at Auburn High School has been very successful . We need to duplicate this program across the province to increase the number of students graduating from high school and going on to post secondary.

It would be amazing if the AFNS community had self governing and a budge that reflected reparations and was called upon and consulted about decisions before they were made. Not just decisions affecting the AFNS community but any decision.

Actively involved in all issues affecting the African Nova Scotian community. taking on an d supporting each other despite the support from the government. Evident in Africentric Cohort (very successful), COVID clinics organized by HAAC and ABSW

From your perspective, what does AGENCY look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

In addition to the work being done by the Africentric Learning Institute and the Freedom School to support our Black learners. We need to continue to mobilize and do what we need to do to support and elevate each other

It has been demonstrated that when we have Africentric cohorts students succeed at all levels. This is demonstrated in the High School program at Auburn, the IBM initiative at Dal, the various Master Cohorts out of the Mount and the one at Acadia .

Capacity to talk about and see action taken on what it means to thrive individually and collectively

we have also seen the power of African centered programs such as Imhotep Legacy Academy, Promoting Leadership for African Nova Scotians in Health, Pop up schools sponsored by Africentric Learning Institute, Freedom School and BEA summer academies.

taking the lead on programs, systems, that directly impact the African Nova Scotian community

Our studies thrive in the right conditions and with the right supports.

From your perspective, what does **ACCOUNTABILITY** look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

participate in the solution

demonstrate through data, funding and narrative that you have listened and understood the deep history

To look for change from within instead of waiting on other groups to help us evolve

The community is able to influence the creation of and changes to policy that affect them and hold duty bearers (in their own community and in Provincial government) accountable for enacting and ensuring those policies are operationalized.

Identify and state what the African Nova Scotian community desires and hold society including government accountable to listen and collaborate toward an equitable, healthy and thriving community for all peoples.

'Outsiders' following through on what the African Nova Scotian Community have asked for in pursuit of agency.

reparations

government leadership answering to the community of African Nova Scotians, on how it is doing to address equity, diversity and inclusion. Also, government providing the supports/funding to the creation of governance structures, capacity developments

Engaging the next generation in active community organizing.

From your perspective, what does **ACCOUNTABILITY** look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

Give back updates when folks come to community to consult. Transparency and commitment to follow up and consistent communication

Having this very meeting and discussion is an example of accountability and self-determination. Hearing everyone's viewpoints is bringing the community to analyze the issues. This is awesome work. This to me is agency and responsibility.

Accountability would be having constant conversations with the Agency with community through consultations and going out to the communities to hear the concerns of the people and not be afraid to enter our Blak communities. We want you to come to us

Individual would be accountability to each other lift and climb as one advances we celebrate and support Institutionally we need to have AFNS in positions of power and decision making and not just on issues that affect AFNS .

Bring back BUF - we need to be accountable to ourselves first and foremost

Showing up and supporting each other no matter what...especially if wrong is being done to us. We need to activate our activism.

From your perspective, what does REPRESENTATION look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

Having members of our community in managerial and decision making roles

Representation itself is not revolution. Representation of Africentric values and principles in policy, community structure, systems we live in.

power over internal affairs and money to make it happen

Leaders of the ANS communities effectively represent the interests of everyone in their communities. ANS communities also have effective representation in higher orders of government (Municipal, City, Provincial and Federal).

not sufficient

We have to be inclusive of all persons of African Descent...African Nova Scotians, new immigrants of African Descent from the continent and people of color who want to identify as connected to the continent of Africa

Having African Nova Scotians visible in the community, government, politics, education, competitive employment, healthcare

The who what where and why ...but with answers. At all levels.

In all places of government, education and health at all levels.

From your perspective, what does REPRESENTATION look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

Sufficient voices that the full diversity of the ANS experience can be spoken to at tables of power. All levels of govt, professions, community orgs, etc.

Govt tables; organizations, boards and agencies must be reflective of the communities they serve. Appointment, designate

this is pretty narrow but any governmental hirings should be done as a cluster so it's not just one fighting systems and fighting people. We are also on private sector boards to influence policy

leadership roles in government

AFNS needs to be involved in every aspect of gov't at all levels as elected officials and employess

Inclusion and involvement in decisions that impact members of the community (representation of voices across class, education, etc)

From your perspective, what does SELF-DETERMINATION look like for the African Nova Scotian community?

presence at the tables and in the conversations

Being resilient, proud and determined to grow regardless of the obstacles.

power over education, health care, infrastructure

African Nova Scotians are seen, heard, valued, and listened to in all aspects of society.

I believe ANS communities should have similar forms of self government to our Mi'kmaq communities. For example there should be a similar system for ANS education to what the Mi'kmaq have with the MK system.

Our own self-governing, our own political party that is part of the legislation but represents the African Nova Scotian community, reparation for the harm that has been caused by the government

Taking a leading role in impacting what happens that impacts the community.

more support needed

Based on this discussion, how are you feeling about the possibilities of progress in engaging more meaningfully with African Nova Scotian communities?

