

# Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

## SPEAKER SERIES

### **#the3P's : African NS Three Pillars for Social Justice (Church, Community and Champions)**

The United Nations<sup>i</sup> proclaimed 2015-2024 the International Decade for People of African descent. In 2016, the UN sent a working group of experts to 4 Black Canadian cities- Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax to speak and to listen to member of each of these well-known and diverse Black Canadian communities. Those representing the African Nova Scotian community noted the unique, nuanced and historical significance of the African NS community stating,

African-Nova Scotians constitute a distinct and founding (“settled”) people of Canada. Our significant presence and contributions pre-date the country of Canada by over 150 years; indeed, up until 1961 over half of all Black people in Canada were African-Nova Scotian.

Our skills, experiences and contributions have shaped Canada; for example, the fact that we both endured and resisted decades of enslavement - with both free and enslaved Black people living together in Nova Scotia - shaped the building of Canada - and how Black people are viewed and treated... [the] African-Nova Scotian experience, wisdom, spirituality and resilience have been central to the campaign for equality in Canada - and is central to any hope of ever effecting equity for African-Canadians - and Canada.<sup>ii</sup>

The goal of this session is provide those present a brief look into how the ANS community resiliency continues to be anchored in 3, what the present considers 3 pillars of social justice. A brief review of roles and intersectionality of those three pillars - the Church, The community and the Champions for Change will be discussed in terms of historical and present day agents of social justice.

**Lana MacLean MSW, RSW  
Dartmouth General Hospital**

**DATE: Friday, Feb. 26th, 2021  
TIME: 3:30 p.m. ADT**

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/international-decade-people-african-descent>