



January 8th, 2020

William Trask
Executive Director, Policy & Information Management
Nova Scotia Department of Justice

Re: Anti-Racism Action Program Application

The ANSDPAD Coalition (Coalition) would like to take the opportunity to thank the Department of Justice and African Nova Scotia Affairs for their efforts to work collaboratively to address anti-Black systemic and direct racism affecting African Nova Scotians in the justice system.

The Coalition has participated in good faith to try to develop a proposal that would meet the needs of all of the proposed partners. As it turns out, this particular proposal does not sufficiently align with the Coalition priorities at this time and so we will not be able to move forward as a partner with this application. Our inability to continue with this application is due in part to the following factors:

- The Coalition's current funding ends in May of 2020. Without confirmation of further funding the ANSDPAD Coalition cannot commit to fully collaborating on the creation of an 18 – 24 month justice plan.
- The DPAD Coalition already retained a consultant to draft an African Nova Scotian justice plan to be actioned primarily through the African Nova Scotian Justice Institute (ANSJI). The ANSJI/justice plan was developed by Coalition members and discussed as part of our province-wide consultations. We also shared that plan with the NS Department of Justice. Our consultant is now working to develop a framework for an African Nova Scotian Policing Strategy (ANSPS), which we anticipate will be available to share with our proposed partners by early April.
- In light of the fact that we have already conducted provincial consultations and developed and shared a justice plan, it is not necessary to spend an additional two years developing another plan - when what is needed is action to implement the ANSJI

and ANSPS. Consequently, a better use of time and resources would be to work collaboratively toward implementation of the African Nova Scotian justice strategy and plan that have already been thoroughly designed.

In sum, the DPAD Coalition continues to support and encourage collaboration as well as cooperation between the Department of Justice, African Nova Scotian Affairs and the Coalition. At this time however we are formally withdrawing support for the creation of another African Nova Scotian justice plan as we have already produced and shared such a plan; and have determined that our time and limited resources need to be utilized implementing that plan and pursuing other aspects of the ANSDPAD's mission and mandate.

Sincerely, Angela Simmonds,

African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition
Chair of the Justice Strategy Working Group