

Proclamation In Honour of Black History Month

WHEREAS: Black History Month is an internationally recognized annual celebration designed to highlight and recognize the actions, achievements and contributions of Black people around the world.

WHEREAS: We currently live on unceded Indigenous territory, and Black Lives Matter NL knows that as there is no Black liberation on stolen land; and

WHEREAS: Black Lives Matter NL asks the City of St. John's to recognize and strengthen the historical relationships between Indigenous Peoples and the Black community; and

WHEREAS: Black people have been a part of Canada, since the early 1600's, and have contributed to the country's and province's growth, despite the presence of systemic anti-Black racism and other forms of systemic oppression;

WHEREAS: The City of St. John's recognizes the significant cultural, social, political and economic contributions that Black people continue to make to the City of St. John's and across the province.

WHEREAS: Black Lives Matter NL is a non-profit organization that fights against anti-Black racism, supports the Black community of Newfoundland and Labrador, fosters Black-centric networks, and works towards liberation from all state-sanctioned forms of oppression, injustice violence and brutality against vulnerable and marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS: While we cannot gather in-person to celebrate Black History Month this year due to COVID-19 regulations, we ask that The City of St. John's and community partners of BLMNL pledge to host inclusive events and activities which focus on celebrating Black peoples within the province in the month of February and throughout the year; and

WHEREAS: BLMNL also pledges to host online events, such as 'Coils, Curls and conversations: Redefining Our Standards of Beauty' designed to celebrate the multiplicity of Black people and cultures in NL, as well as educate and create awareness about racism, colourism and texturism; and

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WHEREAS: The City recognizes that proclaiming February as Black History Month is only one small step in the long journey towards dismantling systemic racism and oppression of Black people and other marginalized groups in our community, and thus The City of St. John's commits to take more steps towards this goal; and

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Danny Breen, do hereby proclaim February, as Black History Month in the City of St. John's.

Signed at City Hall, St John's, NL on this, 1st day of February 2022.



Danny Breen, Mayor

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