

History Matters in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia has 13 aboriginal communities and an uncounted number of historic aboriginal communities throughout the province.

Nova Scotia has 48 historic black communities that were established in the mid-1700s.

Nova Scotia has numerous historic Acadian communities founded in the mid-1700s.

Since the mid-1980s, Nova Scotia has the highest rate of disability of any province in Canada, with one in every five people having a disability.



Restorative Approach

At their core, restorative approaches recognize that humans are relational by nature.

Because we define ourselves in and through our relationships with others, any effective approach to problem solving must take this into consideration.

Within the justice system, “restorative justice” aims to identify and address harms that flow from a criminal act;

In the human rights field, a restorative approach creates space for people who have been affected by an issue or incident to also identify and address personal harm. It is a forward-looking process.

To find out how you can learn more about what your rights and responsibilities are, contact the RREI team at **902-424-4791**.



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Human Rights Education in Nova Scotia

**Education is a fundamental
human right.**

“Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms and should have access to human rights education and training.”

-Article 1, United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Education and Training, 2011.



Race Relations, Equity and Inclusion in Nova Scotia

The Race Relations, Equity and Inclusion (RREI) division of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (NSHRC) promotes, trains, and disseminates information to build a culture of human rights.



Background

Established in 1967, the NSHRC is responsible for education, providing a process to look at experiences of discrimination and to advise government. The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act mandates RREI to:

“develop and recommend programs and policies to promote racial harmony and to eliminate barriers to full participation of members of racial minorities in society.”

The Importance of Education

Human Rights Education (HRE) educates Nova Scotia about their human rights and responsibilities, and gets people talking about the personal nature of human rights. We all internalize our experiences, and HRE offers Nova Scotians an opportunity to discuss human rights values and issues.

RREI engages with communities, schools and organizations to provide human rights information. HRE is done by all staff at the Commission, who work to assist the public in understanding the NS Human Rights Act.

We offer:

- ❖ Community partnerships
- ❖ Human rights workshops
- ❖ Human rights information sessions
- ❖ Information display booths
- ❖ Workplace consultations
- ❖ Policy development and review
- ❖ Human rights initiatives

Human Rights in Nova Scotia

The cornerstone of Human Rights in Nova Scotia and Canada is **inclusion**. Everyone must have a place of belonging in our society.

RREI works for an inclusive society in Nova Scotia, where all are included and barriers are eliminated.

Legal Foundations

- ❖ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- ❖ Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, 1967
- ❖ Canadian Human Rights Act, 1972
- ❖ The Constitution Act, including The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982
- ❖ Employment Equity Act, 1986
- ❖ United Nations Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2008
- ❖ United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, 2011