



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* **KINGS**

January 14, 2026

To: Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Councillors

Dear Members of Council,

Attached please find the agenda for the Special Council meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Council Chambers, 181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive, Coldbrook.

Members of the public can attend or watch live on YouTube: visit www.countyofkings.ca and click the "Watch Live" link.

Accommodations are available for this meeting: please submit your request at www.countyofkings.ca/accommodationsrequest.

Sincerely,

Janny Postema
Municipal Clerk
Municipality of the County of Kings



**MUNICIPALITY of the
COUNTY of KINGS**

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
9:00 a.m.
AGENDA

1. Roll Call & Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda Page 2
3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Issues
4. Administration
 - a. Letter to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities: Grand Council Flag Page 3
 - b. African Heritage Month 2026 Proclamation Page 7
5. Board and Committee Reports
 - a. Diversity Kings County Committee Page 11
 - b. Committees of Council Page 12
 - c. External Boards and Committees Page 13
6. Other Business
7. Comments from the Public
8. Adjournment

Accommodations are available for this meeting: please submit your request at
www.countyofkings.ca/accommodationsrequest

Land Acknowledgement

The Municipality of the County of Kings is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral, unceded, and current territory of the Mi'kmaq Peoples. The Municipality of the County of Kings is a neighbour to Annapolis Valley First Nation and Glooscap First Nation, as well as a diverse urban and rural Indigenous population. We are all treaty people and commit to upholding the Peace and Friendship Treaties and working towards reconciliation in all areas of the Municipality.

TO	Municipal Council
PREPARED BY	Charissa Kleine Deters, Diversity Specialist
MEETING DATE	January 20, 2026
SUBJECT	Letter to NSFM: Grand Council Flag

ORIGIN

- First introduction to Municipal Council
- [Presentation to Diversity Kings County Committee: January 5, 2026](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Municipal Council send a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) requesting the Grand Council flag to be displayed at NSFM conferences and events, where municipal flags are flown.

INTENT

For Municipal Council to recommend that Municipal Council write to the NSFM regarding displaying the Grand Council flag at NSFM events.

DISCUSSION

At the 2025 NSFM Spring Conference, staff presented on the work undertaken by the Municipality of the County of Kings towards equity, inclusion, and belonging. Knowing the Municipality of the County of Kings is a leader among Nova Scotia municipalities in advancing reconciliation and diverse representation, a Mi'kmaw attendee from another municipality spoke about their unsuccessful efforts to have the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag displayed at NSFM proceedings and asked for advocacy on the matter.

The Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag, also called the Santé Mawiómi (*Sahn-tay Mah-wee-oh-mee*) flag, is a symbol of the Mi'kmaq Nation. The Province of Nova Scotia has recognized it as an official flag of sovereignty, treating it with precedence immediately following official flags. The Mi'kmaq Grand Council is the traditional political structure of the peoples living in Mi'kma'ki. Within this governing structure, each of the seven Districts has a District Chief elected by the tribal Chiefs from that district, with one District Chief appointed as Grand Chief.

The Grand Council flag dates back to around 1900, when it was first raised in Listuguj (*Lis-tu-guch*), Quebec. The flag gained prominence following the Supreme Court's *Marshall* Decision in 1999, which affirmed treaty rights and established the flag as a symbol for exercising traditional governance and fishing rights. The flag's design carries deep symbolic meaning: its white field represents creation's purity, while the red cross signifies humanity and the four directions. The red sun and moon represent day and night respectively, and together these elements symbolize traditional governance, culture, and spiritual beliefs across Mi'kma'ki. Today, while the flag is widely flown during Mi'kmaw History Month and on significant dates like Treaty Day, permanent installations at various institutions have become important signs of reconciliation, acknowledgement of Indigenous presence, and cultural revitalization. Given that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities facilitates advocacy, collaboration, and education among its member communities, displaying the Grand Council flag at conferences, and events alongside municipal flags directly supports these organizational goals and demonstrates meaningful commitment to reconciliation.

Request for Decision

On January 5, 2026, staff presented the matter to the Diversity Kings County Committee. Following the presentation, the Committee passed a motion recommending Municipal Council write a letter to NSFM asking consideration be given to including the Grand Council flag wherever municipal flags are displayed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- No financial implications.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

✓	Strong Communities	Supports reconciliation and decolonization in the Municipality's Strategy for Belonging
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
	Good Governance	
	Financial Sustainability	
✓	Other	Recommendation is in alignment with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities best practices on reconciliation

ALTERNATIVES

- Municipal Council may opt to not recommend sending a letter.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Staff will prepare the letter to be signed by the Mayor and sent to NSFM.

ENGAGEMENT

- Presented to Diversity Kings County on January 5th, where members of the Committee discussed and passed a motion to make this recommendation to Municipal Council.
- Consulted with NSFM Policy Advisor to confirm this request doesn't violate any current policies and procedures.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Draft Letter
- Appendix B: Image of Grand Council Flag

APPROVALS

Brittany Traynor, Manager, Community Development	January 8, 2026
Andrea Hyslop, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer	January 9, 2026
Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer	January 14, 2026

APPENDIX A: DRAFT LETTER

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1500, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

The Municipality of the County of Kings
181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive
Coldbrook, NS B4R 1B9

Month XX, 202X

To the Executive Committee:

The Municipality of the County of Kings is committed to reconciliation and recognizing the presence of Mi'kmaq Peoples across Mi'kma'ki. This letter is a formal request that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) commit to displaying the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag at conferences and events of the NSFM, where municipal flags are flown.

This initiative aligns with the mission of NSFM to facilitate strategic advocacy, collaboration, and education. Representation of the Grand Council flag promotes advocacy for Mi'kmaq self-determination and the rights guaranteed under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. It demonstrates collaboration by presenting the Mi'kmaq Nation's flag alongside other government flags and provides opportunities to educate about the flag's significance. Symbolizing traditional governance, culture, and spiritual beliefs across Mi'kma'ki, the flag was first raised in Listuguj, QC around 1900. Permanent representation at institutions is a meaningful step towards reconciliation, acknowledgement of Indigenous presence, and cultural revitalization.

A [report](#) prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities suggests strategies for taking action to support the rights of Indigenous Peoples using a United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) framework. UNDRIP recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to freely determine their political status and development and their future within the territories in which they traditionally lived. Displaying the Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag implements key UNDRIP framework actions including:

- 1) Recognizing Indigenous rights-holders who hold ancestral, treaty, traditional, Indigenous and other legal and constitutionally protected rights and titles to the lands and waters on which municipalities are located.
- 2) Respecting and honouring Indigenous legal systems and creating space for their expression within municipal spheres.
- 3) Engaging with political organizations, institutions, and entities that Indigenous Peoples and communities themselves identify as legitimately representing their interests and memberships.

In solidarity,

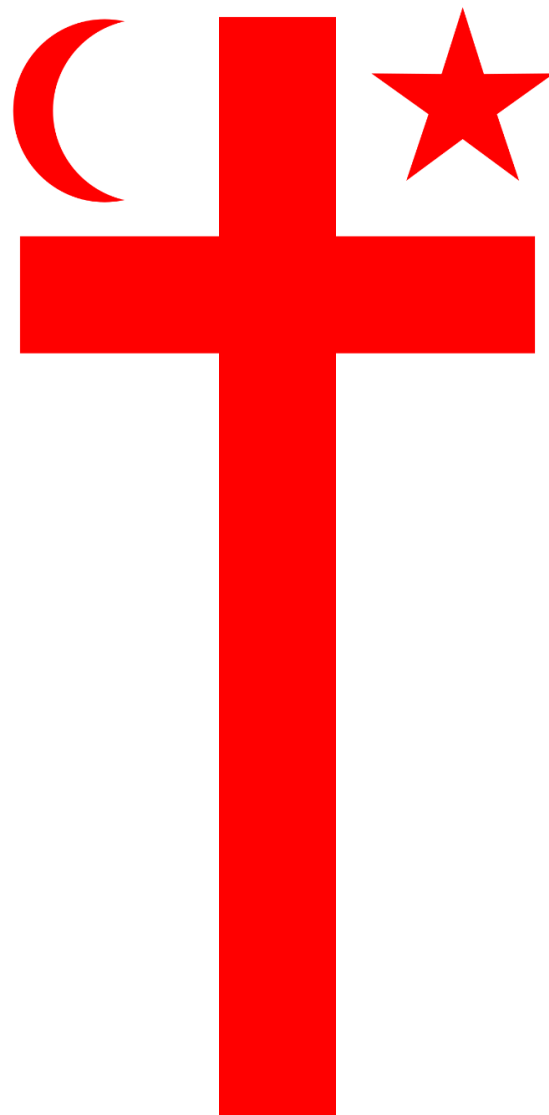
on behalf of Municipal Council

APPENDIX B: Image and Symbolism of Flag

SYMBOL	Mi'kmaw Word	Mi'kmaw Pronunciation	MEANING
White	Wape'k	<i>Wa-beeg</i>	Creation's purity
Red Cross	Mekwe'k Klujjiewey	<i>Meg-wayg Kloo-joo-way</i>	Humanity and the Four Directions
Sun	Na'ku'set	<i>Nah-goo-set</i>	Day
Moon	Tepknuset	<i>Dep-goo-noo-set</i>	Night

The Grand Council Flag is meant to fly vertically as shown here, so the cross is upright with the crescent moon and sun (star) on the top of the flag.

If the flag is flown horizontally, the moon and sun should be on the Left side, with the sun on the top of the flag.



TO	Municipal Council
PREPARED BY	Graysen Parker, Diversity Specialist
MEETING DATE	January 20, 2026
SUBJECT	African Heritage Month 2026 Proclamation

ORIGIN

- [2026 AHM Memo to Municipalities from African Nova Scotian Affairs \(ANSA\)](#)
- [Strategy for Belonging](#)
- [Proclamations Policy COMM-02-003](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Municipal Council proclaim February 2026 as “African Heritage Month” in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

INTENT

To present the proclamation request for adoption in accordance with the Municipality’s Proclamation Policy COMM-02-003.

DISCUSSION

Black History Month has been recognized in Canada since 1950, with Nova Scotia playing a leading role in its promotion and celebration. In 1985, the first official opening night of Black History Month was held at the North Branch Library, followed in 1987 by the inaugural meeting of the Black History Month Association and the first province-wide celebration. In recognition of Nova Scotia’s more than 400 years of history and the enduring contributions of people of African descent, the observance was renamed African Heritage Month in 1996. February was officially proclaimed Black History Month by the Canadian Senate in 2008.

In 2004, the Department of African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) held the inaugural reading of the African Heritage Month Proclamation at Province House. Since that time, ANSA has worked to expand awareness and engagement across the Province by partnering with organizations to form the African Heritage Month Information Network. This network includes representatives from each region and collaborates annually to develop the provincial theme, promote events and municipal proclamations, and produce an educational poster for the month. I am honoured to serve as a member of this provincial network.

Within the Municipality of the County of Kings are two historic African Nova Scotian communities: Gibson Woods and Pine Woods. Gibson Woods is named after George Gibson, a Black Loyalist who purchased forty acres of land for forty pounds in 1802. Pine Woods, now known as Aldershot, was founded by sisters Dinah Powell and Chloe Lanzey after they fled enslavement by Benjamin Belcher.

Proclaiming African Heritage Month in the Municipality of the County of Kings aligns with the Implementation Plan of the Municipality’s Strategy for Belonging, particularly actions guided by the African Diaspora, Anti-Black Racism, and Reparations lenses. The proclamation also strengthens relationships between the Municipality and diverse communities, while building public trust, awareness, and engagement by honouring over four centuries of contributions from the African Diaspora—

Request for Decision

encompassing historic Black communities such as Gibson Woods and Pine Woods, as well as newcomers to the region.

Finally, the proclamation advances the shared vision of the Municipality of the County of Kings as “a community of communities where all people belong.”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- No financial implications

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

✓	Strong Communities	Celebrating the African Diaspora is a lens of the Strategy for Belonging
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
	Good Governance	
	Financial Sustainability	
	Other	

ALTERNATIVES

- Municipal Council may choose not to recommend Municipal Council proclaim February 2026 as African Heritage Month.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Reading of official proclamation at the African Heritage Month Proclamation event on February 2, 2026

ENGAGEMENT

- Social media awareness building and community events

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Memo from African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA)
- Appendix B: African Heritage Month Proclamation 2026

APPROVALS

Brittany Traynor, Manager, Community Development	January 7, 2026
Andrea Hyslop, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer	January 8, 2026
Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer	January 14, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: December 1st, 2025

FROM: Tracey Thomas
Deputy Minister, African Nova Scotian Affairs
Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

TO: Nova Scotia Municipalities

SUBJECT: African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) Support Mechanism for Civic/Municipal
Proclamations of African Heritage Month 2026

People of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years and are descendants of rich, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic histories of strength, resilience, and innovation. Each year in February we dedicate our attention toward honoring and commemorating the cultural heritage, leadership and contributions of African Nova Scotians and people of African ancestry by officially recognizing African Heritage Month (AHM) in Nova Scotia.

It is my pleasure once again to extend the invitation to municipalities to collaborate with our office (African Nova Scotian Affairs) in support of civic/municipal proclamations.

As we enter African Heritage Month 2026, I hope you will also consider initiatives and activities that increase access, build capacity and take action on behalf of African Nova Scotians and their communities. Also, being mindful to centre the pillars of Recognition, Justice, and Development as you create opportunities for learning and sharing in your communities.

I have included information on our funding program that will aid your Municipality with hosting a proclamation event in your area. Should you require additional information or wish to speak directly with an ANSA Program Administration Officer, please contact our office at (902) 424-5555.

For more information on the decade, please visit ANSA's website at <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/>.

Please note, the deadline for funding applications is Friday, January 9th, 2026.

Tracey Thomas
Deputy Minister, African Nova Scotian Affairs

APPENDIX B: African Heritage Month Proclamation 2026

WHEREAS, February is recognized internationally as Black History Month – a time to acknowledge and honour the history, culture, resilience, and contributions of people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the enduring legacy of Black and African Nova Scotian peoples for over 400 years, Black History Month was renamed African Heritage Month in the Province of Nova Scotia in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of the County of Kings is home to the historic African Nova Scotian communities of Gibson Woods and Pine Woods (Aldershot), whose histories reflect strength and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, African Heritage Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge the impacts of systemic racism and anti-black racism, while affirming the importance of equity, inclusion and belonging for all residents; and

WHEREAS, proclaiming African Heritage Month aligns with the Municipality's Strategy for Belonging which establishes an African Diaspora, Anti-Black Racism, and Reparations lens to guide our commitments; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Corkum, on behalf of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Kings, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2026 as African Heritage Month in the Municipality of the County of Kings and encourage all residents to learn about, reflect upon, and celebrate the histories, culture and contributions of African Nova Scotians and people of African descent.

TO	Municipal Council
FROM	Councillor Sappington
COMMITTEE	Diversity Kings County Committee
COMMITTEE MEETING DATE	January 5, 2026
COUNCIL MEETING DATE	January 20, 2026

Diversity Kings began with a presentation on 4 Levels of Racism. We had a deeply thoughtful discussion on when children are affected by racism. Members shared their own personal reflections and lived experiences. I am so very grateful for this safe space.

A community member is concerned that the Valley Waste Calendar does not have the diversity holidays included. Staff are looking into it.

The Diversity Committee (I abstained because I am on the Board of the NSFM) has voted to request a letter be written, to the NSFM, for the NSFM to display a flag respecting the Indigenous peoples of the Province at NSFM events.

We reviewed our workplan and are excited for upcoming training. I did request that staff consider how the unhoused may be helped by our Committee. It has become quite a hot topic, so much so that Minister Lohr is having a public engagement session on January 22nd, 7pm, at the Kentville Fire Hall.

In lieu of the February meeting, the Diversity Committee has agreed to prioritize working and attending the African Heritage Month Launch event on February 2nd. Last year it was well attended from people all over the Province. It is especially amazing to see the involvement of our youth sharing their heritage.

Diversity Kings will meet again on March 2nd.

Respectfully Submitted,
Councillor Christina Sappington

Committee of Council Reports - January 20, 2026

Board/Committee	Chair/Reporting Councillor/ Members	Last/Next Meeting	Report
Asset Management Committee	Peter Allen, Doug Gates, Tim Harding	September 3, 2024 Next: May 7, September 11, October 7, 2025, March 3, 2026	
Audit & Finance Committee	Dave Corkum, Everett MacPherson (Chair), Doug Gates, Emily Lutz	December 8, 2025 Next: TBD	Written report & recommendations provided December 16, 2025
Diversity Kings County	Everett MacPherson, Christina Sappington	January 5, 2026 Next: February 2, 2026 African Heritage Month Launch; March 2, 2026	Written report provided January 20, 2026
Fences Arbitration Committee	Bob Best Alternate: Tim Harding	No meetings	
Fire Services Advisory Committee	Peter Allen, Robbie Hiltz, Riley Peckford	September 18, 2025 Next: TBD	Written report provided November 3, 2025
Greenwood Water Utility Source Water Protection Committee	Riley Peckford	September 11, 2025 Next: March 19, 2026	Written report provided October 7, 2025
Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee	Bob Best	September 10, 2025 Next: December 10, 2025	Written report provided October 7, 2025
Lake Monitoring Committee	Emily Lutz Alternate: Tim Harding	No recent meetings	
Nominating Committee	Dave Corkum (Chair), Peter Allen, Everett MacPherson, Riley Peckford	November 14, 2025 Next: TBD	Recommendations provided December 2, 2025
Planning Advisory Committee	Emily Lutz, Riley Peckford, Doug Gates, Everett MacPherson	November 12, 2025 Next: December 9, 2025	Recommendations provided December 2, 2025
Police Advisory Board	Bob Best, Robbie Hiltz, Christina Sappington	September 17, 2025 Next: December 17, 2025	Written report provided January 6, 2026
Regional Sewer Committee	Tim Harding Alternate: Everett MacPherson	November 27, 2025 Next: January 15, 2026	Written report provided November 3, 2025
Sandy Court Source Water Protection Committee	Tim Harding	February 25, 2025 Next: TBD	Written report provided March 18, 2025

External Board and Committee Reports - January 20, 2026

Board/Committee	Reporting Councillor	Last / Next Meeting	Report
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board	Emily Lutz Alternate: Christina Sappington	September 18, 2025 Next: January 21, 2026	Verbal report provided October 7, 2025
Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition Board	Robbie Hiltz Alternate: Tim Harding	August 2024	Verbal report provided September 3, 2024
Canning Source Water Protection Committee	Everett MacPherson		
Kentville Joint Fire Services Committee	Bob Best, Tim Harding, Christina Sappington	March 20, 2025 Next: October 23, 2025	Written report provided April 1, 2025
Kentville Source Water Protection Advisory Group	Doug Gates	March 26, 2025	
Kentville Water Commission	Doug Gates	March 26, 2025	
Kings Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee	Dave Corkum, Riley Peckford	October 20, 2025 Next: January 19, 2026	Written report provided November 3, 2025
Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. Member	Peter Allen Alternate: Christina Sappington	September 23, 2025	Written report provided December 2, 2025
Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. Board	Doug Gates	September 2024	Verbal report provided September 3, 2024
New Minas Source Water Protection Committee	Christina Sappington		
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee	Dave Corkum (Vice-Chair)	September 19, 2025 Next: TBD	Written report provided October 7, 2025
Port Williams Source Water Protection Committee	Doug Gates		Verbal report provided March 18, 2025
Valley Community Fibre Network (Authority) Board	Robbie Hiltz	September 11, 2025 Next: December 4, 2025	Verbal report provided October 7, 2025
Valley Regional Enterprise Network Liaison & Oversight Committee	Dave Corkum Alternate: Christina Sappington	Proposed Marketing Levy Info Session September 17, 2025 Next: February 9, 2026 TBC	Written report provided October 7, 2025
Valley Regional Services Board (Kings Transit & Valley Waste)	Dave Corkum Alternate: Emily Lutz	November 19, 2025 Next: December 17, 2025; January 21, 2026	Written report provided December 2, 2025
Western Regional Housing Authority Board	Citizen Member only		
Wolfville Source Water Protection Advisory Committee	Peter Allen		