

Petition to the House of Commons

Whereas:

- Canada actively participated in the transatlantic slave trade and enslavement of African People;
- Systemic anti-Black racism exists in Canada today and is directly linked to enslavement;
- Black Canadian Lives Matter;
- The Province of Nova Scotia is the birthplace of Black history in Canada dating back to 1605, the origin of African enslavement in Canada;
- African Nova Scotians are a distinct people who continue to make significant contributions to all aspects of life in Canada;
- The United Nations declared 2015-2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent and called for nations to acknowledge and apologize for the suffering and evils of the enslavement of African People;
- The UN Working Group's recommendations during their trip to Canada included an apology for enslavement historical injustices and to legally recognize African Canadians as a distinct group;
- The Government of Canada has thus far failed to acknowledge and apologize for Canada's role in the enslavement of African People and their descendants; and
- The failure of the Senate to pass Bill S-255 and officially recognize August 1 as Emancipation Day to commemorate the abolition of slavery.

We, the undersigned, **African Canadians, citizens and residents of Canada**, call upon the **House of Commons** to pass a resolution for the Government of Canada to apologize for Canada's role in the enslavement of African People and their descendants, publicly acknowledge Black Canadians as a distinct people, recognize August 1 annually as Emancipation Day and renew Canada's commitment to addressing the generational effects of enslavement, segregation and systemic anti-Black racism.

History

Open for signature

July 29, 2020, at 9:04 a.m. (EDT)

Closed for signature

August 28, 2020, at 9:04 a.m. (EDT)

Member of Parliament



Andy Fillmore

Halifax

Liberal Caucus

Nova Scotia