

The Diverse Communities Committee Presents the PC Party History of Equity and Inclusion

For more than 60 years the PC Party of Nova Scotia has been a champion of Human Right. It is history that we should know, honour and share proudly.

Robert Stanfield:

1959 - The Fair Accommodations Act makes it illegal for hotels, restaurants and other businesses to discriminate based on race, colour or nationality.

1960- Indigenous Nova Scotians were granted the right to vote in province elections.



1960 - Gladys Porter (Kings North) became the first female mayor in the Maritimes in 1946 and was the first woman elected to the NS Legislature in 1960. She was re-elected in 1963 and served until her death in 1967.

1963 - The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act was passed.

1964 - Gerald Doucet (Richmond) was appointed the Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education, becoming the first Acadian Cabinet Minister in the province.



1967 - The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission was established to work towards ending discrimination on racial, religious and ethnic grounds.

John Buchanan:

1981 - December 10 is declared Human Rights Day in Nova Scotia.



1985 - Maxine Cochrane (Lunenburg Centre) became the first female Cabinet Minister in Nova Scotia, serving as Minister of Transportation.

1987 - Corrine Sparks was appointed the first African Canadian judge in Nova Scotia and the first female African Canadian judge in the country.



1989 – Marie Dechman (Lunenburg West) was elected the first female Deputy Speaker. She also served as Community Services Minister and Minister of Housing and Consumer Affairs.

1989 – The Nova Scotia Pay Equity Act is enacted.

1989 – The Blind Persons' Act is passed.

1990 – Buddy Daye is appointed the first African Nova Scotian Sergeant-at-Arms for the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

Donald Cameron:

1991 – The Nova Scotia Human Rights Act undergoes major revisions adding: aboriginal origin, marital and family status, age, political affiliation, pregnancy and sexual orientation.

1991 – The Electoral Boundaries Commission terms of reference required "minority representation, including in particular, representation of the Acadian, Black and Mi'kmaq peoples of Nova Scotia."

John Hamm:

2000 – Elder Noel Knockwood is appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms in the Nova Scotia Legislature.



2001 – Common law couples, both same-sex and opposite-sex are able to adopt children.

2003 – Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs is opened, the first of its kind in Canada.

2004 – Same sex marriage is legalized, making Nova Scotia only the 9th jurisdiction in the world to do so.

Rodney MacDonald:

2007 - The Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada Framework Agreement was created to work "to resolve Mi'kmaq rights issues through negotiation in a spirit of reconciliation."

Tim Houston:

2021 – Created a provincial government holiday on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30.

2021-22 – Established the All-Party Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity and passed the Dismantling Hate and Racism Act.

2022 – Recognized Mi'kmaw as Nova Scotia's first language.

2022 – Opened three new regional offices of African Nova Scotian Affairs in Digby, New Glasgow and Preston.