



AFRICENTRIC LEARNING INSTITUTE

OF NOVA SCOTIA

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Photo Credit: The Coast.ca

A WORD ON THE ADOPTION OF AN AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN FLAG

The mission of the Africentric Learning Institute (ALI) is to create opportunities that empower African Nova Scotian learners, educators, and families to develop and share their gifts using Africentricity as a way of seeing, thinking, being and connecting to Africa and the world.

As the ALI, it is our call and desire to welcome ideas that have the power to inspire change and dialogue in our Black communities.

In celebration of African Heritage Month, we are honored to take part in unveiling a flag that celebrates the spirit, heritage and legacy of African Nova Scotians. Wendie L. Wilson, a visual artist, mother and Africentric educator has designed an “African Nova Scotian flag” as an offering to all African Nova Scotians to adopt and use with pride.

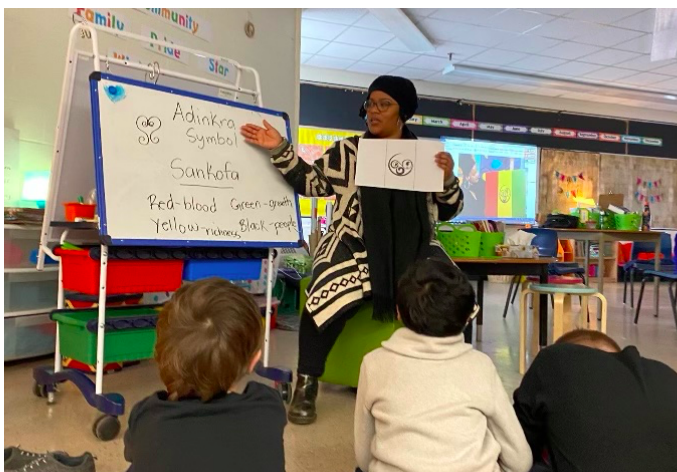


Photo Credit: The Chronicle Herald

THE INSPIRATION

Wendie L. Wilson was born in Halifax and raised in the city's North End. For close to 20 years she has worked in public education bringing art and history to students and teaching the value of cultural identity.

She continues to practice and share her art as an expression of her identity as an African Nova Scotian and she is excited about giving students that same opportunity to use cultural heritage as a tool for empowerment.



It was when her daughter brought home a middle-school project on Mi'kmaw, Acadian and African Nova Scotian history that something became clear to Wilson.

African Nova Scotian students had no flag to represent their unique heritage and culture the way their Acadian and Indigenous classmates did.

Wilson's answer to this was to design a flag that drew on colours and symbolism that the African Nova Scotian community has embraced. In 2012, a flag was born.

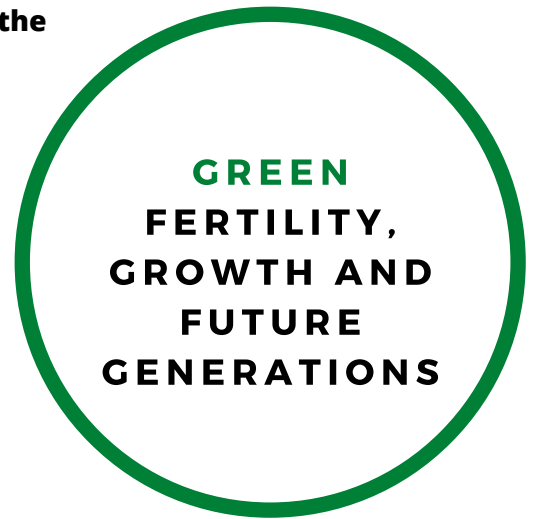
Wilson's hope is for African Nova Scotian students to be inspired by the flag and see it as an opportunity to develop unity, explore their history and cultural identity and to share their experience with others.

2012,
a flag story
begins.

ABOUT THE FLAG



The flag's colours are widely used by people of African descent across the world.



The symbol at the flag's centre is Wilson's own interpretation of the West African Adinkra symbol, "**Sankofa**", meaning "go back and fetch it". The Sankofa bird represents the spirit of African Nova Scotians, a resilient people who have never forgotten their history and continue to build on the lessons of the past in order to create a new future.

Wilson's version incorporates a wave, representing the ocean and our ancestors' journey through the Middle Passage. The wave is also symbolic of our tie to the water here in Nova Scotia. There is also half of a heart representing "heartbreak balanced with awareness."

Wilson says, "The image is encompassed within an incomplete circle, representing those things absent but yet to come."

Share your flag story!

Take a photo with the flag & share on social media.

Across Nova Scotia, people are already sharing their ANS flag story.

Use Hashtags:

#ANSflag
#ANSnation
#ANSproud



To learn more, or to order a flag for your classroom, local business or organization, contact: ansflag@gmail.com.

Proceeds from the sale of flags will go toward the development of Africentric education initiatives in Nova Scotia.