

# SESSION INFORMATION

8:00 - 9:00 am      **Registration**

9:00 - 9:15          **Welcome:** Dr. Colin Dodds, President, Saint Mary's University  
**Opening Remarks:** Verona Singer, President , NSCJA

9:15 – 10:15      **Keynotes:** Moderator Verona Singer  
This session will provide some of the background information on the African Nova Scotian experience and lay the foundation for the plenary panel discussion which follows.  
History of the African Nova Scotian people - Craig Smith  
African Nova Scotians in criminal justice statistics - Don Clairmont

10:15 - 10:30      **Break**

10:30 - 12:00      **Plenary Panel:** Moderator Yvonne Atwell  
The purpose of this plenary panel is to explore the historical inequities within the criminal justice system and the African Nova Scotian culture and community: where are the gaps and where are the solutions?

Implications of the Marshall Inquiry for African Nova Scotians; What's changed in 20 years? - Rocky Jones

Challenges faced by African Nova Scotians as offenders and employees of the criminal justice system. - Kevin Brooks

How do African Nova Scotians encounter elements of the criminal justice system? - Shawna Hoyte

What are some of the relevant dynamics that occur in the African Nova Scotian community from a clinical and community perspective. - Lana MacLean

12:00 -1:00 p.m.    **Lunch and Presentation of NSCJA Student Award**

1:00 – 2:20          **Concurrent Workshops:**

1. What are the program/service solutions in community and system? Moderator - Rosella Fraser.

In response to the consistent over representation of African Nova Scotians (particular African Nova Scotian Youth and young adults) within the criminal justice system the Community has acted. Our guest panelists this afternoon represent initiatives that are making a difference within this realm. They will expand your knowledge by their direct interaction and experience. This session invites you to discuss the question of whether there is more that we can do, or where do we need to provide assistance.  
Panelists: Melissa Francis, Community Justice Society; Sobaz Benjamin, iMOVE; Dennis Adams, LOVE; Ed Matwawana, Second Chance; Marcus James, North Branch Library.

2. Conversations towards solutions. Facilitator - Robert Wright.

In this session participants will be invited to roll up their sleeves and move from conversation to planning. It is the hope of the Executive that this workshop will craft recommendations for a multi-year initiative to be under taken by the NSCJA with respect to the issues raised today. What are the priority issues? Who needs to be part of the conversation? What would success look like? These are some of the questions we hope to begin to answer.

3. Employment Equity issues: How to recruit and retain African Nova Scotians in the criminal justice system. Moderator - Viki Samuels.

This workshop will define and explore the challenges and myths of employment equity in the criminal justice workplace for employees. Panelists will discuss expectations and responsibilities of employers in their recruitment, selection and retention of culturally competent African Nova Scotian employees within the criminal justice system.  
Panelists: Heather Chandler, Don Spicer, Sherry Jackson.

2:20-2:40          **Break**

2:40-4:00          **Concurrent Workshops**

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2. Conversations towards solutions. Facilitator - Robert Wright

3. Employment Equity issues: How to recruit and retain African Nova Scotians in the criminal justice system. Moderator - Viki Samuels.

4:00 – 4:30          **NSCJA Annual General Meeting (All welcome)**