



African United Baptist Association of Nova Scotia

Established 1854

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May 21, 2025

Mr. David MacNeil, Chief of Police
Truro Police Department
776 Prince Street, Truro, NS B - 2N 1G9

Email: dmacneil@truro.ca

Dear Chief McNeil:

Ref: Constable Brent Bowden

The African United Baptist Association of Nova Scotia has a long and respected history as a champion for justice, equity, and dignity. Our ministry has always included advocacy—speaking truth to power and standing with communities facing discrimination. We do so not only as a moral responsibility, but as a spiritual imperative rooted in our faith.

We are deeply concerned by the recent incident involving constable Brent Bowden - a member of the Truro Police Department who was subjected to a visual act of racism. While we cannot speak to the intent of the individuals involved, we are acutely aware of the impact that discriminatory and racist actions have on people of African descent, racialized individuals, and other marginalized communities. This incident does not exist in a vacuum—it is part of a broader and painful historical context of systemic racism and exclusion that effects not only the community targeted but those around it.

What is perhaps more troubling than the incident itself is the response, or lack thereof, from the leadership of the Truro Police Service. Silence or passivity in the face of racism communicates complicity. It raises serious questions about whether the department is truly committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and accountable culture for all.

We call on the Truro Police leadership to move beyond procedural investigations and to engage in a restorative approach—one that acknowledges harm, centers the voices of those impacted, and takes meaningful steps toward repair and prevention. Whether or not disciplinary details can be shared publicly, what must be clear is the department's position on racism. There must be a strong, unequivocal, and public statement denouncing racist behavior, paired with visible action that demonstrates accountability and a commitment to equity.

Our concern is not just about this moment, but about the kind of culture that is being cultivated within institutions of public trust. We need to know: Is there a zero-tolerance policy for racism in the Truro Police Service? If so, where is the evidence of its enforcement?

The African United Baptist Association urges all those in positions of leadership to reject dismissiveness and embrace a restorative path forward—one rooted in justice, transparency, and reconciliation. The African Nova Scotian community and all residents of Truro deserve nothing less.

Moderator / Executive

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Mission Statement: The AUBA will promote spiritual leadership and fellowship while providing ministry support to its member churches.