

Report of the Findings of the Scholarly Panel to Examine Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race

DECEMBER 10, 2018





Panelists

Dr. Afua Cooper, Chair (History/SOSA, Dalhousie)

Prof. Françoise Baylis (Philosophy/Medicine, Dalhousie)

Prof. Camille Cameron (Dean, Law, Dalhousie)

Mr. Ainsley Francis (Student rep. and Researcher, Law, Dalhousie)

Dr. Paul Lovejoy (Canada Research Chair in the African Diaspora History, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University.)

Mr. David States (Independent Historian, former Parks Canada Historian, Halifax)

Dr. Shirley Tillotson (Professor Emerita, History, Dalhousie)

Dr. Harvey Amani Whitfield (History, University of Vermont).

Ms. Norma Williams

With contributions from Dr. Isaac Saney (Dalhousie), and Dr. Karly Kehoe

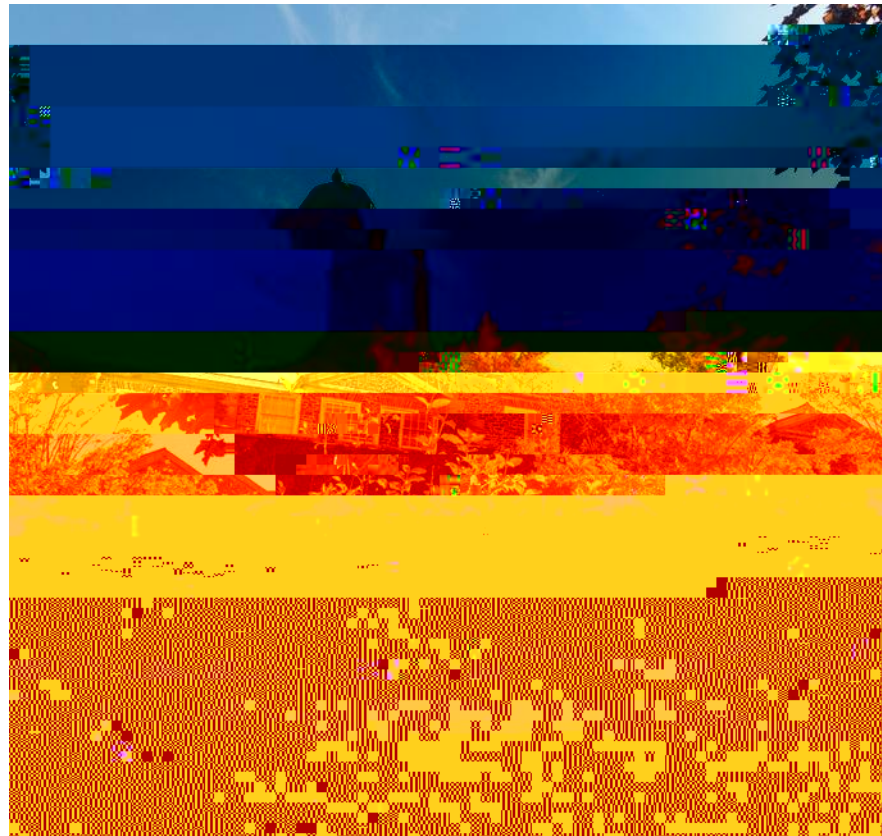
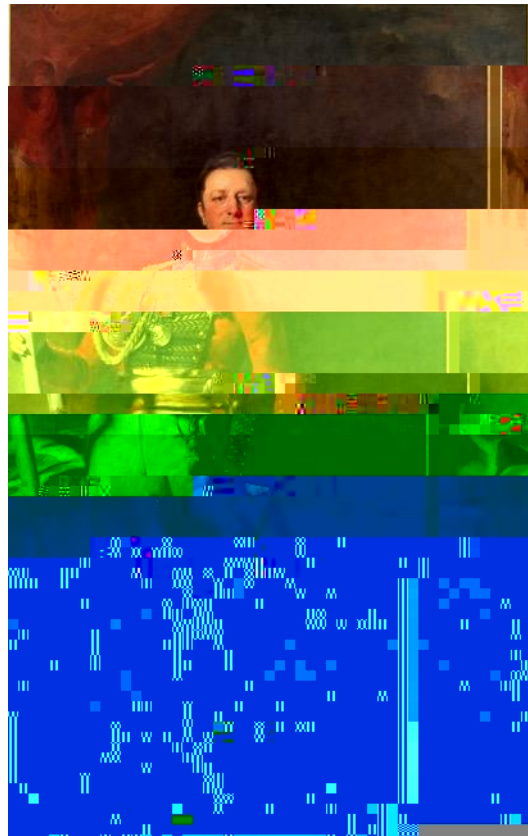
Researchers:

Lead: Ms. Jalana Lewis, J.D. Dalhousie; Ms. Kylie Peacock, M.A. Dalhousie; Mr. Wade Pfaff, M.A. student, SOSA, Dalhousie.

Mandate

The panel was tasked by President Florizone and Chair of Senate, Dr. Kevin Hewitt to:

[G]



Background

Incidents related to anti-Blackness on campus, such as anti-Black graffiti and the removal of the Pan African flag, and concerns about pedagogical and other issues relating to Black faculty, staff, and students.

US institutions of similar genealogy on the East Coast were grappling with issues of race on campus highlighting the need for us to examine our own history.

A Dalhousie Black Faculty and Staff Caucus contingent met with Dr. Florizone to discuss these issues. The meeting with the DBFSC, among others, did inform the pursuit of an examination of Dalhousie the history of our institution vis-à-vis race and slavery. We wanted to look back in order to move forward.

Background, continued

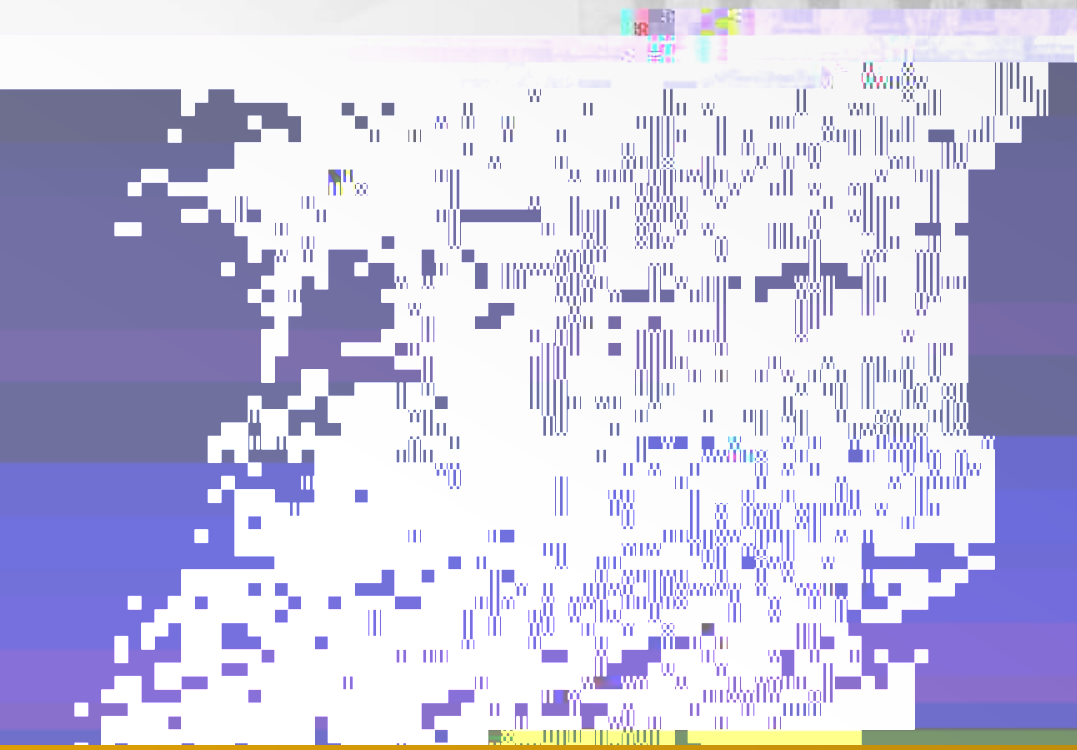
Diversity and Inclusiveness are values we aspire to at Dalhousie.

Lord Dalhousie envisioned a college with access for all – a radical view for its time.

Despite progressive views on higher education, his documented views on race are of concern.

7ca a Ya cfUhc'b'cZ8U\ci gJY'I bJj Yfg]mñ'&\$\$th anniversary.
What did it mean to celebrate 200 years of existence in the context of racism, anti-Blackness, and knowledge about the Zci bXYfñ'j JYk g'UbX'UW]cbg'hck UfX'dYcd'Y'cZ5Z]Wb'XYgWYbh3





Universities Studying Slavery Consortium

Dalhousie University joined the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) group. This consortium is open:

8 : C 8 8 8
8 8 8 8:

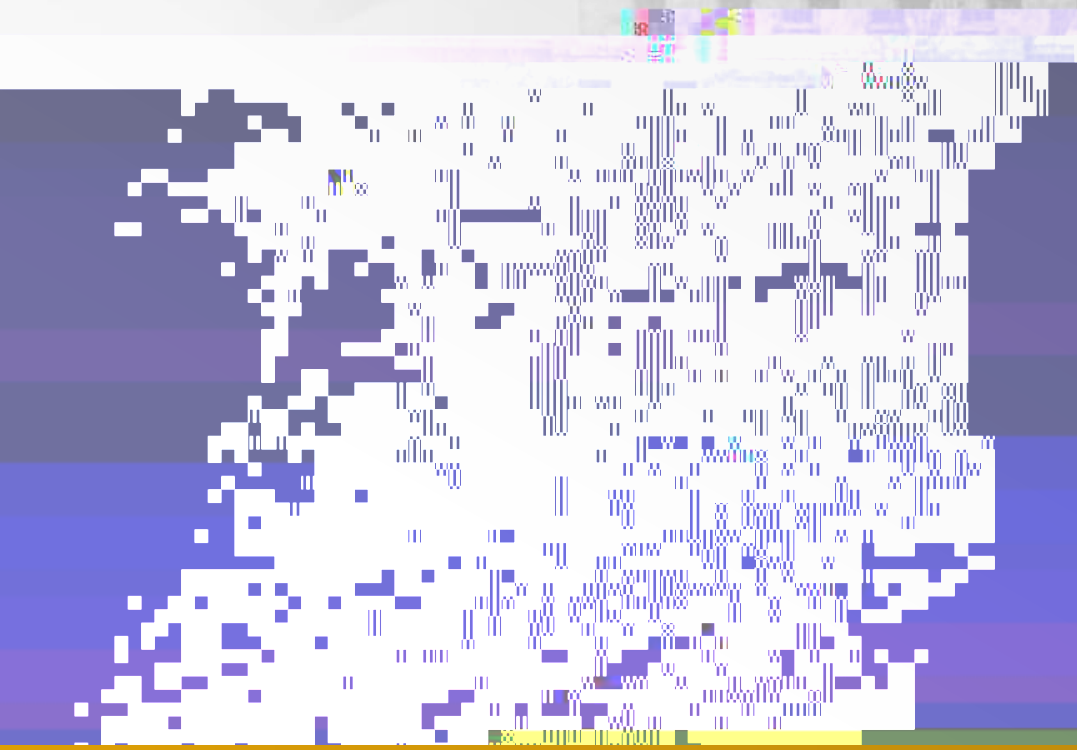
The USS now has a membership of 45 universities and colleges. Dalhousie is the first Canadian institution to join this group.

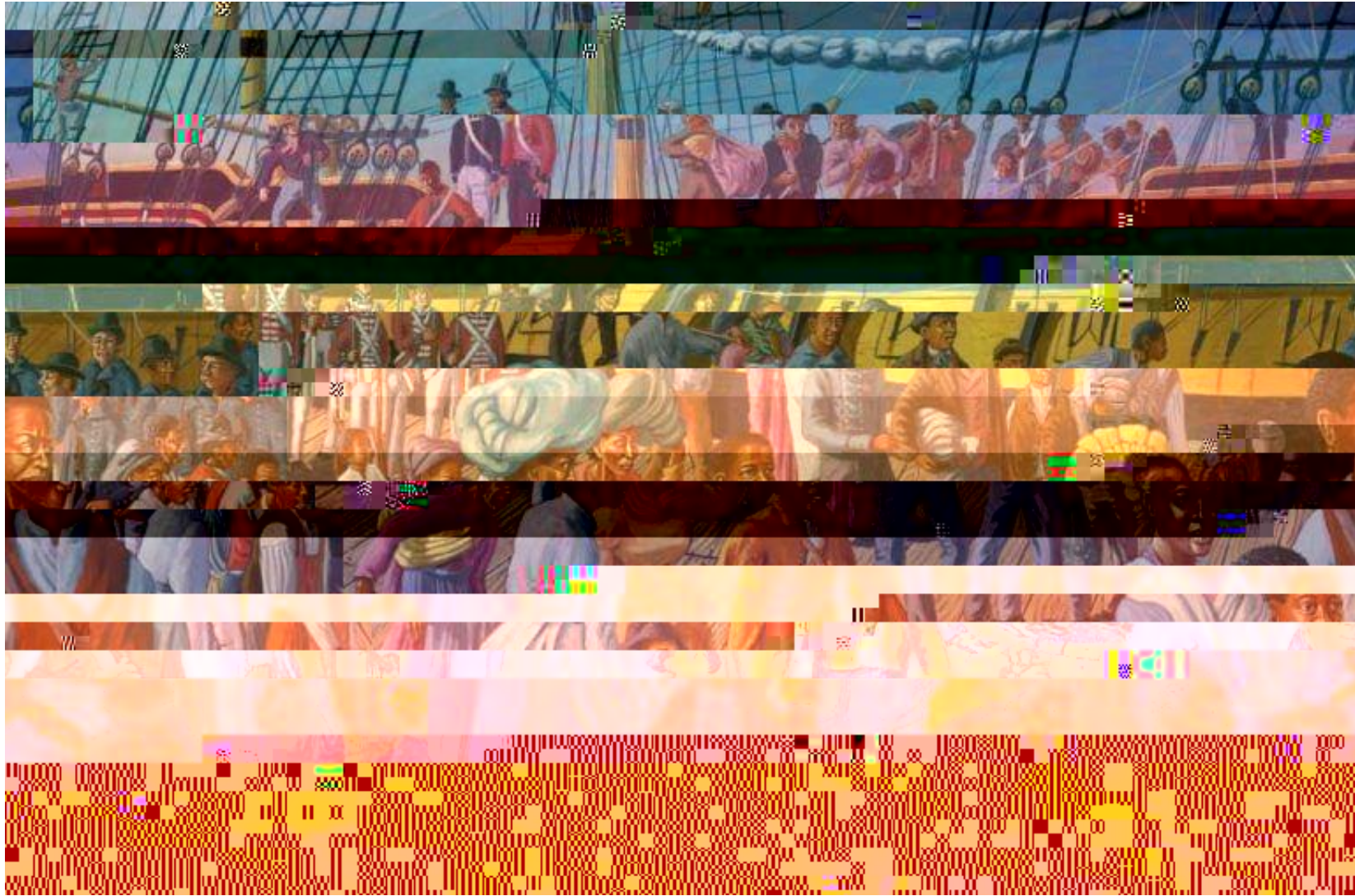


1. Lord Dalhousie in the Caribbean: Slavery and Race

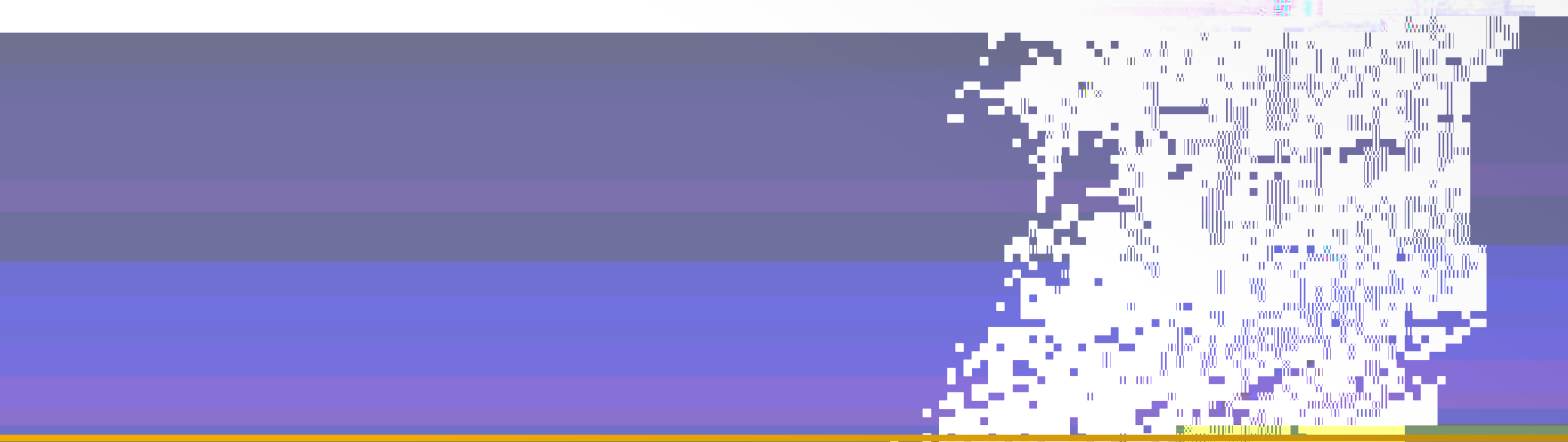
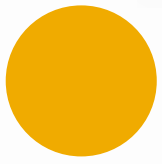
In 1794, as the French Revolutionary wars convulsed the Caribbean and Europe, the French Republican government abolished slavery in most of its Caribbean colonies. Britain attacked San Domingue (now, Haiti), Guadeloupe, and Martinique with the intention of seizing the islands from France and re-instituting slavery.

In Martinique, Lord Dalhousie was an officer in the occupying forces. Troops under his command enforced slavery.





8 : 8 : 8 : B 8 □ 8C 8 C



Slaves by Habit and Education

relationship to race and slavery. It was crucial to our
Refugees of the War of 1812.

Unequal Treatment of the Black Refugees compared to White Settlers

The Black Refugees did not receive the same assistance White settlers did in terms of land, rations and wages

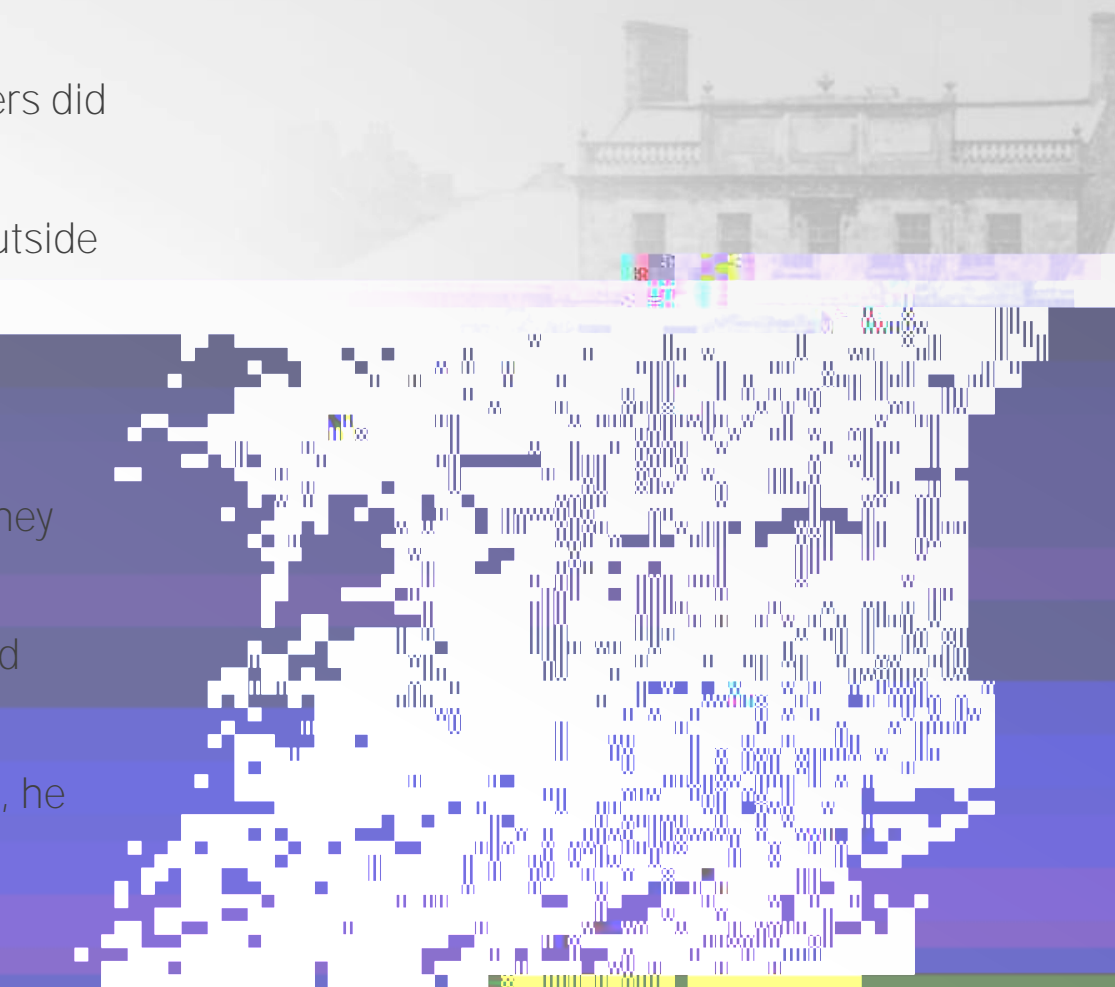
They were socially marginalized on small lots of poor land situated outside of Halifax or close to White farms

This forced them to seek low-wage employment to subsidize their subsistence farming

They were sometimes cheated out of the portions of the low wages they had rightfully earned

This meant that they contributed to the success of the merchants and White farmers they worked for

Lord Dalhousie was in a position to correct this situation, but instead, he prolonged it



Response of Lord Dalhousie to the Settlement of the Black Refugees

He never thought of the Black Refugees as settlers or potential
at some point depart Nova Scotia.

He therefore did not provide the necessary support for their settlement. He issued inferior rations and later reduced their rations.

The small plots of land (8 to 10 acres) issued to the Black Refugees were not sufficient to help them become independent farmers.

wage labour

Thus, Black persons were to be used as a reserve labour force.

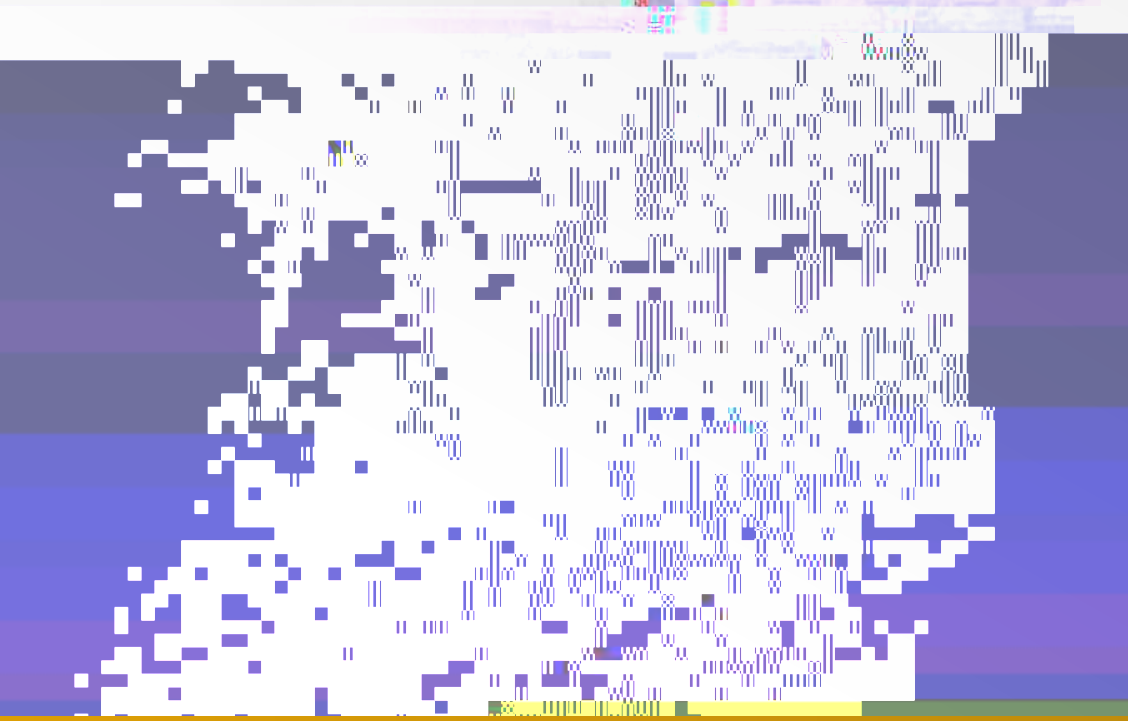


The Social Exclusion of the Black Refugees

The Nova Scotia legislature and the general population did not want the Black Refugees in the colony, despite their loyalty to the

Lord Dalhousie's desire to rid the colony of the Black Refugees

Lord Dalhousie made several references to removing the Black Refugees from Nova Scotia and sending them to the slave colony of Trinidad, to their former slave masters in America, or to Sierra Leone:



9C : 8 8
, 8 C 9 89C
□8 :8
C 8 (Letter from Lord Dalhousie to

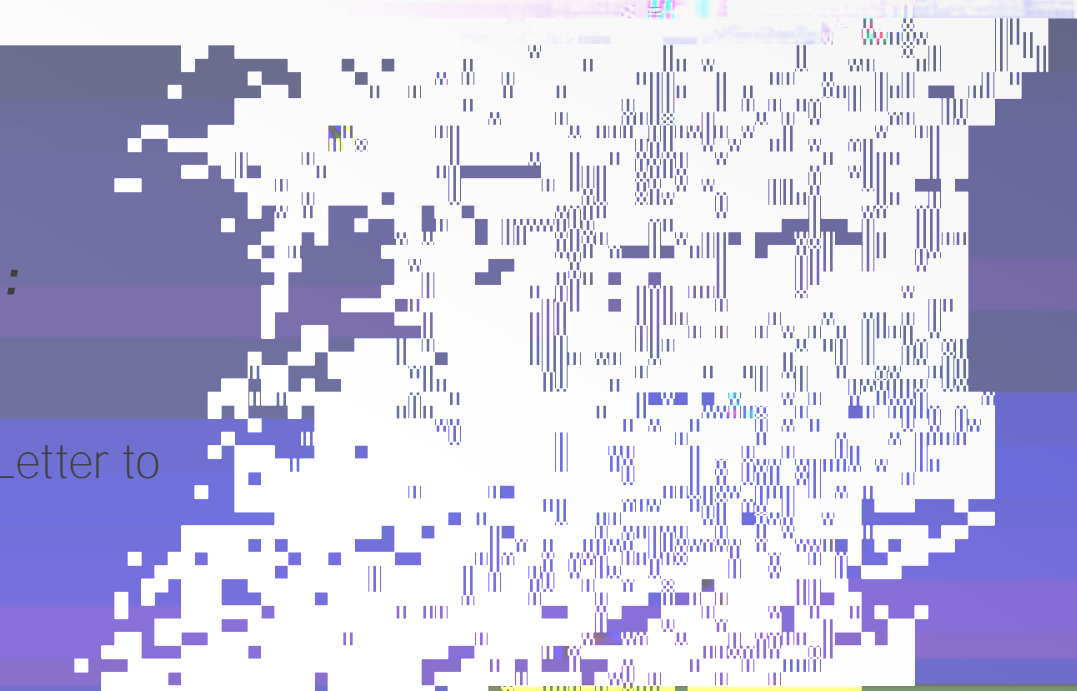
Lord Dalhousie's desire to rid the colony of the Black Refugees, continued

Lord Dalhousie on his assistance to White settlers:

8 8C : C 8
C C : ,
8 8: 9 8 (Letter to Bathurst 2 Jan. 1817).

Lord Dalhousie on his assistance to Black Refugees:

:8 8 8 9 8C :
8 8 8 9 : :8 9 8
CC C C8 C 89C
8 C (Letter to
Bathurst 14 Aug. 1817)



Castine Fund

When Dalhousie College was founded, it received its original endowment from the Castine Fund.

The Castine Fund consisted of trade taxes charged on imports entering Castine, Maine during the British occupation there. Of those taxes, 30% came from slave-made goods imported from the West Indies.

Dalhousie played a central role in deciding how the fund would be allocated.

Lord Dalhousie has discretion to use the Castine Fund

Lord Bathurst urged that Earl Dalhousie spend the Castine fund on settlers, giving Dalhousie the option to provide adequately for the needs of the Black Refugees. (Bathurst to Dalhousie, 12 March 1817). Dalhousie wrote back stating:

C 8 C 8 8
8 C C C 8 C
9 C (Letter from Dalhousie to Bathurst, 16 May 1817).

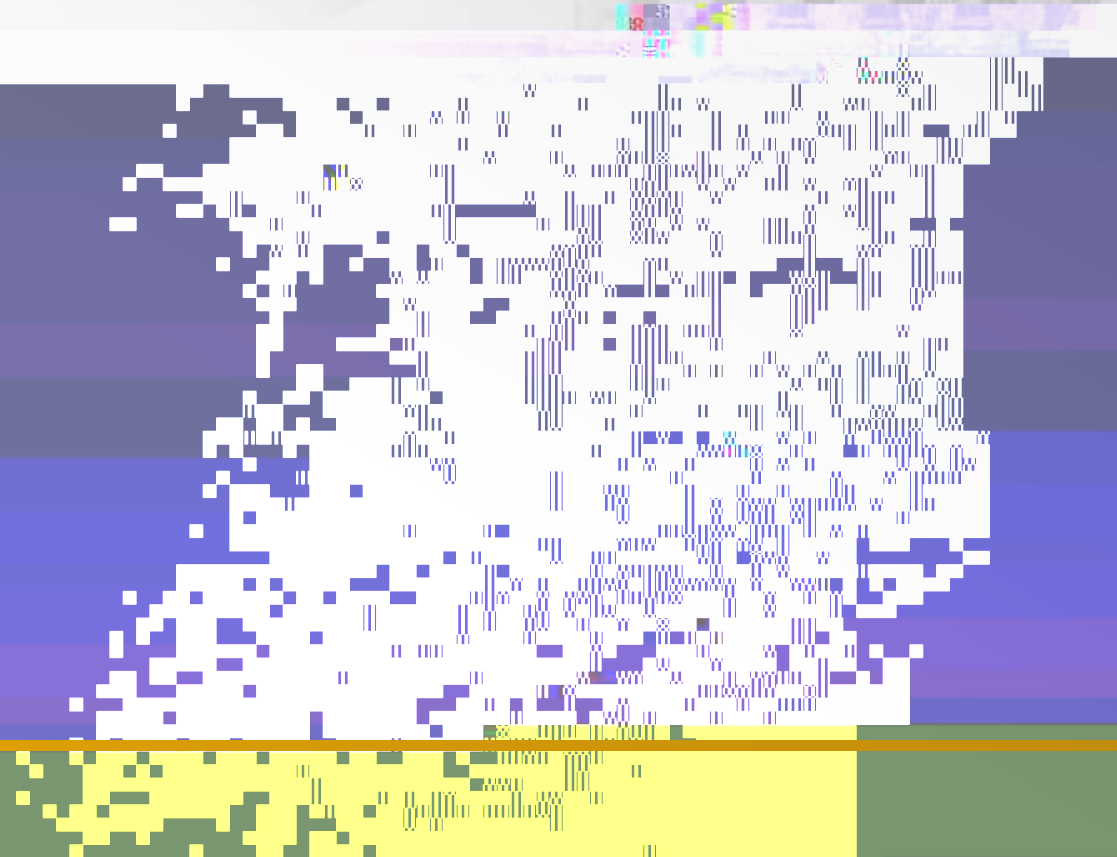
Shortly after, he followed up:

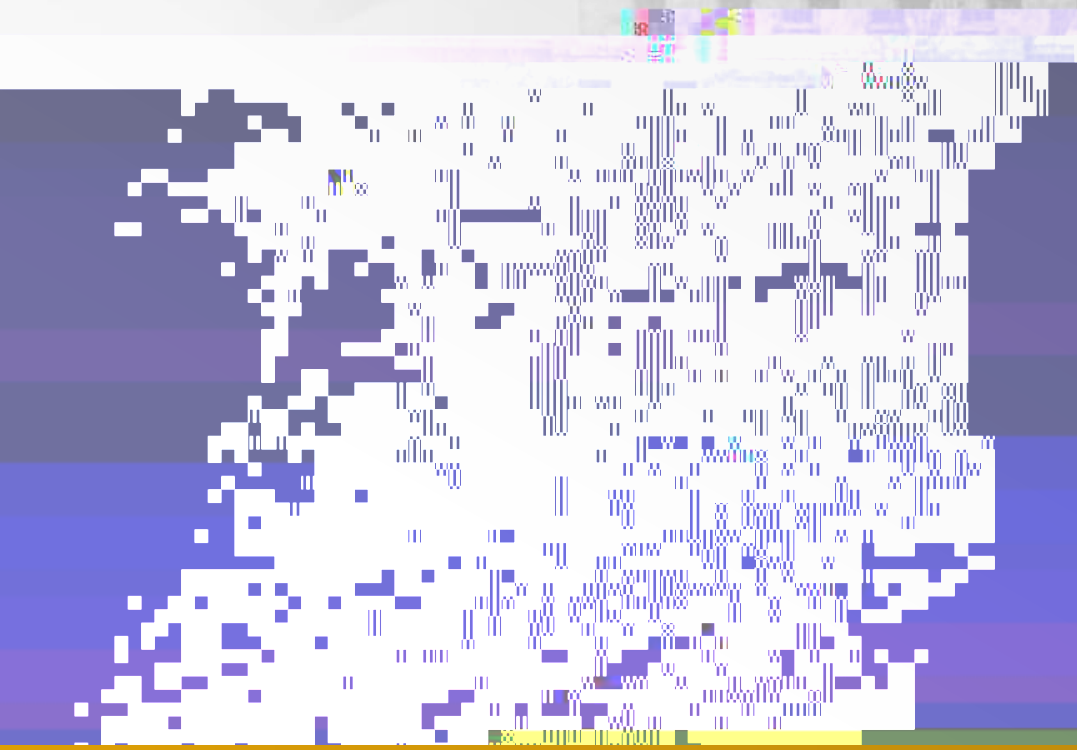
8 8C 8C C 8 8 C8
8 : 8 89C 8 9 8
8 8 : : C8 8 8 8
B 8 8 8 (Letter of 14 Aug. 1817).



West Indies Trade, continued

Halifax was the principal Nova Scotian port that was involved in this branch of commerce, but other important ports participated, including Lunenburg, Pictou, Liverpool, Yarmouth, Shelburne, and even smaller ports such as Port Greville/Parrsboro.







8 :

□8

□

⊗ :

Advertisement for the Sale of Slaves in Halifax Harbour, , 30 May 1752



Sugar and Slavery

Until the late 1830s, the British West Indies slave colonies supplied Nova Scotia with 90% of its imported sugar. This was also true for rum and molasses. Colonial merchants then re-

turned to other sources for their sugar and rum. (Gwyn 2013)

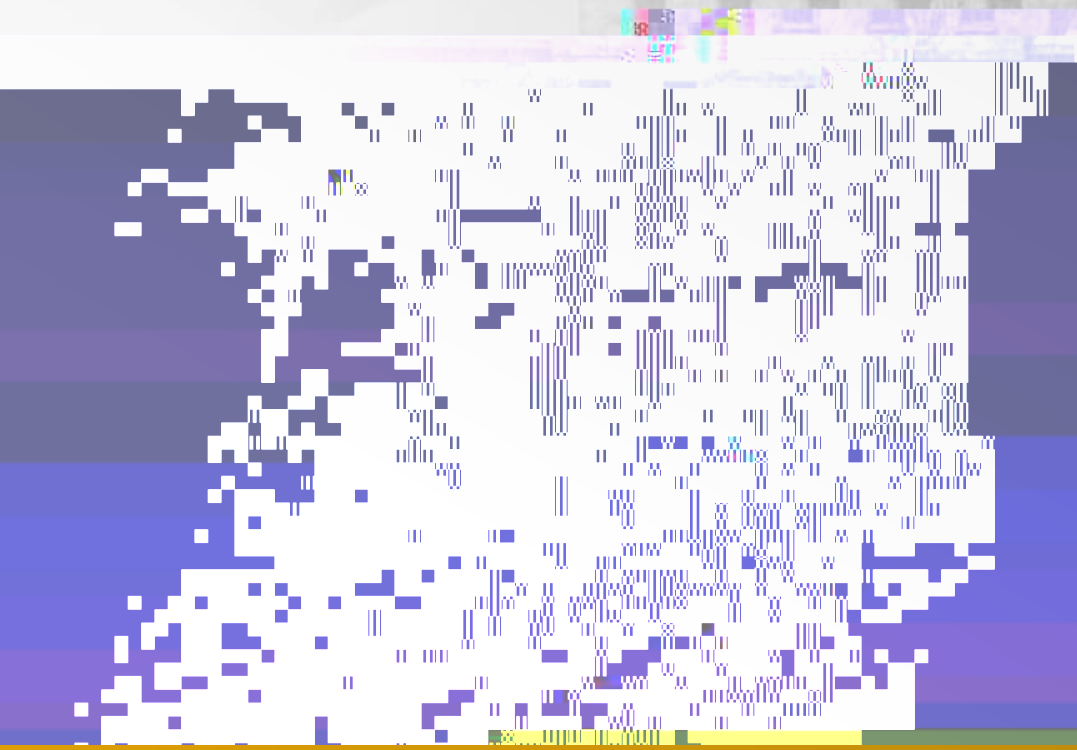
It is important to note that, with the abolition of British West Indies slavery in 1838, Nova Scotian merchants began importing the bulk of their sugar products and rum from the French and Spanish slave colonies and Brazil. (Gwyn 2013)

Merchants

Halifax merchants involved in the West Indies trade earned large incomes and grew wealthy. Some of these include Samuel Cunard, William Roche, Joseph Salter, James and Michael Tobin, Mather Byles Almon, and Enos Collins.

At his death, in 1871, Collins was reputed to be the richest man in British North America, with a net worth of \$6,000,000.







Dalhousie College Building Costs in 1818 and today's dollars

| | 1818 | 2018 | Notes |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|--|
| Dalhousie College 1819-1828 | \$25,707 | \$179,228 | Amount listed as the land used in building Dalhousie College |
| Dalhousie College window panes | \$7,000 | \$80,788 | Amount listed as the land used in Garrison Library |
| Dalhousie College window panes | \$7,889 | \$898,708 | Amount listed as the land remaining for Dalhousie |
| Dalhousie College 1819-1828 | \$28,000 | \$648,740 | Provincial Assembly grants & loan for building Dalhousie |

Conclusions Regarding Almon's Receipt of the Compensation Award

The link to actual slave ownership has material and symbolic value. It represents the fact that slave ownership fell within the normal range of the ordinary business dealings of the generation of White Nova Scotians who were alive and influential in Lord Dalhousie's day.

Enslaved people were the collateral that a slave owner, Walter Brett, offered to secure the debt that he owed to John Johnston, the brother-in-law of Almon, the Dalhousie governor, who was one of four executors of the estate to which the compensation money came.

5. Support for the Confederacy

Dr. William Johnston Almon, nephew of Mather Byles Almon, and (1811-1875), was a prominent Halifax merchant and politician. He provided money to the cause and assisted Confederates who took refuge in Halifax.

He was involved in both the *88B* and *8088* cases.

Almon composed in Latin and English, to the memory of Confederate general Stonewall Jackson.





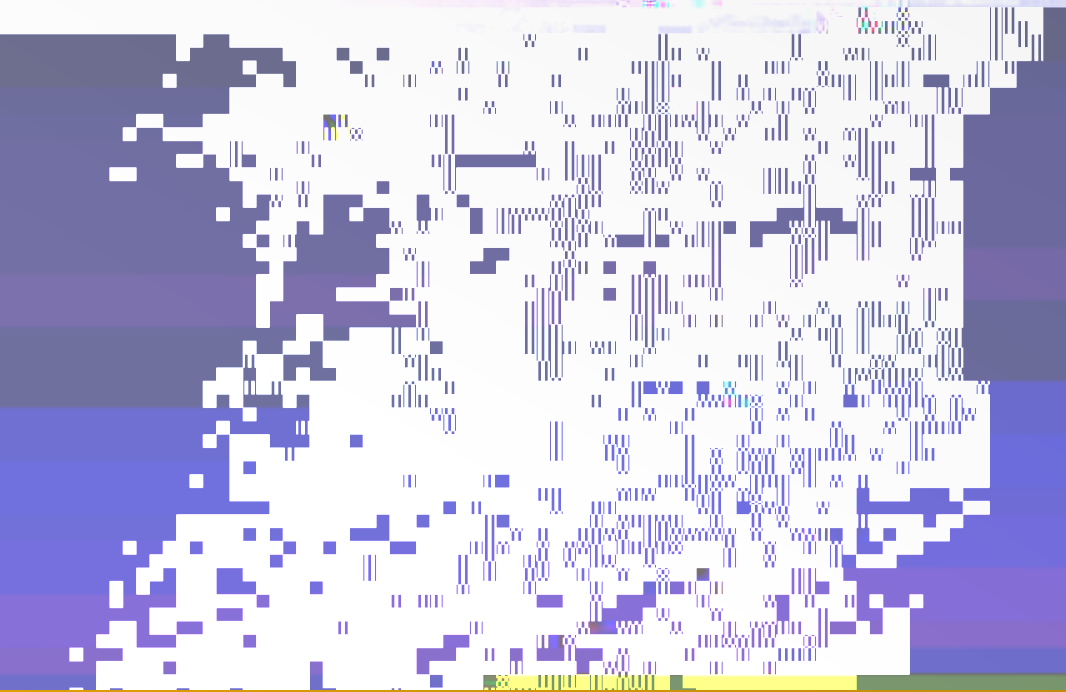
Another Dalhousie Connection to Slavery and Race: The President's Residence

The official residence of the president of Dalhousie University was originally built and owned by Levi Hart, a Halifax merchant involved in the West Indies carrying trade.

Why This Report Matters

the history of the enslavement of Africans and their descendants.

Legacies of Slavery, Racism, and Injustice include:



Social and Economic Determinants of Contemporary Black Life

Un/under-employment

Poverty rates

Disproportionate incarceration rates

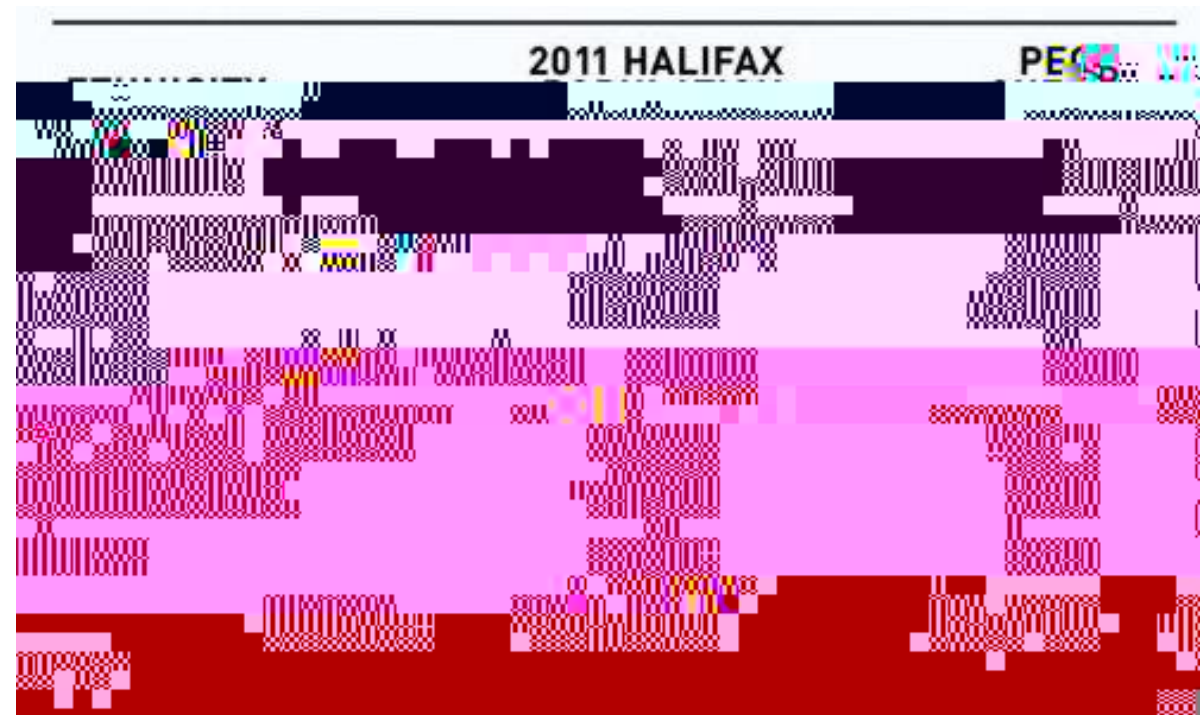
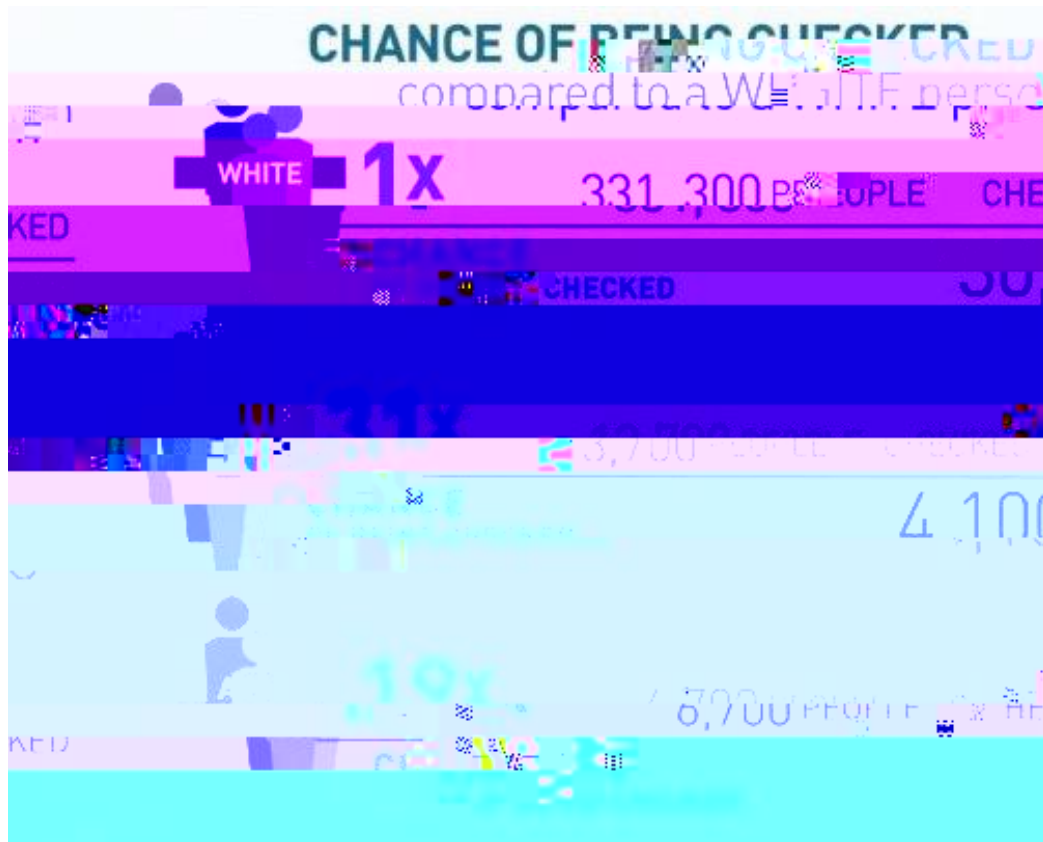
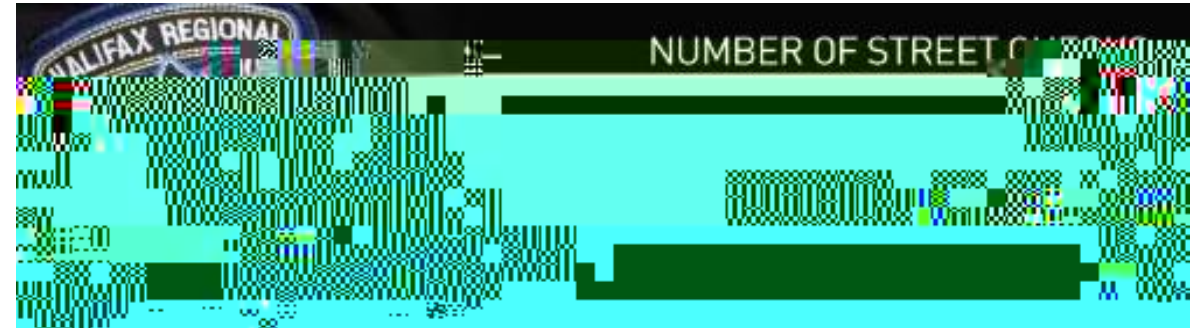
Disproportionate school drop-out rates

Environmental racism

Education and social exclusion

Racial profiling

Halifax Street Checks, 2011





Summary

subjectation of Martinique showed his commitment to the enslavement of African descended peoples in the West Indies.

Refugees from Nova Scotia and returning them to slavery.

Lord Dalhousie did not provide the necessary support to the Black Refugees as settlers, and when he had the opportunity to use Castine Funds to assist the Black Refugees he chose not to.

There are direct linkages between the founding of Dalhousie University and the profits of enslavement in the West Indies, through the use of funds from the Castine Fund and the provincial treasury.

Halifax merchants and others individuals grew wealthy from their involvement in the West Indies, some of whom

communities.

Draft Recommendations for Consideration

Apology from Dalhousie University

Acknowledge key individuals

Acknowledge contributions of the Black Refugees to the British Empire

Support for Black Studies

Fully fund the Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies

Teach Slavery and Anti-Blackness in a number of subject areas in elementary, high schools, and post-secondary institutions

Facilitate Black Studies with the public school system

Draft Recommendation for Consideration

Funding for Black students and recruiting Black faculty

Infrastructure to study slavery and the Black experience

Acknowledge the West Indies Trade contributions in the
Castine Fund Memorial

Honour the contributions of Black Refugees to War of 1812

Establish collaborations with post-secondary institutions in the
Caribbean to help build capacity in n(ar)6()10(int)rese

