



Hon. Tim Houston
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS, B3J 1X5

June 25, 2025

Dear Premier Houston,

It's very troubling that your government continues to send mixed messages on an issue as serious as environmental racism, and refuses to release the report or recommendations that could lay the groundwork to do better.

Back in March, Deputy Premier Adams said that all government departments were using the report and recommendations of the Environmental Racism Panel in their work. Yet at a recent Public Accounts Committee meeting, the Deputy Minister of Public Works said no one in the room had seen the recommendations. And the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the panel's work, won't confirm whether she has even read them.

These contradictions undermine trust. When your ministers can't even agree on whether the recommendations have been read, let alone implemented, it sends a clear message to communities that their experiences and input are not being taken seriously. These inconsistencies make it harder for Nova Scotians to believe that your government is truly committed to addressing environmental racism.

Black and Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia are still living with the devastating legacy of environmental racism. For decades, people living in Africville, Shelburne, Lincolnville, Boat Harbour and many other communities have had to deal with increased health concerns and lack of access to clean water because of political decisions that placed garbage dumps and other industrial sites in their backyards.

As Premier, it is your job to ensure the work of the panel is respected and acted on. Nova Scotians who have lived with the consequences of environmental racism are still waiting for meaningful change. They've waited long enough and should be able to read the report for themselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Suzy Hansen", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Suzy Hansen
NSNDP Critic for African Nova Scotian Affairs and the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

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