

From: Rohan Thompson <rthompson@dufferincounty.ca>

Sent: September 4, 2024 4:07 PM

To: Rohan Thompson <rthompson@dufferincounty.ca>

Cc: Kareema Sookdeo <ksookdeo@dufferincounty.ca>; Lovepreet Kaur <lkaur@dufferincounty.ca>

Subject: The Paradox of Slavery and Freedom in Colonial Canada: Acknowledging our Past to Understand our Present & Past Promises, Present Realities

Greetings friends and community collaborators,

I hope this message finds you well.

To introduce myself, my name is Rohan Thompson, I am the Director of People & Equity at the County of Dufferin.

The Corporation of the County of Dufferin is pleased to invite you to two public engagement events on September 19 and September 26, 2024, at the [Monora Park Pavilion](#) to promote learning, inspiration and change through meaningful and thought-provoking conversations: “The Paradox of Slavery and Freedom in Colonial Canada: Acknowledging our Past to Understand our Present” and “Past Promise, Present Realities in recognition of Emancipation Day, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

On September 19, 2024, at “The Paradox of Slavery and Freedom in Colonial Canada: Acknowledging our Past to Understand our Present”, we are honoured to have Dr. Natasha Henry Dixon provide a 45-minute keynote presentation, where she will discuss Canada’s participation in the institution of the enslavement of African peoples. In her keynote, Dr. Henry- Dixon will dispel the myth that enslavement did not occur in Canada. She will also discuss the connection of how anti-Black racism is entrenched in institutions in structural ways like policies, procedures and cultural norms because of that legacy and the important role we all play in dismantling systemic anti-Black racism. The event will take place at the [Monora Park Pavilion](#) from **6:30pm – 8:30pm**. [Click here to register to attend](#). **Registration will close on September 18, 2024, at 4:30pm.**

On September 26, 2024, at “Past Promise, Present Realities”, Dr. Taiaiake Alfred will discuss Truth and Reconciliation, with a particular focus on past commitments, present realities and pathways forward towards true reconciliation between Canada and First Nations. In his keynote, Dr. Alfred will provide attendees with a First Nations perspective on roots and dynamics of the Indigenous-state relationship and initiate constructive dialogue on ways the County and Canadians can contribute to the resurgence of First Nations peoples and embody Canada’s legal commitment to the principles of reconciliation. The event will take place at the [Monora Park Pavilion](#) from **6:30pm – 8:30pm**. [Click here to register to attend](#). Registration will close on September 27, 2024, at 4:30pm.

Dufferin County is dedicated to providing opportunities for employees, residents and community members to learn and meaningfully reflect as we work towards understanding the harm and injustices that have been perpetuated against peoples and communities that are marginalized. Our goal is to bring together members of the Dufferin County community to foster inspiration and change through important thought-provoking conversations.

We believe your presence would be a welcome addition to both events and we would be excited if you would join us. Please click the links above to register to attend or let Kareema Sookdeo (copied on this email) know by the registration deadlines whether you'd be interested in attending.

Thank you for your time, and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

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