

Restorative Inquiry – Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children

Journey to Light: A Different Way Forward - Final Report Overview



The Final Report reflects the wisdom of Sankofa which has served as a symbol for the work of the Inquiry. It stands for the idea that it is not taboo to go back and fetch that which you have forgotten. The Restorative Inquiry looked back, not to ascribe blame, but to shed light on the history and experience of the Home in order to learn from it and move forward into a brighter future. The Report reflects this commitment to look back and learn to make a difference for the future.

Chapter 1: The NSHCC Restorative Inquiry: A Different Way, A Different Report

Provides an overview of the purpose and structure of the Report. Explains how the restorative approach to Public Inquiry has produced a different Report that reflects how the Inquiry worked in a different way and to serve as a guide for the way ahead.

Chapter 2: The Restorative Inquiry: Mandate, Structure, Approach & Process

Details the restorative approach that shaped the Inquiry throughout and distinguished it from traditional models of public inquiries. Its processes and operations are described, including their scope, breadth, and depth.

Chapter 3: The History of the NSHCC: Governance, Operations & Living Conditions

Provides an overview of the origins, history, operations, and the resulting living conditions and experiences of the residents of the NSHCC. More than a simple chronology or institutional history, the chapter is framed by a recognition of the importance of a range of institutional relationships that governed the nature and operations of the Home and examines the facts, context, conditions, and circumstances that are most significant to understanding its history.

Chapter 4: The Journey to Light and the Road to the Restorative Inquiry

Traces the former residents' journey to light, from the first revelations in 1998 about the harms and abuses they experienced as young people at the Home through to the establishment of this Restorative Inquiry. The chapter details the responses to their institutional abuse by Government, the NSHCC, and by some within the African Nova Scotian community.

Chapter 5: Understanding the History, Context and Experience of the NSHCC

Provides an analysis of the history and experience of the NSHCC and the former residents' efforts to get a response to the institutional abuse and failures of care they experienced at the Home and the systemic racism that shaped the institution and former residents' experiences.

Chapter 6: The Way Forward: What We Have Come to Learn and Understand

Examines what we came to learn and understand from the history and experience of the Home and its implications for the way forward on the central issues of responding to institutional abuse, experience of care/system of care, and systemic racism. Shares the background information, evidence, and other resources gathered through this process to support the parties' work going forward.

Chapter 7: Making a Difference: Actions, Plans, Commitments and Recommendations

Shares the actions, plans, commitments, and recommendations that emerged through the Inquiry process as steps towards a fundamental shift in support of a different way forward. It reflects the elements of the work ahead to support parties' plans and commitments. Provides an important guide for next steps to make a difference for children, young people, families, and communities in Nova Scotia.



Video Series

As part of the Final Report, there is also a 5 part video series which is available at restorativeinquiry.ca



- Part 1:** The Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children A Brief History
- Part 2:** The Journey
- Part 3:** What is a Restorative Inquiry?
- Part 4:** Experiencing The Restorative Process
- Part 5:** What Difference Did it Make?