



ADVISORY: WEBCAST OF COURT PROCEEDING

Friday, March 26, 2021 (Halifax, NS) – Members of the media and the public are advised that the following proceedings in the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal will be livestreamed on the Courts of Nova Scotia website on Tuesday, March 30:

CAC-497430 — Her Majesty the Queen v. Rakeem Rayshon Anderson (Respondent), The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (Intervenor) and the Criminal Lawyers' Association (Ontario) (Intervenor)

In 2019, Rakeem Rayshon Anderson was found guilty of five firearm-related offences following a trial in the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia. In February 2020, Chief Judge Pamela Williams imposed a conditional sentence of two years less a day, followed by two years' probation. The Crown had sought a sentence of two to three years' imprisonment in a federal penitentiary and is appealing Mr. Anderson's sentence.

In her [written decision](#), Chief Judge Williams noted that information presented in the Impact of Race and Culture Assessment (IRCA) and testimony relating to the availability of Afrocentric services in prisons, jails and the community, supported this sentence as being fit and appropriate.

IRCAs examine an offender's background and how issues like poverty and racism may have affected their lives and opportunities. The IRCA in this case highlighted the history of Black people in Nova Scotia, including slavery, segregation and discrimination. The information is meant to help judges consider how systemic racism and the experiences of the offender are to be factored into determining a fit and proper sentence.

The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (ANSDPAD) and the Criminal Lawyers' Association (Ontario) have been granted intervenor status in the appeal. In similar proceedings in other jurisdictions, intervenors have argued the Impact of Race and Culture Assessments should be used when sentencing Black offenders, similar to how Gladue reports are used when sentencing Indigenous offenders.

The appeal hearing is scheduled for a full day beginning at 10 a.m. AST on Tuesday, March 30. This matter will be heard by a five-member panel comprised of Justice Duncan Beveridge, Justice Joel Fichaud, Justice David Farrar, Justice Anne Derrick and Justice Carole Beaton.

The panel of judges, the Crown, and counsel for Mr. Anderson and The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition will appear in person in Courtroom 502 at the Law Courts, while counsel for the Criminal Lawyers' Association (Ontario) will participate virtually via Skype.

The public can watch the livestream on the Courts of Nova Scotia website [here](#).

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