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On behalf of Rothesay Council, thank you Matthew Martin for organizing the Black Lives Matter event in Saint John today. The issues raised at the Black Lives Matter movement deserve our understanding and response.

Racism in all its forms, whether overt or insidious, is intolerable and contrary to the basic human right to live free from discrimination. Rothesay Council stands united and committed to unbiased government institutions. Our Council condemns police violence against the Black community. We support police accountability and the elimination of racial profiling and applaud the commitment of the Kennebecasis Regional Police Force not to tolerate racism and serve our community in a manner that continues to earn your trust.

Systemic racism and discrimination flourishes only when we turn a blind eye to its existence. Racism does exist in our community. We are all potentially part of the problem and we can all become part of the solution. Rothesay Council is united in our commitment to meaningful, intentional actions to remove barriers and to help every member of our community feel safe, included and protected.

We are reminded that racism is deeply seeded over generations. We support actions such as the posthumous award of the Order of New Brunswick to Abraham Beverley Walker for his inspiring achievements as one of Canada's first black lawyers and for his commitment to civil rights in New Brunswick. When we encounter examples of prejudice, bias and racism today, we personally speak out against them. Doing so creates and reinforces a standard for ourselves and the people around us.

Rothesay is committed to growing our awareness and understanding of our personal prejudices and to needed and urgent changes in our institutions.

I cannot be with you today in person but I assure you I am with you in spirit.

Dr. Nancy Grant
Mayor of Rothesay, NB

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