

Halifax canadian
press, 2017). the
protesters provided

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Halifax is a city that prides itself on its history and multiculturalism, but what many do not know is that the founder of Halifax, Edward Cornwallis, was the cause of extreme violent racism in Canadian history. Edward Cornwallis was a soldier and politician and is celebrated for his legacy of founding Halifax in 1749 (Maham Abedi, 2017). Another legacy of Cornwallis that often goes unknown is how he issued an order in 1749 known as the "Scalping Proclamation" in response to an attack on colonists, which issued a government-funded bounty to those who returned with the scalps of Mi'kmaq adults or children (Maham Abedi, 2017). A statue of Cornwallis is located in Cornwallis Square in the downtown Halifax area.

This past summer, Halifax residents gathered around the statue rallying against the white supremacist movement, which had begun taking place in the United States, and to remind the public of the racism that occurred in Canada's history (The Canadian Press, 2017). The protesters provided the Mayor with a list of demands, one of which was for the statue to be removed. Many claimed the statue is distasteful and represented a "colonial genocide" (Pam Berman, 2017), however, some state that Cornwallis was "not the monster" people are portraying him as, and that we should not try to "erase history" (Pam Berman, 2017). The municipality has developed a panel to deal with the situation, and to increase the recognition of indigenous history (Pam Berman, 2017). The municipality also intends to include an indigenous advisor in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (Pam Berman, 2017). Although the statue still stands, it has been veiled with a black tarp. Overall, despite what happens to the statue, the controversy has led to the municipality to

make changes that otherwise would not have been done; it is about bringing the community together and eliminating the public divide.