



2022 Bursary Presentation



Uplifting the Next Generation; Investing in Education

Supported by:



Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens



Arbor Alliances



Sunday, November 20, 2022

5:00 p.m.

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion!

Program

Host

Ms. Kadesha James

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Gideon Exeter – President CCAC

Entertainment

Musical Rendition – Shaemika Lawson

Keynote Speaker

Mr. Kareem South

Mental Health Professional and Consultant

Entertainment

Dub Poem – Calyse Fairclough

Presentation of Bursaries

Greetings

Claudia Davis-Ewan – Past President CCAC

Acknowledgement and Closing Remarks

Eric Delfish

PRO & Board Member, Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada

BIOGRAPHY – GUEST SPEAKER



KAREEM SOUTH

Kareem South was born in Toronto and raised in Scarborough where he attended school throughout his formative years. He later went on to pursue his studies in the US at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where he received a full ride scholarship to play basketball and complete his Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical Sciences. Over the course of his time in university, Kareem made the Academic Honor Roll eight times and became a two-time Southland Conference All-Academic selection. After graduating, Kareem went on to pursue his Master's Degree in Public Health at the University of California-Berkeley -- where he finished his collegiate career and began his professional stint with the now two-time champions, Edmonton Stingers, of the Canadian Elite Basketball League.

Since returning home in the beginning of 2020, Kareem has dedicated his efforts to improving the mental health system and collaborating with community organizations to provide mentorship opportunities to youth in his community. Kareem's commitment to advocating for student achievement and wellbeing was further demonstrated as he recently ran in the City of Toronto's municipal election for the Toronto District School Board trustee position in Ward 17 - Scarborough Centre.

Kareem currently works as a mental health professional and consultant for Stepped Care Solutions, a non-profit organization that aims to promote mental wellness by transforming mental health systems. As a mental health professional and advocate, Kareem contributed to the development of Canada's first nationwide virtual mental health portal — Wellness Together Canada.



RECIPIENT OF THE GRACE FOODS CANADA BURSARY

Zabryc Zoran Popo



Zabryc Popo was born on the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia on March 17, 2001 to Peggy Weekes Popo a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and John Popo of St. Lucia. He has two older brothers who make sure that he is on the right path. He migrated to Canada with his mother in 2019 and took some time to adjust to the new environment. He graduated from Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning with honours as a part of the class of 2020. He is currently a second-year Biomedical Science student at York University but hopes to become a Neurosurgeon in the future. He is fascinated with the anatomy of the human brain and wants to specialize in that field. He is

always encouraged by his parents to strive for the top which keeps him going when the studies get too much at times.

He is a member of the Youth Encountering Christ, a youth group and also a steel band player participating in many carnivals & steel band competitions in St. Lucia and regionally. During his teen years, he represented St. Lucia in many regional lawn tennis competitions and conferences. He loves music and enjoys playing the violin and keyboard especially when he is bored.

He endeavours to do the best that he can at anything he sees worthy of doing. His main aim is to complete his studies in medicine and one day have his practice.



RECIPIENT OF THE GRACE FOODS CANADA BURSARY

Zaevian Dawson



Zaevian Dawson currently attends Toronto Metropolitan University, where he is majoring in computer engineering. His career goal is to become a computer hardware engineer. He would like to work in the semiconductor, digital electronics, or electric power industry. He graduated from Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School. Throughout his four years in high school, he was an honour roll student and participated in extracurricular activities. In addition to Zaevian's commitment towards his academics, he was a member of the Men of Distinction program and also led a workshop at the inaugural I Am King: TCDSB Black Male Student Conference. His hobbies include: reading, exercising and watching action movies.



RECIPIENT OF THE GRACE FOODS CANADA BURSARY

Ethan Jaelon Anthony Myers



Ethan Jaelon Anthony Myers, was born in Kingstown, St. Vincent on 30th October 2001. I spent my early childhood years in Basseterre, St. Kitts and returned to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2008. I attended the St. Mary's Roman Catholic School. During primary school, I was a boy scout and a member of the Arnos Vale Karate Club. I was voted Athlete of the Year when I graduated. In 2013, after being successful in the Common Entrance Exam, I entered the St. Vincent Grammar School to pursue my secondary education. I was awarded on two occasions, most outstanding student. I was also a member of the school's track and field team for my sojourn and represented the school. Locally, regionally and internationally. I won two individual championship awards (Junior and Intermediate division) at the Inter Secondary School Athletics championship. I graduated from the St. Vincent Grammar School in 2018, then pursued post-secondary education at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College, where I pursued studies in Physics, Geography, Biology and Communications, with a view to paving the way for the pursuit of a career as a Pilot.



RECIPIENT OF THE GRACE FOODS CANADA BURSARY

Rashawna Blair



Rashawna Blair is a first-year student in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of Toronto. After completing her Bachelor of Science degree (Biology) at the University of Manitoba, she knew that she wanted to pursue pharmacy.

Rashawna aspires to become a Pediatric Pharmacist because she enjoys working with children.



Please Note: While preparing for the presentation, two students who were selected have not provided the mandatory information and as such are considered not interested in receiving their bursaries.



RECIPIENT OF THE PINE RIDGE MEMORIAL GARDENS BY ARBOR MEMORIAL BURSARY

Ashara Adams



I am Ashara Adams, of the little paradise of Union Island in the Grenadines of the Caribbean country named St. Vincent and the Grenadines. There I spent my formative years until migrating to the St. Vincent, for educational purposes and later to Canada to pursue a Bachelor of Science in the field of Biology at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

My career goal in life is to become an orthodontist and being a quite resilient individual, I am driven to exercise perfection to the best of my ability in all areas where possible.



RECIPIENT OF THE NEW HAVEN FUNERAL CENTRE BURSARY

Bryce Golding



Bryce Golding is a first-year university student. His fondness for sports, more specifically playing soccer, spans over 14 years and has taken him all over the world. However, it is his love of the game, coupled with his interest in human dynamics, that would bring him to study Kinesiology and Physical Education at the University of Toronto. Bryce, a Central Peel Secondary School alumni and Ontario Scholar, Advanced Placement (AP) Gold standard, Principal's

Award for Student Leadership recipient and most recently a recipient of a Black Business and Professional National Scholarship and United Achievers Scholarship, has always seen education as a passport to success. He lives in Brampton, is interested in Cardiology and loves spending time listening to music.

Loved Ones Bursary

GIDEON L. EXETER

Gideon Lamont Exeter has been involved in community organizations from his early years in his native St. Vincent and the Grenadines and has always had a passion for encouraging young people to get a good education.

He migrated to Canada in 1982 and became a member of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) shortly thereafter. Gideon was elected as president of the SVGAT on five (5) occasions. As a representative of the SVGAT in 2004, he was one of the founding members of the Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada (CCAC).

Over the years Gideon was able to solicit funding from his employers and various businesses and individuals to encourage the initiation and/or expansion of scholarship programs in a number of Caribbean community organizations for students in Canada and the Caribbean.

In recognition of his community contributions and passion, an annual bursary named ***The Gideon Exeter Bursary*** has been established to launch the **Loved Ones Bursary Program** of the CCAC. Persons or businesses who are interested in recognizing the contributions of others to the community are encouraged to support this program.

Each bursary, worth \$1,000.00, will be available to Canadian students of Caribbean descent and in accordance with the eligibility guidelines of the program administered by the CCAC. The emphasis is on the student being involved in volunteering with Caribbean community organizations and the wider Canadian community for their post-secondary studies.

Sponsored by Gershwin A. Lamont Exeter

RECIPIENT OF THE GIDEON L. EXETER LOVED ONES BURSARY



Calyse Nevia Fairclough

My name is Calyse Nevia Fairclough. I am an 18-year-old strong, intelligent, and joyous young black lady that was born and raised in Pickering, Ontario. I currently attend Carleton University as a Psychology major in hopes of one day becoming a sports psychologist. I am the daughter of two strong black parents both born and raised in Jamaica. My passions include making others laugh, high intensity exercise and lifting, reading, writing, and performing poetry, being surrounded by loved ones, and embracing my culture. Some values that I aim to live by include remaining steady in my faith, living a God-fearing life, treat others as I want to be treated, remaining active until the day I die, and putting family before everything.

Loved Ones Bursary

MR. ELROY JOSEPH, ODT

Elroy Joseph was born in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He attended St. Vincent Grammar School, formerly Boys Grammar School. After graduating, Mr. Joseph worked for the Ministry of Transport & Works in the Government of St. Vincent in the field of accounting before migrating to Canada on April 7, 1970.

Mr. Joseph worked with the Ministry of Transportation from 1970 up to his retirement in 2008. During his time at the ministry, Mr. Joseph attended Ryerson Polytechnic Institute where he obtained a diploma in accounting as well as York University where he pursued studies in business administration. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Joseph was a Senior Information Officer.

Mr. Joseph, a devout Anglican, served in various roles at The Church of Nativity, Malvern. He was one of the wardens that negotiated the purchase and ultimate building that the church stands on today. For his years of unwavering dedication to supporting the Church of the Nativity, Mr. Joseph was awarded the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (ODT), an award created in 2013 by the church to honour members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry.

In addition to his work and service to his church, Mr. Joseph has served on various committees in the SVG community in Toronto. Elroy Joseph has two adult children, a daughter and a son and a beautiful granddaughter.

He lives with his wife Violet in Scarborough, Canada. In light of his contribution to the community in various areas and his desire to give his very best to his creator, his family and to his community, and a guiding light for future generations to follow, it is fitting to name a bursary in honour of Mr. Elroy Joseph through the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada.

His advice to recipients and young people alike is to 'be conscientious in everything that you do, know how to interact with people and be diligent in your work.'

Sponsored by Kwesi Johnson

RECIPIENT OF THE ELROY JOSEPH LOVED ONES BURSARY



Christian Yohance Parris

My name is Christian Parris and I am a second-year Nanotechnology Engineering student at the University of Waterloo. I am a first generation Canadian of Guyanese descent. I grew up in Brampton, ON, and attended high school at St. Edmund Campion Secondary School where I participated in the Advanced Placement (AP) program. I graduated with a GPA of 3.95 and was awarded for the highest averages in Computer Science and Chemistry. I earned the AP Scholar award from the US College Board for scoring 3 out of 5 or higher on 3 or more AP Exams. In my free time, I enjoy playing and watching soccer and basketball.



Loved Ones Bursary

Mr. Lionel Bedessee

Mr. Lionel M. Bedessee was a respected businessman who founded the venerable Bedessee Imports businesses and brings us all of our Caribbean and Guyanese foods and cricket gears and more.

The company was founded in 1977 in Toronto Canada, with little to no West Indian store in sight at that time, and because of the love and passion of Lionel that he contributed to the company, today the operation has grown to housing over 7,000 products, adhering to quality and commitment has grown to become one of the best-known, most-loved brands throughout the world, with distribution centers in six U.S. states -- New York, Chicago, Maryland, Boston, Connecticut, Orlando & Miami, and three more centers in Toronto(Main office), Montreal and Vancouver, Canada.

Lionel M. Bedessee started his business in Guyana his homeland back in the early 1950's selling products such as, rubber balls, twine, balloons, and cricket balls on his bicycle throughout Corentyne Guyana. The business grew rapidly to wholesale and a full sports department to include products such as: kitchen chair, Singer sewing machines, Linoleum carpets, florescent tubes, enamel kitchenware, lead sheets, rope and twin. He then took a bold move and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1971. While there, he noticed a lack of Caribbean & West Indian products in the market. He was a brilliant innovator, entrepreneur and with this spirit became the pioneers of the Caribbean / West Indian Food business in Canada and USA. He traveled the world seeking authentic products and brands that was once exported to the Caribbean.



RECIPIENT OF THE LIONEL BEDESSEE LOVED ONES BURSARY



Dream Tuitt-Barnes

Dream Tuitt-Barnes is a student from Mississauga, Ontario who is currently attending Queens University. Dream is in her first year of the Honours Health Sciences program, and a member of the prestigious QuARMs (Queens University Accelerated Route to Medicine) program. She intends to pursue a career in medicine, specializing in plastic surgery. Dream is extremely passionate about providing minority youth with supportive outlets to build confidence, help them share their truth, and help them feel comfortable "taking a seat at the table".

PAST BURSARY RECIPIENTS

2012

Faustina Grant
University of Toronto

Kenya Pinnock
York University

2013

Alexander Bahadur
McMaster University

Ciera James
Carlton University

2014

Jesse Hector
York University

Dayna Adams
University of Guelph-Humber

2015

Mary Guiste
Ryerson University

Tatania Neil
University of Toronto

2016

Adaijah Wilson
University of Waterloo

Kadesha James
University of Toronto

2017

John Gobin
Brock University

Victoria Young
University of Waterloo

2018

Lavon Johnson
University of Ontario Inst. of Technology

Andre Mullings
University of Waterloo

2019

Megan Edwards
University of Toronto

Angelica Blake
University of Toronto

2020

Danielle Davy
York University

Tysome Hernandez-Montague
University of Guelph-Humber

Kendra Austin
University of Waterloo

2021

Natejah Alincy-Andrew
Centennial College

Julene Exeter
Ryerson University

Olivia Holness
University of Waterloo

Damor McQueen
York University

Nalia Mohamed
University of Ottawa

Jaya Scott
University of Ottawa

Romari Smith
Queen's University

Onesha Wilks
Seneca College

About CCAC

The Council of Caribbean Association - Canada (CCAC) is a registered non-profit umbrella organization comprising of fourteen (14) registered Caribbean national Associations operating in the GTA.

The current participating member organizations are: Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto (ABAT), Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations (AGCO), Barbados Canada Association (BCA), Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association (CDOA), Grenada Association Toronto (GAT), St. Lucia Toronto Association (SLTA) and St. Vincent & Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT).

Launched in 2009, the organization aims at among other things, to work with other organizations in our community that represent and cater primarily to people of Caribbean descent who have made Canada their home. CCAC focuses on the following areas: (1) to assist young persons in their pursuit of higher learning and sustainable employment; (2) to work with our seniors to better provide them vital information to enhance their productivity in the golden years.

The CCAC is administered by a Board of Directors comprising of a representative from each of its functioning member associations. Three representatives from each member organization make up the Council.

CCAC's SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose:

To encourage and assist youth from Caribbean countries who are currently resident in Ontario to pursue their educational goals at university or college level.

To recognize academic efforts; community involvement and contribution in the Caribbean community in Ontario.

Number and Value of Awards:

CCAC will annually determine the number of bursaries it will make available for open competition. The value of each bursary will be Cdn. \$1,000.00 to successful applicants. The bursary is non-renewable, non-transferable and is to be used towards full course study, leading to a first diploma or degree. A student can only receive the bursary once.

Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada

P.O. Box 62518, 85 Ellesmere Road, Toronto; ON M1R 5G8

Email: admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org

Website: www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sincere gratitude to all those who made this event possible. Without the help of the wider community, this would not have materialized. As such, we take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the following:



New Haven Funeral Centre



Arbor Alliances
By Arbor Memorial



Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens
By Arbor Memorial

Mr. Gershwin Exeter ✧ **Mr. Kwesi Johnson**



Bedessee Imports Ltd.

CCAC Board of Directors

President: Gideon Exeter

Secretary: Ingrid King

Treasurer: Ruby Maynard

Vice President: Andria Lewis-Alexander

Assistant Secretary: Sandra Pierre

P.R.O.: Eric Delfish

Assistant P.R.O.: Uhana Charles-Obazaimomwan

Planning Committee Members

Kadesha James ✧ Kathleen Mathurin-McTaggart

Damor McQueen ✧ Ingrid King ✧ Gideon Exeter

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