



**Council of Caribbean Associations**  
C A N A D A

# *2021 Virtual Bursary Presentation*



*Supporting Our Next Generation of Leaders*

Supported by:



and



**Arbor Alliance**  
**By Arbor Memorial**

*Saturday, November 27, 2021*

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

# *Program*

## **Host**

*Ms. Kadesha James*

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Gideon Exeter, President – CCAC*

## **Entertainment**

*Poem by Lavon Johnson*

## **Feature Address**

*Dr. Tara Andrea Providence, MD*

ABIM Certified Internal Medicine Specialist; ABIM Certified Endocrinologist;  
Participant in Royal College MOC Program;  
Physician at The Institute of Diabetes & Endocrinology

## **Presentation of Bursaries**

*Ingrid King – Secretary CCAC*

*Mr. Nimal Amitirigala*

President, Grace Foods Canada

*Mr. Kwesi Johnson*

Sponsor – Loved Ones Bursaries

## **Acknowledgements and Closing Remarks**

*Uhana Obazaimomwan*

Board Member, Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada

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## 2021 Bursary Recipients sponsored by Grace Foods, Canada



### Natejah Alincy-Andrew



My name is Natejah Alincy-Andrew, I was born and raised in Mississauga, Ontario and I am of Antiguan and Barbudan decent. I am currently a student at Centennial College, enrolled in the Child and Youth Care Program. I would like to go into a career working at a Youth Corrections Facility with black youth that have not had much guidance or anyone there to help them.

### Julene Exeter



I am 21 years old, and currently taking Child and Youth Care at Ryerson University. Previously, I was at University of Toronto for 2 years for Social Sciences and Humanities. During my spare time, I enjoy participating in various outdoor activities, going out to eat, and spending quality time with family and friends.

## 2021 Bursary Recipients sponsored by Grace Foods, Canada



### Olivia Holness



My name is Olivia Holness I am 19 years old, and I am a second year Biochemistry major at the University of Waterloo. I love to learn new things and help others in any way I can.

### Jaya Scott



My name is Jaya Scott and I am from Toronto, Ontario. I attend the University of Ottawa where I am in my fourth year of studying Psychology in the French immersion stream. After graduating, I plan to continue my studies in grad school to obtain a Master's Degree in occupational therapy. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, cooking, and travelling. I am very passionate about helping people and giving back to the community in any way I can. My desire to aid others is what led me to my interest in pursuing a career in occupational therapy, as it gives me the ability to help improve the quality of life for others.



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### **Romari Smith**



Romari Smith recently graduated as an Ontario Scholar from Bill Crothers Secondary School. He currently attends Queen's University, Smith School of Business, Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) Program. Romari is the student representative for the Smith Black Business Association at Queen's.

### **Oniesha Wilks**



My name is Oniesha Wilks, I am 18 years old. I live in Scarborough, Ontario. I am currently waiting to start school in January at Seneca College, for practical nursing. My hobbies include reading as well as writing. I also love to go to new places that I haven't been before. My current goal is to finish college and become a registered nurse.

# *Loved Ones Bursary*

## **MR. 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).

Through his employment with Western Union Financial Services, Grace Kennedy Money Services and Arbor Memorial, Gideon was able to solicit funding from his employers 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 through the Loved Ones Bursary Program of the CCAC. 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. L. Exeter*

## *Recipient of the Gideon L. Exeter Bursary*

### Damor McQueen



Damor McQueen is a Jamaican Youth Leader who was born in the Parish of St. Thomas, on May 19, 2001. He attended the Middleton Basic School and later the Middleton Primary School. Upon finishing his primary education, Damor was accepted to the prestigious Morant Bay High School where he served as president and leader of numerous clubs, Students' Council President and Head Boy. Damor remains passionate about personal as well as youth development. He was a Transformation Ambassador/Volunteer at NexxStepp Lifelong Educational Services, a social enterprise in St. Thomas, Jamaica, where he enjoyed impacting the lives of youth positively. As a catalyst for change, he has served as Youth Mayor for the Parish of St. Thomas and was commissioned IBI Ambassador by His Excellency the Most Honorable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica. Damor is a current student at the York University in Canada.

In addition to serving in the abovementioned capacities, Damor was President of MasterPeace Jamaica, the Jamaica branch of the internationally recognized MasterPeace Organization, former Emerging Global Leaders Jamaica (EGLJ) participant and mentor, Christian and Sunday School Teacher. Damor McQueen, in an effort to help youth unlock their purpose, founded the Bumpy Purpose Campaign (BPC) in 2017. Damor firmly believes that "A life without a purpose is a life without a destination".

# *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.

After a number of unsuccessful applications, Mr. Joseph eventually got three offers at one time within the Ontario Public Service in the of Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Education and with the Ontario Provincial Police. Mr. Joseph chose the Ministry of Transportation to continue in accounting from where he left off in St. Vincent and began there on May 4, 1970. He remained with that ministry until 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. He has been part of the Men's Fellowship Ministry, sings tenor in the choir, has been the envelope secretary and has served in fundraising and as a sides-person and warden. He can be counted on when something needs to get done and is known for his good humour, diligence and precision. 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 Bursary*

Naila Mohamed



My name is Naila Mohamed and I am 19 years old. I am in my second year of studies at The University of Ottawa for my bachelors of science in nursing. I also represent Canada at an international level in the sport of Taekwondo.

My goal is to provide aid to all but to focus on those who have the most trouble finding access to quality healthcare. I would like to take my skills to places such as Nunavut, Canada or Bentiu, South Sudan, where any kind of help could open doors and create opportunities for those individuals.



## **COMPLIMENTARY PRIZES**

The Board of Directors congratulates all bursary recipients and complimentary prize winners.

Below are the recipients of the five complimentary prizes of \$250.00 each.

**Kajida Clarke ✧ Jalene Graham ✧ Tanejae Page-Hamilton**  
**Anisia Johnney ✧ Shaemica Lawson.**

# PAST BURSARY RECIPIENTS

2012 - Faustina Grant  
Attended: University of Toronto  
Graduated: 2018 - BSc. Life Sciences  
Current: Trinity School of Medicine

Kenya Pinnock  
York University

2013 - Alexander Bahadur  
Attended: McMaster University  
Graduated:  
Current:

Ciera James  
Carlton University  
2018 – BA Media Studies, Dip. Comm.  
Communications Co-ordinator

2014 - Jesse Hector  
Attended: York University  
Graduated:  
Current:

Dayna Adams  
University of Guelph-Humber  
2018-Family & Comm. Services  
Communications Disorder Assistant

2015 - Mary Guiste  
Attended: Ryerson University  
Graduated: 2020; Major Psychology, Minor Laws  
Current: Pursuing Masters

Tatania Neil  
University of Toronto

2016 - Adaijah Wilson  
Attended: University of Waterloo  
Graduated: 2021, Bachelor Mathematics  
Current: Actuarial Associate, Munich Re

Kadesha James  
University of Toronto  
2018 – BSc, Psychology / Physiology  
Research Assistant, Univ. of Toronto

2017 - John Gobin  
Attended: Brock University  
Graduated: Bachelors in Sports Mgmt.  
Current: Legal Assistant with Crown Attorney

Victoria Young  
University of Waterloo  
2020 - BSc (Hon) - Business  
Queen's University Pursuing Law

2018 - Lavon Johnson  
Attended: Univ. of Ontario Inst. of Technology  
Graduated: 2020 - B. Criminology/Justice (Hons)  
Current: Legal Assistant, BMO

Andre Mullings  
University of Waterloo  
2019 - B. Law/Business/Human Res.  
Sports Partnership Co-ordinator

## The following recent recipients are still pursuing their studies:

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

# About CCAC

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

The financial member organizations are: Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto (ABAT), Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations (AGCO), Barbados Overseas Community Canada (BOCC), 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.

## **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**  
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## 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:



Richmond Hill, Ontario



New Haven Funeral Centre



**Arbor Alliance**  
By Arbor Memorial



**McEachnie Funeral Home**  
By Arbor Memorial

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

### **Selection Committee Members**

Mrs. Norma Baichoo ✧ Ms. Naomi Jules ✧ Mr. Andrew Knight  
Ms. Emily Mills ✧ Ms. Trisha Mitchell

### **CCAC Board of Directors**

President: Gideon Exeter	Vice President: Andria Lewis-Alexander
Secretary: Ingrid King	Assistant Secretary: Sandra Pierre
Treasurer: Ruby Maynard	P.R.O.: Eric Delfish
Assistant P.R.O.: Uhana Charles-Obazaimomwan	

### **Planning Committee Members**

Andria Lewis-Alexander ✧ Kathleen Mathurin-McTaggart  
Uhana Charles-Obazaimomwan ✧ Ingrid King ✧ Gideon Exeter

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