

# *2023 Bursary Presentation*



**Uplifting the Next Generation: Investing in Education**

Supported by:

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Memorial



*Loved Ones Bursary Program*

*Sunday, December 3, 2023*

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

# *Program*

## **Host**

*Ms. Kadesha James, MSc.*

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

*Gideon Exeter, President – CCAC*

## **Feature Address**

*Ms. Afiya Hypolite, BSW, LL.B, LL.M*

## **Entertainment – Musical Rendition – Celeste M. Young**

## **Remarks by Executive Director, Advancement and Alumni, Seneca Polytechnic**

*Mr. Dean Hughes*

## **Presentation of Bursaries**

*D. Antoinette Kirwan, Esq. – Committee Member*

## **Greetings from Chair of the Caribbean Consular Corps**

*Hon. Mr. Henry Mangal*

## **Entertainment – Spoken Word – Celeste M. Young**

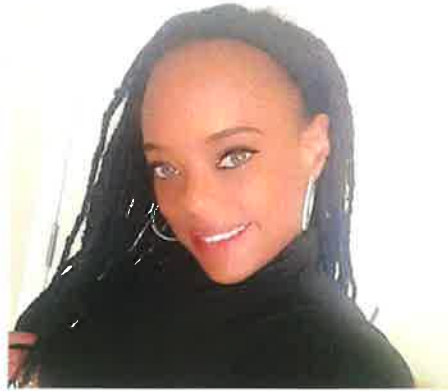
## **Acknowledgement and Closing Remarks**

*Eric Delfish – PRO & Board Member*

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

## *Guest Speaker*

*Ms. Afiya Hypolite, BSW, LL.B. LL.M*



My name is Afiya Hypolite, I was born in London Ontario and raised in Richmond Hill, Ontario with extended periods in Kingstown, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines. I was born at one pound and 11 ½ ounces, to my Vincentian parents, Rosemarie and Ian Hypolite. I was born at 25 weeks gestation and was in an incubator for 3 months. It took me a long time to learn to read and write, however, with access to resources, opportunities, and support, I have achieved a Bachelor of Social Work from York University in Toronto, a Bachelor of Law from The University of the West Indies - Mona Campus-Kingston, Jamaica, and a Masters of Canadian Common Law from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto.

I have worked in Social Work for the past 10 years in different capacities. I have worked with youth and families affected by varying levels of socio-economic and social issues. I have both international and domestic social work experience as I worked at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a Social Worker. Working domestically, I have provided one on one supportive counselling, provided system navigation tips, and planned, organized, and facilitated parenting workshops for a black family support program here in Canada.

Currently I am working in child welfare as a Family Services—Child Protection Worker.

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

## **2023 Scholarship Recipient sponsored by**



**Lenron Doyle**



Lenron Doyle was born and raised in St. Vincent with a steadfast work ethic and an unwavering positive attitude. He is a current student at Seneca College, where he is pursuing an advanced diploma in business management, and afterward will begin his journey toward his degree in business management.

His upbringing instilled in him the values of hard work and gratitude, which he takes with a perpetual smile. From a young age, Lenron displayed an extraordinary level of care and compassion, touching the lives of those around him with his kindness. He hopes to one day be able to open his own massage therapy studio and be able to give opportunities for self-development to people in his community.

Throughout his journey into young adulthood, he faced challenges with resilience and an infectious optimism that inspired others to keep pushing forward. Lenron's unwavering gratefulness for life's blessings is something he will always be thankful for and won't ever take for granted.

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



## 2023 Bursary Recipient sponsored by



### Amanda Sullivan



I am a first-generation immigrant from Jamaica who places a high value on education and service. I played soccer competitively for 12 years and was on track to great things when I experienced a fourth concussion which ended that dream. This was a major setback for me. With much support and encouragement, I've pivoted to focus on other aspects of my life such as my love of mathematics and computer science, which I'm currently pursuing at McMaster University. I take pride in contributing to my community and have worked closely with the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton (CCAH) over the past 3 summers as an intern, day

camp counsellor, and tutor. Through these experiences, I provided free tutoring services and day camps to BIPOC children, fostering an environment for their talents could flourish. I am also currently an executive member of McMaster's Caribbean and West Indies Association. It gives me immense joy to mentor and support young people in a culturally enriching environment where they can experience a strong sense of belonging. Being selected for this bursary is a tremendous honour and I am extremely grateful. It will help pave the way for my post-secondary endeavors.



### Kezia Harley



Kezia Harley Graduated with honours from Pine Ridge Secondary School in June 2023. She was accepted into the School of Fashion at Seneca College where she is pursuing an Advanced Diploma in their Fashion Arts Program in her quest to become a Fashion Designer and to work in the fashion industry where she will one day have her own business. It has always been her biggest dream since she was a little girl, and she is very proud and excited to finally show her true potential and start chasing her goals among her peers in the School of Fashion. She wishes all the best and many blessings to all the applicants on their journey to fulfilling their dreams.

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

## **2023 Bursary Recipient sponsored by**



Pine Ridge  
Memorial Gardens  
by Arbor Memorial

### **Azalee Lambert**



Azalee is currently enrolled at Queen's University for her first year in the Bachelor of Health Sciences. Her goal is to become a psychiatrist and help the communities she is a part of. Graduated from the French catholic school Sainte-Trinite in Oakville, Azalee has kept an average of over 95% for all four years of high school. She was also acting president and cultural representative of the school council, while maintaining participation in the Leadership by design program. Azalee's dream is to destigmatize the idea of mental health and asking for help."

## **2023 Bursary Recipient sponsored by**



Council of Caribbean Associations  
C A N A D A

### **Savannah Green**



Savannah Green is a third-year student at Toronto Metropolitan University pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in Professional Communication. She enjoys short story writing and poetry that reflects her Grenadian heritage. Her involvement in a non-profit organization's program for young Caribbean girls ages 11-20 has landed her an opportunity to be a Global Youth Ambassador. In her free time, she writes for her faculty's student society publication on a bi-weekly basis. In the future, she wants to become a User Experience Designer which aids in fulfilling her passion for creating accessible web and app experiences for people with disabilities.

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## Gabrielle Forbes-Cultess



**Gabrielle Forbes-Cultess** is a first-year student at McMaster University pursuing studies in the field of Social Psychology. She recently graduated as an Ontario Scholar and Gifted Student from Pickering High School, where she held various roles in numerous clubs such as the Black Student Association, Leadership Association and school Newspaper. She loves reading, volunteering, travelling, and has enjoyed being a leader within the Durham Regional Police Service's Youth in Policing program and the Boys' and Girls' Club Lead Up youth program. Gabi would like to thank the CCAC, all donors and board members for their support in her pursuits of educational success and economic emancipation.

## Noah Ferguson



Noah Ferguson graduated from All Saints Catholic Secondary School with Honours. In addition to maintaining a high standard of academic achievement, Noah was an active member of his school community. He contributed to the Black Student Association, raising awareness and promoting cultural understanding. He also worked at the student-run thrift shop, which focused on reusing and recycling clothes to the benefit of the environment, demonstrating his passion for sustainable practices. Noah also served as a school ambassador for various events over the years.

Outside of school, Noah enjoys making and listening to music and spending time with his family and friends. He has worked as a city Youth Leader, providing recreational programs such as basketball, breakdancing and volleyball for local youth to participate in after-school. Last summer, he participated in the Schulich Business Excellence Academy at York University. Noah is currently attending York University, studying Human Resources Management. His goal is to become a Talent Acquisition Specialist. It is through that position Noah hopes to help diversify upper management roles and create greater opportunities for people of colour.



# *Loved Ones Bursary Program*

*Recipient of the Lionel Bedessee Bursary*



## **Davisha Joseph**



My name is Davisha Joseph and I am 18 years old. I was born in Toronto but grew up and now reside in Brampton. I am a first-year student attending Guelph-Humber University from 2023-2027. At this institution I am taking Justice Studies and Police Foundations in hope of becoming a private investigator in law enforcement. I am an Ontario scholar graduate and a cooperative participant and I have also volunteered to be a part of missionary trips to Trinidad and Tobago.

*Recipient of the Gideon L. Exeter Bursary*

## **Sydney Telfer**



**Sydney Telfer** is a first-year student at Queen's University, studying sociology. Following her undergraduate studies, she is committed to enrolling in teacher's college to pursue a career in education. She aspires to be a role model in the lives of children by promoting individuality and embracing the uniqueness of each child. Sydney is confident that a teaching career is the ideal path for her to achieve her goal of making a positive impact on the Black Canadian Community. Sydney thanks the CCAC for their support in making her dream come true.

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## *Recipient of the Elroy Joseph Bursary*

### **Kenya James**



My name is Kenya James and I am a second-year Bachelor of Arts Law and Society student at York University (YU). Raised by Vincentian parents, I've lived across the Caribbean, including St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Barbados. Academically, I've excelled, earning a first year GPA of 8.0 and securing a place in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies prestigious Dean's Circle of Student Scholars. My educational aspiration is to attend Osgoode Law School, where I can deepen my legal knowledge and skills, working towards my goal of becoming a lawyer. I am particularly passionate

about leveraging my future legal career to advocate for the Vincentian diaspora, as well as the broader West Indian community living in North America.



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# PAST BURSARY RECIPIENTS

## 2012

Faustina Grant  
Attended: University of Toronto

Kenya Pinnock  
Attended: York University

## 2013

Alexander Bahadur  
Attended: McMaster University

Ciera James  
Carlton University

## 2014

Jesse Hector  
Attended: York University

Dayna Adams  
University of Guelph-Humber

## 2015

Mary Guiste  
Attended: Ryerson University

Tatania Neil  
University of Toronto

## 2016

Adaijah Wilson  
Attended: University of Waterloo

Kadesha James  
University of Toronto

## 2017

John Gobin  
Attended: Brock University

Victoria Young  
University of Waterloo

## 2018

Lavon Johnson  
Attended: Univ. 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

Julene Exeter  
Ryerson University

Damor McQueen  
York University

Onesha Wilks  
Seneca College

Romari Smith  
Queen's University

Olivia Holness  
University of Waterloo

Jaya Scott  
University of Ottawa

Natejah Alincy-Andrew  
Centennial College

Nalia Mohamed  
University of Ottawa

## 2022

Zabryc Popo  
York University

Zaevian Dawson  
Toronto Metropolitan University

Ethan Jaelon Anthony  
University of Windsor

Rashana Blair  
University of Toronto

Ashara Adams  
University of Toronto

Bryce Golding  
University of Toronto

Calyse Nevia Fairclough  
Carlton University

Christian Yohance Paris  
University of Waterloo

Dream Tuitt-Barnes  
Queens University

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# 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 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), Montserrat Association Toronto (MAT), NevCan Cultural Association (NEVCAN), St. Kitts & Nevis Association of Toronto (SKNAT), 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 general Council of the CCAC is made up of three (3) representatives of each functioning member association but is administered by a Board of Directors comprising of one representative from each member association.

## **CCAC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

### **Purpose:**

To encourage and assist youth of Caribbean descent 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 Bursaries:**

CCAC will annually determine the number of bursaries it will make available for open competition. The value of each bursary is currently 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.

**Seneca**

**POLYTECHNIC** offers a full-tuition paid scholarship for up to 4 years and valued at up to \$6,000.00 per year for a successful applicant through the CCAC Scholarship Program.

**Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada**

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

Email: [admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org](mailto:admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org) ✧ Website: [www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org)

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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:



**Arbor Alliance**  
By Arbor Memorial



**Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens**  
By Arbor Memorial

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



**Ms. Afiya Hypolite** ✧ **Hon. Mr. Henry Mangal** ✧ **Ms. Celeste M. Young**



## **CCAC Board of Directors**

President: Gideon Exeter

Secretary: Ingrid King

Treasurer: Sandra Pierre

P.R.O.: Eric Delfish

Committee Member: Ruby Maynard

Vice President: Uhana Charles-Obazaimomwan

Assistant Secretary: D. Antoinette Kirwan

Assistant Treasurer: Sherma Daniel

Assistant P.R.O.: Donna Edwards

Committee Member: Andria Lewis-Alexander



## **Planning Committee Members**

Kadesha James ✧ D. Antoinette Kirwan  
Damor McQueen ✧ Ingrid King ✧ Gideon Exeter

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# Seneca

## POLYTECHNIC

Seneca Polytechnic provides a great education to prepare our students for great careers.

Combining academic rigour with practical, professional and career-focused learning, we offer our students a seamless transition from education to employment.

Expert faculty, excellent staff, outstanding campuses, awesome technology, deep connections with industry: that's Seneca Polytechnic.

Learn more: [senecapolytechnic.ca](http://senecapolytechnic.ca)



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## Grace Foods Canada



Grace Foods Canada Inc. has been providing authentic Caribbean flavours to Canadian homes FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

If authentic Caribbean cooking thrills your taste buds, you've come to the right place. We provide a wide range of delicious products that let you enjoy the unique essence and sizzle of the islands right in your own kitchen no matter where you live.

Drink in the flavour of Canada's #1 [Coconut Water](#), [Island Soda](#), and [Tropical Rhythms](#). Spice things up with our [hot pepper sauces](#), [seasonings](#), and a wide range of [jerk sauces](#) for that authentic island BBQ flavour. We are always livening things up with innovative products like our new [organic/natural line up of coconut products](#). Everything you need to make authentic Caribbean food recipes, you can find with Grace.

We aren't just amazingly flavourful Caribbean food, we've now expanded to cater to the Latin market through our La Fe brand, carrying staples including panela and bocadillo. This expansion also includes frozen products such as frozen cassava and frozen fruit pulps.

Grace and La Fe products are available in major grocery retailers and family-owned stores right across Canada. You can usually find our products in the International or Caribbean section of stores; however, if you don't see your favourite Grace products on the shelf, be sure to tell the store manager what they're missing!

Grace Foods Canada Inc. believes in giving back and helping to build the communities where we live and operate our business. Our contributions provide assistance in the areas of hunger alleviation, health education and community outreach. As a group, we are committed to doing our part to enrich our communities.

Grace Foods Canada is a proud supporter of the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada in its efforts to assist and investing in the education of students of Caribbean descent living in Ontario.

Enjoy your visit to [gracefoods.ca](http://gracefoods.ca) and [contact us](#) if we can help you in any way!

Contact Us At: 70 West Wilmot Street, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1H8, Canada  
Tel: (905) 886-1002; Fax: (905) 886-1798; e-mail: [GraceCanadaAnswers@gkco.com](mailto:GraceCanadaAnswers@gkco.com)





# Arbor Memorial Inc.



Arbor Memorial Inc. is a family-owned Canadian leader in helping remember and celebrate lives lived. With deep roots in diverse communities across the country, Arbor has the expertise to help families do it their way – the way that is unique and meaningful to them.

Arbor Memorial's commitment to people and their local communities has earned the trust of thousands of families who have come to rely on us for professional guidance and heartfelt compassion in a time of crisis or when planning ahead.

Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens (PRMG) is a member of Arbor Memorial Inc., and is located in Ajax, Ontario that proudly shares heritage, experience and free transfer privileges with over 40 cemeteries across Canada. PRMG started serving families in 1990 and consists of 50 acres of vital greenspace and has become a treasured landmark in the Pickering and Ajax area. Pine Ridge is the ideal setting for a lasting tribute to loved ones, and visitors throughout the year will find comfort in its timeless beauty and tranquility.

Arbor and PRMG support the work of the Council of Caribbean Associations-Canada. Through Arbor Alliance, Arbor Memorial Inc. offers a special opportunity to provide extra benefits for employees or members of your group or association **at no cost to you.**

For more information, call: **905-427-4549**

 **Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens**  
by Arbor Memorial

541 Taunton Road West, Ajax, ON • [pineridgecemetery.ca](http://pineridgecemetery.ca)

Arbor Memorial Inc.

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

# *Loved Ones Bursary Program Sponsors*

## **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.

Contact Us:

2 Golden Gate Ct., Scarborough, ON, M1P 3A5

Phone +1 416-292-2400

<https://www.bedesseesports.ca/>

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## **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.'

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## 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).

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.

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