



The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

**ANNUAL**

# *Independence Dinner & Dance*

**"WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM OUR NATION"**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2011**



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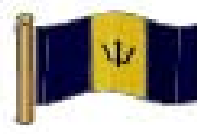
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# PROGRAMME

## *Cocktails*

*Welcome & Introduction of Emcee Ms. Ulpia Stephens  
Monty Providence*

*National Anthem of Canada  
National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Alanna Codrington*

## *Invocation*

*Introduction of the Head Table*

*Presentation to the scholarship Recipients*

## *Main Course*

*Cultural Presentation - Afro Caribbean Dance Group*

*Greetings from the Consul General of St. Vincent &  
the Grenadines & Introduction of the Keynote Speaker  
Honourary Consul Mrs. Jose Bonadie*

*Keynote Speaker  
The Honourable Patoto Ceasar  
Minister of Tourism & Industry  
Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines*

*Contemporary Dance - Zoe Edwards*

## *Dessert*

*Cultural Presentation – Afro Caribbean Dance Group*

*Remarks & Vote of Thanks  
Mr. Cordel Telfer – Interim Chairperson  
St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.*

## O Canada!

O Canada!  
Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide,  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



## SVG Anthem

St. Vincent! Land so beautiful  
With joyful hearts we pledge to thee,  
Our loyalty and love, and vow,  
To keep you ever free.

### Chorus

What e'er the future brings,  
Our faith will see us through  
May peace reign from shore to shore,  
And God bless and keep us true

Hairoun! Our fair and blessed isle,  
Your mountains high, so clear and green,  
Are home to me, though I may stray,  
A haven, calm, serene.

Our little sister islands are,  
Those gems, the lovely Grenadines,  
Upon their seas and golden sands  
The sunshine ever beams



**The Prime Minister  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
West Indies**



October 11, 2011

**ADDRESS TO THE DIASPORA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 32<sup>ND</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE**

Today, our nation stands proud and the hearts of our people are filled with patriotism, as we celebrate thirty-two years of Independence. We are also proud of the contribution of our Founding Fathers who fought for the sovereignty of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and who worked tirelessly to provide the foundation for generations of Vincentians to enjoy their rightful places in society; a society which will continue to build on solidarity and sound moral and spiritual values. Today, we reap the fruits of their labour.

During the thirty-two years of Independence, the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have built an economy which is resilient, one that has been tested by the challenges of difficult economic times and the ravages of nature. Despite these challenges, our achievements are many and bear testimony to the hard work of the Government and people of our blessed land.

The successes in education, health, housing, capacity building, law reform, protection of workers, provision for preschoolers and the elderly, national security, inter alia, indicate that democracy is briskly at work.

At this juncture, as a nation, we must not become complacent, but position ourselves to cultivate that which is noble and good in all of us. Brothers and sisters in the diaspora, you must remain vigilant and assist us in eradicating the negative influences which can threaten the very fabric of society, our culture, unity, harmony and prosperity. Let us be our brothers' keepers as we commemorate this historic milestone in our nation's history.

I wish you a happy Independence Day. May God continue to bless our beautiful country and our people.

Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves  
Prime Minister

**Tel: 784 456-1703 < Fax: 784 457-2152**  
**E-mail: [pmosvg@vincysurf.com](mailto:pmosvg@vincysurf.com)**



**Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario**



October 27, 2011

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone marking the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In Ontario, we celebrate diversity and each community's unique heritage. It is within our strong and inclusive communities that, as Ontarians, we find and build our individual strengths. This special day is an ideal occasion to celebrate the culture of St. Vincent and the Grenadines — and to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions that Vincentian Canadians have made to our province and our country.

As you mark 32 years of progress and accomplishments, may this also be an opportunity to reflect on the rich heritage and traditions that define and distinguish your vibrant, dynamic community.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for a memorable anniversary and for much continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty".

**Dalton McGuinty**  
**Premier**



***Guest Speaker: Hon. Saboto Scofield Caesar  
Minister of Tourism and Industry, St. Vincent and the Grenadines***

Hon. Saboto Scofield Caesar is a young, brilliant, energetic community activist and advocate. A lawyer by profession, Caesar was born and raised in the villages of Diamonds and Sans Souci in the constituency of South Central Windward. He is a devout Christian and a family oriented young man. He holds a Master of Laws degree with aspecialization in Banking and Finance Lawfrom the University of London; a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the West Indies and a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School.

He has also been recently accepted to pursueanother Master of Laws degree with a specialization in International Dispute Resolution with the University of London. The former Island Scholarship and Banana Growers Association scholarship recipient is a graduate of the Diamonds Village Government School; the St. Martins Secondary School and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines A' Level College. His wide-ranging professional experience was garnered from his work as a lawyer, community worker, Government Senator and Minister of Government. He is a former Crown Counsel in the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecution and the Attorney General; Acting Registrar of the High Court of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Parliamentary Secretary then Minister of Housing, Lands and Surveys, Physical Planning and Local Government; former Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and currently our island's Minister of Tourism and Industry.

All these were achieved before the age of thirty (30) years old. At his current age of thirty (30) he is the youngest member in the Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and one of the youngest sitting elected Members of Parliament in the World. Caesar continues to be a force for progress in the constituency of South Central Windward, for which he is the Parliamentary Representative. He continues to work with numerous sporting and cultural groups. He has played a key role in mobilizing the South Central Windward Development Organization, to launch and complete several community projects.

His continued work with the national farming community, and with primary, secondary and tertiary level students has been exemplary. He has written extensively as a newspaper columnist on matters of youth affairs for the Searchlight Newspaper. Mr. Caesar has pledged to continue to joinhands and hearts to advance the social and economic wellbeing of his constituency, the blessed island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the region and the rest of the human raceunder the theme - "Keeping Progress Alive".





Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

2011 Independence Message from Consul General  
Steve O. Phillips

Thirty two years ago, St Vincent and the Grenadines took a giant leap in severing its colonial ties with Great Britain. There were many sceptics then; understandably, the socio-economic climate was unpleasant, the international political environment uncertain, and our future doubtful. But was the move to attain political independence an act of insensitivity and poor judgement on the part of our leaders, or was it sheer optimism, daunting courage and an insatiable desire to chart our own future?

Like our ancestors who fought incessantly and ferociously to prevent the colonization of our country, our political leaders even to this day have maintained the struggle for indigenous autonomy and human dignity. The repeated chorus of today's government is the building of a modern, competitive, post-colonial economy that is at once national and regional. We are continuously focused on the determination of our own destiny as a nation. Today we are internationally recognized as a developing nation whose people are industrious, peace-loving and hospitable.

We continue to develop our human resource and potential through vigorous emphases on the education and health revolutions, the availability of enhanced social services and maintaining a standard of living generally compared to that in the more developed countries of the world. Despite suffering setbacks from devastation caused by Hurricane Tomas late last year and the April floods this year, substantial work continues on our infrastructural development and the rehabilitation of our country's agriculture and housing sector. Work continues steadily on the construction of the Argyle International Airport as we witnessed the ground breaking ceremony in August for the construction of the terminal buildings.

Although we are plunged into what seems to be a perpetual global economic meltdown, we have innumerable blessings for which to give God praise. Greater good is yet attainable as we continue to learn from our experiences, collaborate in the interest of building a better homeland and trust in God for His continued leadings and favour.

Happy 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Anniversary celebrations and may God bless St. Vincent and the Grenadines that it continues to be the "Home of the Blessed" for all Vincentians.



## **Mayor Rob Ford**



### **A Message from the Mayor**

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone celebrating the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of St. Vincent and the Grenadines independence hosted by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines independence is a time to acknowledge the history, achievements and culture of your country. As you gather with friends, family and the Vincentian community to celebrate this occasion, you can take pride in your heritage and reflect upon the values we all share and treasure – peace, freedom and democracy.

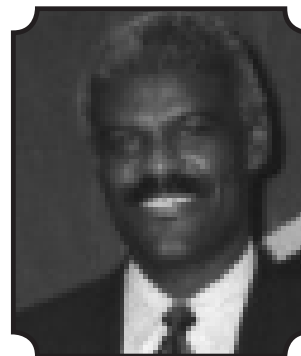
One of Toronto's greatest strengths is its multiculturalism. People from around the world call our city home and create a rich blend of customs and traditions that we all share. We join you in celebrating this significant anniversary and thank you for contributing to the diversity and vibrancy of our city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Ford". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

**Mayor Rob Ford**  
**City of Toronto**



**Consulate General of St. Kitts and Nevis**  
Tourism, Trade and Investment

**ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES 32<sup>nd</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY**

It's an honour and a pleasure to extend greetings to all Nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on this historic occasion in the life of your Sovereign and Independent Country.

As you celebrate this important milestone in your calendar, all Nationals and members of SVGAT can reflect on their proud service to the process of Nation building and record of achievements since 1968. The SVGAT relationship with the Canadian Diaspora Community and fellow citizens in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, can serve as a model for community action, cooperation, collaboration and engagement. The annual Vincy Unity Picnic in the Province of Ontario, where thousands gather, demonstrates a capacity to bring the Diaspora together to promote your culture and share common interest. In the spirit of service and commitment, SVGAT has brought much needed benefit to their Nationals through community actions such as youth development, education, support for seniors, sports, and emergency relief.

The presence of your Minister of Tourism and Industry, The Honourable Saboto Ceasar is a clear indication of the recognition of the positive role that SVGAT and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines community are playing in the lives of your citizens, in advancing the National development effort. As a dynamic and vibrant community institution in Canada, this bodes well for the future, as you continue to support the development of peaceful and sustainable communities in Canada and the OECS Sub-Region.

On behalf of the St. Kitts and Nevis community, the Consulate General of SKN and the OECS Working Group-Canada, I extend warm wishes for a memorable and successful Independence celebration.

John L. Allen  
Honorary Consul General  
Chair – OECS Working Group, Canada



**The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.**



P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8

*Website: [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com)*

*Email: [svga@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svga@vincytoronto.com)*

Message

Interim Chairperson

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto

**“Working Together to Transform our Nation”**

I am honored to bring greetings on behalf of the Interim Steering Committee and the members of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) as we join with Vincentians worldwide to celebrate the independence of our homeland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We celebrate Independence Day not because it is part of history, but because it is a continuing realization of our nation's story.

As the theme suggests, our work in nation building is a continuing effort, which began long before October 27, 1979. We all have a role to play in transforming our nation whether we live at home in St. Vincent and the Grenadines or abroad.

Many of us would remember the lyrics of the famous Calypso by Kenneth “Vibrating Scares” Alleyne, “Our Nation is Born”. In it, Mr. Alleyne called all Vincentians to the noble task of nation building when he sang,

*“My people join hand in hand now  
Put your differences aside  
Get your hearts and soul together  
We got to build this nation with pride”*

Little did he know that this rallying cry would also apply to the members of The SVGAT in 2011 where there is a dire need to build a stronger and more vibrant Association, better equipped to fulfill our constitutional directives. At the core of our existence is the desire to be a source of humanitarian assistance to people in difficulty, particularly those of SVG origin.

This year has been an especially difficult one for us. However, it is quite promising that we have come to realize and accept that there is a need for change. Our members have taken proactive measures to move the organization forward by selecting an interim steering committee to manage the affairs of the Association until the annual general meeting in January, with the ultimate objective of refocusing our efforts to achieve a unified and progressive St. Vincent and Grenadines (SVG) community.

The transformation that our loyal members seek will not be achieved overnight. However, if we commit ourselves to working hard and seeing these changes through to the end, despite the difficulties that may lie ahead, we will succeed in building a dynamic and meaningful organization that we can proudly pass on to the next generation.

On this the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Independence, let us pledge to work hand in hand to build a stronger St. Vincent and the Grenadines and an innovative SVGAT.

Mr. Cordel C. Telfer

Interim Chairperson, The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.



### **Emcee Ulpia Stephens**

Ulpia Stephens is a Canadian born passport bearing Vincentian of Vincy parentage who delights in both her Canadian and Vincentian heritage. She has been immersed in her parent's proud culture throughout her childhood, through many years with the St. Vincent Cultural Group, participating at various events around the City of Toronto showcasing our dance forms including the Maypole, Folk and Calypso.

Ulpia is an active volunteer with various Organizations: a Mentor with the Christian Youth Mentorship Network, a United Way Leader in the Youth Class of Donors and participant with Becel Ride for Heart and with the CIBC Run for the Cure. Ulpia assists the GEMS of the Antilles fundraising activities for their Charities in the city of Toronto. Ulpia has also served as a member of the SVGAT Relief Committee.

Ulpia was educated at the University of Western Ontario where she obtained an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology with French. Currently she is a much sought after Bi-lingual Rehabilitation Specialist and is currently employed with Desjardins Financial Security, having obtained her Registered Rehabilitation Professional designation.



### **The St. Vincent and The Grenadines Steering Committee Members Are**

Mr. Cordel C. Telfer, Chairperson

Mr. Glendon Carmichael, Vice Chair

Mr. Dennis Bucchan, Treasurer

Ms. Cornetta Mason, Committee Member

Mr. Allan Austin, Committee Member



### **2011 Western Union Scholarship Winner - Onika Forde**

My name is Onika Forde. I graduated from Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute in 2011. Upon graduation, I was honoured with the Riverdale Kiwanis Club Award, which is awarded to students with exemplary community service. Currently, I am a first year student, enrolled at Centennial College pursuing studies in the Environmental Protection Technician Program. At the end of this program, I intend to further my studies at the University of Toronto to achieve my career goal of becoming an Environmental Engineer.

I have volunteered at Family Day Daycare, York Eglinton Business Improvement Area clean-up, and I was part of the Ambassador program at my school for four years. My hobbies include bike riding, listening to music, and reading. I would like to thank the Selection Committee for considering my application and awarding me this scholarship and the members of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto and Western Union Financial Services for making this award possible.



### **2011 SVGAT Scholarship Winner - Jamaal Oneil Shaquille Exeter**

Jamaal Exeter is a second year student at the University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and has recently celebrated his 19th birthday. Jamal is pursuing studies in Sports Medicine and is an aspiring M.D. He is determined to do whatever it takes to fulfill his dream. Jamaal believes that he can be an icon and role model to the youth. Jamaal states, "Coming from a broken household, where a single parent raised me, I have persevered through all of the odds that state that a young black male, like me, will not make something of himself. Not only have I beaten these odds so far, but I will continue to put forth the utmost effort in order to become the man that I envision myself as."

From an early age I have been involved in the activities of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association by assisting with the production of the quarterly newsletter and assisting at Association events such as the Children's Christmas Party, Mothers' Day and the Independence Church Service. The funds from this bursary would be greatly appreciated for being a student away from home, living on my own, comes with more financial needs than a child living with their parents." My sincere thanks to the Association for offering me this bursary and to the committee which has selected me.



## IN APPRECIATION

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. wishes to express heartfelt gratitude to Canon Butler, the officials in leadership, the Music Director and choir, the entire congregation and staff of the church of the Nativity for hosting this year's annual Independence Anniversary Thanksgiving Church Service.

This year's message was brought to us by Pastor Maurice Whittle, a national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In his message Pastor Whittle focused on the importance and relevance of a firm foundation in all aspects of life. Ably assisted by his wife, also a pastor, Mrs. Whittle offered prayers for various groups and circumstances. Thank you to the Whittles!

To our own Consul General, Mr. Steve O. Phillips, and all the other persons who participated in one way or another in this Service of Thanksgiving we send our appreciation.

Following the service attendees were invited to a time of fellowship and refreshments. To all those who so willingly and generously contributed to this aspect of the evening we also say a big 'thank you'.

As we continue to celebrate the 32nd anniversary of our Nation's Independence, let us give thanks to all those individuals and organizations that attended, participated and or assisted in making this year's service possible, meaningful and inspirational. Our hope and prayer is that through initiatives like these our community can become stronger and closer to being in one accord.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.  
2011 Independence Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee

## SVGAT INDEPENDENCE BROCHURE PRODUCTION

### CO-ORDINATORS

Francelia George | Fred Williams

### EDITORS

Monty Providence | Francelia George

### DESIGNER & PRINTER

89Graphics & Printing

# MENU

## APPETIZERS

*Vegetable, Beef, Chicken Cocktail Patties*  
*Vegetable Pomoas, Spring Rolls*  
*Dinner Rolls & Butter*

## SALAD

*Chef Garden Salad*

## MAIN COURSE

*Grilled Mushroom Chicken with Roasted Potatoes*  
*Filet of Sole*  
*Steamed Vegetables*  
*Vegetable Fried Rice*  
*Steamed Rice*

## DESSERT

*Assorted Pastries*  
*Cakes*  
*Fruit Platter*  
*Coffee/Tea*



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## NEW YEARS NIGHT DANCE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30TH 2011



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Music by DJ Paul - The Professor

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## **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.**

### **A BRIEF HISTORY**

The birth of what is known today as the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. took place on Sunday, December 1, 1968 at Club Tropics in Toronto as a result of a request from the then St. Vincent Cricket Association in St. Vincent for assistance to raise funds to assist with the construction of the Arnos Vale Playing Field Complex. Within two weeks of the first meeting a small group of Vincentians organized themselves to form the Vincentian Association of Toronto and gave priority to the request. It is for this reason then, that one of the objectives of the Association is to provide assistance, financial or otherwise to groups or institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario, or wherever the Association deems fit.

Dr. Allan Liverpool was elected the first president and others persons who served on that first executive still living today include Shirley Sutherland-Cabral and Edna Vera Hunte. The Association was incorporated in 1971 and since its formation it has been served by 27 persons holding the office of president with some of the persons serving on two or three occasions. The Association meets on the last Sunday of each month with the exception of December and holds elections at the January meeting.

Over the years, the Association continues to respond to the needs of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by supporting a variety of projects and causes in our homeland. One of the biggest projects to date was the response to assist following the eruption of La Soufriere in 1979 the same year that the country gained independence from Great Britain. In later years, assistance was provided to among other areas, health and educational institutions. The Adopt-A-Child program which began in 2008 is a project by the Association to assist less fortunate children in the primary schools for over a five-year period to ensure they have the necessary foundation to complete their early education.

The Association also caters to the needs of our local community. When and where necessary, assistance is provided to institutions and causes in Toronto such as The Hospital for Sick Children, the Herbie Fund and Sickie Cell Association. Since 1986 there has been an annual program of reaching out to the less fortunate members of our community through the provision of Christmas hampers. Children ranging in age from birth to 12 years of age are entertained annually at the Children's Christmas party. In order to encourage our young people in their pursuit of higher education the Association provides up to three bursaries each year to qualified children of St. Vincent and the Grenadines ancestry.

Over the years the Association formed partnership with other organizations of similar objectives in the areas of social, cultural and recreational interest to its members. It has teamed up with SVG associations of Montreal and Ottawa to annually coordinate one of the largest community picnics in the country, the SVG Unity Picnic, held at 1000 Islands on the third Saturday of July. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto has had membership in the National Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Associations in Canada, the Canadian Council of Eastern Caribbean Associations and the Council of Canadian Associations - Canada. In recent years the Association has teamed up with corporations to either provide sponsorship of its events or make available tangible benefits to its members.

Communication with its members and other interested persons is done by way of a quarterly newsletter, Insight and a website, [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com).

## INDEPENDENCE

For who would rather, a country of existence,  
with no Democracy, and no independence.  
Or a Society of barriers, without any vision,  
No sense of purpose, and without a mission.

Independence is a person who wakes up in the morning,  
sets out on a journey, without any worry.  
Free to ask questions, and free to object.  
The right to be ambitious, and the right to respect.

For there are people, who still live in Bondage,  
mental retrogression, and spiritual Illusion.  
But God is our refuge, our hope and Salvation,  
the Creator of Freedom, from hunger and Starvation.

Thanks to Governments, who stood up for justice,  
defended our Integrity, and Educational achievements.  
For the world is a platform, of emerging changes,  
like a Child is born, and goes through many stages.

Let Democracy reign, and never be ashamed,  
to express your Rights, from whence you came.  
For Independence is a Virtue, we still pursue,  
it's a Gift we've earned, we can never renew.

So let us be proud, and be dignified,  
let love be our mentor, and let peace abide.

written by Ezra Clarke  
copyright 2011

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Sunday, October 30, 2011  
15 Clubhouse Court, Northwood Community Centre

## **CONSTITUTION REVIEW MEETING**

Sunday, November 13, 2011  
15 Clubhouse Court, Northwood Community Centre

## **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday, November 27, 2011  
15 Clubhouse Court, Northwood Community Centre

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday, December 11, 2011  
Grandravine Community Centre

## **CHRISTMAS HAMPER DISTRIBUTION**

Week of December 18th

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 29, 2012  
15 Clubhouse Court, Northwood Community Centre



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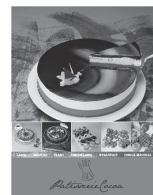
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**THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO (ABAT)  
WISHES TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES  
ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 32ND INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY.**

*ABAT celebrates 30 Years of Independence  
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## **Independence Celebrations Planning Committee 2011**

### **Dinner and Dance Committee**

Francelia George - Chairperson

Rosie McIntosh

Graclyn Providence

Monty Providence

Fred Williams

Cordel Telfer



### **Thanksgiving Church Service Committee**

Francelia George

Rosie McIntosh

Graclyn Providence



### **Public Discussions**

Francelia George

Cordel Telfer

Fred Williams



### **THANK YOU**

The success of a function of this calibre is a result of vision, leadership and corporation. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Independence Celebrations Planning Committee expresses its gratitude to you and the role that you played in this momentous occasion. This event was made possible by the presence of you, our guests from near and far, sponsors, advertisers and well wishes, performers, and the dedicated members of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

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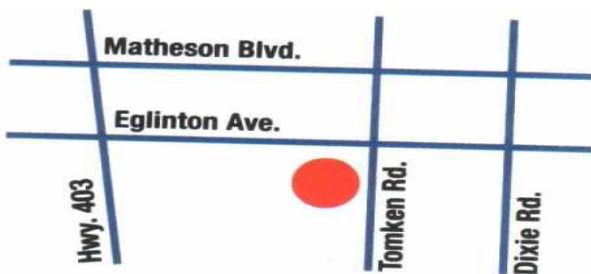
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