

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Independence Anniversary Banquet



Celebrating 35 Years of Independence

Broadening Horizons Through Youth

**Riviera Parque Banquet & Convention Centre
2800 Hwy 7, Woodbridge, Ontario**

Saturday, November 1st, 2014

***The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.
P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L8***

www.vincytoronto.com

Guest Speaker

Rev. Raymond Burnett

Rev. Raymond Burnett is a graduate of Eastern Pentecostal Bible College and a Master's candidate at Briercrest Bible Seminary (Sask.).

Pastor Burnett is an excellent teacher and preacher. He presently pastors Bethel Restoration Ministries with his wife Min. Burnett in the city of Toronto, Ontario. Rev. Burnett has been pastoring for over 30 years in the city of Toronto. He and his wife Wendy Burnett have been married for over 30 years and have 4 children together.

For three years, Pas. Burnett served as President/Chairman of a clergy association. He also served as President of F.E.E. (Foundation for Educational Extension). He also served as a board member of the Harry Jerome Scholarship Fund Organization.

Some of his activities: Speaker at marriage, singles, men's, ladies' and youth retreats. Pas Burnett is an international speaker at conferences, seminars, crusades, church anniversaries and church dedications. Pastor Burnett also trains church leaders, Sunday school teachers, Ushers/Greeters in leadership training workshops.

Rev. Burnett sees the call of God as something very sacred. He believes that God has called him to "gather God's saints together, those who have made a covenant with Him and are willing to sacrifice for His cause to bring praise, honour and glory to his name".



Rhonda Metelsky

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Programme

Cocktails

Welcome and Introduction of Emcees

Mr. E. Bernard John

Anthems - Tonni Jack

National Anthem of Canada

National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Invocation - Suzanne Glynn

Cultural Presentation - Khadijah John

President's Remarks & Presentations of Scholarships

Mrs. Marcia Farrell - President, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Dinner

Vocal Rendition - Kimya Hypolite

Calypso Performance - Rejector (Carlos Providence)

Door Prizes.

Special Prizes for Best Independence Inspired Attire

Mrs. June Huggins

Greetings & Awards Presentations

Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins - Consul General St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Toast to the Nation

Keynote Address

Rev. Raymond Burnett

"Broadening Horizons Through Youth"

Vote of Thanks

Mrs Prudence Morton - Corporate Secretary - St Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

Soca Performance

Curtis-C from NY

Dance to the sounds of Moses Revolution, D.J. Fusion and D.J. 610

Menu

Assorted Hot Hors D'oeuvre

Callaloo Soup

Salad

Pasta

Gemelli in a fresh Tomato and Basil Sauce

Main Course

Chicken Supreme

Grilled Salmon

Mixed Seasoned Vegetables

Roasted Sweet Potatoes

Dessert

Vanilla Raspberry Crepe with Chocolate & Strawberry Coulis

Coffee, Tea, Espresso

St. Vincent And The Grenadines Association
Of Toronto Inc.

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National Anthems



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!



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

***Whate'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.

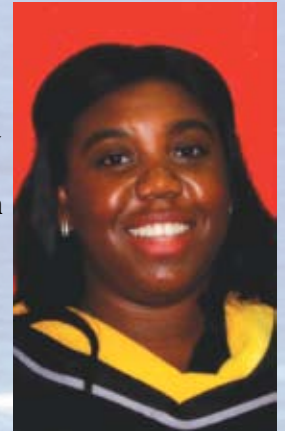
St. Vincent and the Grenadines' National Pledge

**Land of my birth I pledge to thee
my loyalty and devotion, in all I do and
think and say.**

Our MCs

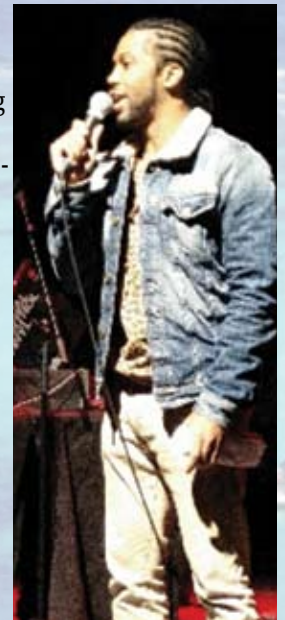
Samantha Lewis

Samantha holds a undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Carleton University and is currently a student again attending York University pursuing a degree in English Literature. Samantha has always been very active in her community volunteering at CHRY 105.5 FM as well as at Carleton University. On graduation, Samantha plans on becoming a University professor and to rise through the ranks of academia to eventually becoming the president of a University. Samantha says that the bursary she received from the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto in 2009 went a long way towards assisting with her studies.



Shomari Garraway

Shomari Tarik has been entertaining Torontonians with his comedic stylings for the last 5 years. Performing at venues such as Yuk Yuks, The Comedy Bar and most recently hosting the Canadian Urban Music Conferences' "Young and Poppin' Music Showcase". Shomari initially started as an improviser, then crossed over to musical theatre. While in College, Shomari indulged in stand up comedy while keeping his rap skills sharp. With an eye on entrepreneurship in the entertainment industry Shomari is looking forward to the next 5 years of his career.



OUR APPRECIATION

The Independence Planning Committee (IPC) on behalf of the Executive and membership of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. herewith express sincere thanks to all those who in one way or the other assisted in making the celebrations of our activities to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the independence of our country possible. We thank our sponsors.

Members of the IPC

Sandra Sutherland, Kinda Keizer, Marcia Farrell, Prudence Morton, Shelley John, Suzanne Glynn, Kelcey John, Khadijah John, Faustine Grant, E.B. John, Ricky Bowman, Jason Jones, Jim Lewis, Fred Williams.



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE



I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

On October 27, 1979, after a national referendum, St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained full independence from the United Kingdom. The theme of this evening's festivities —Broadening Horizons through Youth— is a fitting way to celebrate St. Vincent and the Grenadines' vibrant past and its many achievements over the years, while exploring the significant role young people will play in its future.

I would like to commend all those involved with the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. for their commitment to fostering fellowship amongst members of the Vincentian Canadian community and for advancing the warm friendship enjoyed by our two nations.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2014



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
WEST INDIES**



MESSAGE FROM DR. THE HON. RALPH E. GONSALVES
PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
TO MARK THE THIRTY FIFTH (35TH) ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

I feel a tremendous sense of pride as I extend warm greetings and congratulations to all Vincentians, whether resident here or abroad, as we celebrate the thirty fifth (35th) Anniversary of our country's achievement of Independence and Nationhood.

I commend all for the work that they are doing to advance their personal well-being and our national development agenda, and urge that we use this opportunity to reflect on our Nation's remarkable achievements over the last thirty five (35) years. Conversely, we must also take a critical look at our failures and shortcomings with the aim of effecting the necessary improvements and learning the lessons that lived experience and reflection can impart.

The natural disasters of the recent past have shown yet again that Vincentians in the Diaspora retain a strong sense of Nationhood, and love for their fellow nationals in distress. The material and emotional support provided in the aftermath of one of the most trying periods in our country's recent history stands as incontrovertible testimony of the enduring bonds of love and solidarity between our resident and overseas-based populations.

We take this opportunity to thank you for the critical role you played in the recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts consequent upon the unprecedented floods of December 24, 2013. You have shown time and time again that the notion of "home" extends well beyond any geographical boundaries.

As we focus on achieving even greater success in the coming period, we are mindful of the possibilities and challenges that exist. We are committed to preparing our nationals to take advantage of advances in technology, opportunities for self-development and continuing education, and all the possibilities offered by a transformed global environment.

We are also mindful of the challenges presented by the prevailing global economic conditions; climate change and its ramifications in the form of adverse weather events which have increased in both frequency and intensity; new and more virulent strains of diseases; war, conflict and the ever-looming threat of terrorism, among others.

All these must be decisively addressed even as we redouble efforts to improve the standard of living of all our people through, among other things, poverty reduction, the modernisation of the health sector, the provision of education for all, and the robust implementation of policies on housing, and infrastructural development, as evident in the ongoing construction of the international airport at Argyle which is nearing completion.

In the face of significant challenges, we remain a Nation of people with abiding faith in the mercy and compassion of God, with a clear vision of the direction in which we wish to go, and confidence in our God-given abilities to attain our national development goals and objectives.

May Almighty God continue to bless and keep us all.

Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario



November 1, 2014

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone marking the 35th Anniversary of the Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Ontario is defined by our cherished multiculturalism. Each cultural community has made significant contributions to our diverse landscape. Canadians who trace their origins to St. Vincent and the Grenadines have distinguished themselves in every walk of life and, through their accomplishments, have made our province a better place.

Today offers an ideal occasion to reflect upon all that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has achieved since becoming a sovereign nation in 1979. As well, it is an opportunity to express good wishes for the country's ongoing prosperity and success.

I would like to thank The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto for their hard work supporting the community. Your dedication to the culture, heritage and traditions of St. Vincent and the Grenadines benefits us all.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable anniversary.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Premier



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
TO CANADA**



**Message by
Her Excellency La Celia A. Prince,
High Commissioner of St. Vincent & the Grenadines to Canada**

Fellow Vincentians—

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to you as we Vincentians proudly mark the new milestone of 35 years of nationhood. I am heartened that you the Vincentian Diaspora here in Toronto, Canada, have without fail, made the observance of our nation's independence a time-honoured tradition in your adopted homeland.

As I have underscored on every occasion that I have had the opportunity to do so, our Diaspora constitutes an indispensable and vital part of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' nation-building. Individually and collectively, you continue to excel in your fields of endeavour. The hard work and long hours that you invest in order to provide remittances to your families, friends and communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines aids in the development of our nation. Additionally, your advocacy and your vote in the policy and political landscape of your adopted country serve to promote and protect the interests of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As such, you are an integral part of the fabric of Vincentian society.

In December 2013, as Vincentians were preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ, our nation was once again struck by an unexpected natural disaster. We were hit by a trough, but the nation was borne up high by the Vincentians in the Diaspora, and particularly the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, who rallied to our nation's aid, responding overwhelmingly to the needs of our brothers and sisters and ensuring that they had something positive to look forward to in the New Year.

I wish to praise the Association's continued efforts placing emphasis on our youths. The SVGAT continues to provide scholarships and assist in their development. Mention must also be made of the successful annual Vincy Picnic Day which is a much anticipated event on the Vincentian calendar in North America.

When I think of the Diaspora's commitment and love for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, I am reminded of the lyrics of a cherished song which says: "like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down". You have laid yourselves at the disposal of your nation to help it heal and grow. You have stood by your nation through both peaks and troughs. On behalf of the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, I thank you again for your commitment, love and sacrifice.

As we come together to celebrate at the Annual Dinner, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Executive and members of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto for the efforts you continue to make year after year in ensuring that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is remembered and celebrated. Your contribution is no doubt a reflection of the love and devotion for your country, and for that, I commend you. May you continue to enjoy tremendous success and the continued blessings of the Almighty.



Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines



**SVGAT 35th Independence Message
from Consul General Huggins**

Fellow Vincentians

On behalf of the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Staff of the Consulate General of St Vincent and the Grenadines and my family, I extend warmest greetings and congratulations of the All Vincentians on the celebration of our Emerald 35th Independence anniversary.

On reflection over those 35 years since Independence, our resilient people have shown that notwithstanding the removal of protection for our bananas to Britain, eruption of our La Soufriere volcano, rising oil prices, threats from communicable diseases like AIDS, EBOLA and the recent outbreak of Chikungunya in the Caribbean, the effects of Global Warming and Climate Change, recent December floods that destroyed 17% of our GDP, we are able to overcome these challenges and continue our steady march forward.

Today, our nation is one of the most respected members in the world community of democratic nations. Our home grown foreign policy that dictates that we are “Friends of all, Enemies of none” has brought us substantial economic benefits which have led to unprecedented development in our blessed country.

Your theme for this year’s celebrations is “Broadening Horizons through Youth”. Our government has led in this regard in broadening horizons for learning with the Education Revolution and its embrace of Internet Communication Technology (ICT). St Vincent and the Grenadines is the only Caribbean country that has offered a laptop computer to every primary and secondary school child. Our youths are tooled with the resources to allow them to broaden their horizon through social media and research. The Education Revolution, the Argyle International Airport and the prospects of Green Energy will certainly offer HOPE to our youth for their future development.

I must acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Canadian Vincentians, the national associations and charitable foundations in Canada to St Vincent and the Grenadines. Your remittances make up a substantial portion of our GDP and we treasure your support in sensitizing the Diaspora with the political, cultural, social and economic developments in your homeland.

Our job at the Consulate is to offer quality service to the Canadian Diaspora community. As Consul General, I assure you that we will deliver quality service. You deserve it.

I want to convey congratulations and best wishes to the SVGAT for this your 46th anniversary of the founding of the Association and God’s richest blessings on your organisation.



A Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 35th Independence Day celebration hosted by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

The independence of a country is a momentous occasion and a wonderful time to reflect on the culture, values and history of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. As you gather with family, friends and the community to celebrate this occasion, you can be extremely proud of your rich culture and traditions and reflect upon the values we all share and treasure - peace, freedom and democracy.

We join you in celebrating this special anniversary and thank you for contributing to the diversity and vibrancy of our city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I thank everyone involved in organizing this event and extend my best wishes for a memorable Independence Day celebration.

Yours truly,

**Mayor Rob Ford
City of Toronto**



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD/EASTERN CARIBBEAN LIAISON SERVICE

The Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service (ECLS) extends its congratulations to the Vincentian/Canadian Diaspora on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines...

Some may not be very familiar with the mandate of the ECLS. It is a Unit of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission that administers the Canada-Caribbean Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme on behalf of the seven member states; so hundreds of OECS farm workers arrive in our midst on an annual basis and are deployed to various locations across Canada.

When any OECS member State has cause to celebrate, the ECLS, by extension, also celebrates – and 35 years as an independent nation is one such exceptional moment for celebration.

Reflecting on those years, you, in the Diaspora, must be proud of the enormous contribution you provide to your homeland on an ongoing basis, and proud as well of the strides being made at home, economically, socially, culturally and in the area of physical infrastructure, all with your contributory efforts, and in the face of global economic adversity. Of course, more could be done and we should strive to redouble our efforts in this regard.

One recalls the death and destruction caused by the December, 2013 floods which precipitated an enormous outpouring of support for your homeland. It was an impressive display of love, patriotism and generosity and this community played a leading role in providing relief to those displaced - an experience shared with sister islands of St. Lucia and Dominica... We know how to be our brothers' keeper! Let's maintain that spirit of compassion, loyalty and nationalism as we move into our 36th year as an independent nation.

Happy Independence Anniversary SVG!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Bernard John'.

E. Bernard John
Head/Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT MRS MARCIA FARRELL
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.**

As we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of independence of our country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Association's 46 years of existence in Toronto, Canada, it is a good time to reflect and acknowledge the many historical contributions and legacies made by the founding fathers. The contributions made and the legacies left behind by all of our leaders, both here in Canada and at home in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, all came about through a strong desire to safeguard as much as possible our very existence.

Based on this knowledge the Association this year chose as its theme Broadening Horizons through Youth. It is the Association's intention to seek out and provide our youths with opportunities whereby they can achieve academic excellence, entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills, managerial skills, and to provide the best chance for growth, connectivity and networking.

To accomplish these goals and objectives it is incumbent on all of us to come together to support and contribute to the development of our youths. Oftentimes this can be more challenging than anticipated. However, in order to reflect the wants and needs of our community we must lay down a foundation, we must have a plan to strengthen our youths in order that they can build on the legacies left by our leaders.

One facet of the Association's plan is to incorporate our youths in our major projects. In the last two years, the Association worked with the mainstream community on two major projects – (1) providing information to our community on how to prevent Type II diabetes and (2) A Senior's outreach project to determine the accessible services that were available to them. Projects of this kind can enable youths to develop managerial, leadership and collaborating skills. These are skills that can be transferred to any community, be it here in Canada or at home in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As social beings, we are all interconnected and interdependent on one another for continuity. Our community here in Canada depends on youths for continuity. Similarly, St. Vincent and the Grenadines depends on a younger generation to lead the country. Now is the time to invest in our youths both here in Canada and in St. Vincent and Grenadines. If we do that we can be assured of a good return on our investment. And, it is the right time to do so.

Let us therefore, join hands in solidarity and support our youths both here in Canada and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines where most of our lives began and where most of us developed the values that made us the people we are today. A people who understand the struggles that forged our character and our sense of brotherhood and sisterhood and a people who created leaders that left legacies of which we can all be proud.

On the behalf of the Board of Directors, Executive Members, Committee chairs and Committee members and Members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, I wish our country St. Vincent and the Grenadines Happy 35th Anniversary of Independence. And, to our very own, The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto another 46 years of giving to both Canada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.





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NEW CITIZENSHIP ACT MAKES IT HARDER TO ACQUIRE CITIZENSHIP

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

A new Citizenship Act became law in Canada in June 2014. Some changes that took effect on August 1, 2014 includes giving Citizenship and Immigration Canada stronger authority to define what constitutes a complete application package, the type and nature of evidence applicants must provide, and which applications shall be deemed as abandoned and should be closed. If an applicant fails to comply with any request to provide information or attend an interview at any point after processing of the application has commenced up to and until the Citizenship oath is taken his/her application may be deemed to be abandoned and thus closed.

The following are some of the changes that are slated to come into effect in June 2015:

	OLD RULES	NEW RULES
Residence requirement:	3 out of 4 years (1095 days)	4 out of 6 years (1460 days)
Counting time in Canada prior to becoming a permanent resident towards residence for citizenship:	Applicable	Not applicable
Requirement that resident be physically present in Canada when applying:	Not Applicable	Minimum physical presence of 183 days per year in 4 out of 6 years.
Age limits for language and knowledge testing:	18 to 54 years of age	14 to 64 years of age
Application fees:	\$400	Anticipated to be 3 times higher than \$400
Speculation re applicants' intent to reside in Canada in the future:	Not applicable	Provision made for speculation
Meeting knowledge of Canada with assistance of an interpreter:	Applicable	Not applicable
Inability to get citizenship if applicant has Canadian criminal charges and convictions:	Inability if have Canadian criminal charges and convictions	Expanded to also include both Canadian and foreign criminal charges and convictions.
Requirement to file Canadian income taxes in order to be eligible for a grant of citizenship:	Not required	Required
Authority to revoke citizenship from dual citizens:	None	Authority to revoke citizenship for acts against Canada's national interest (even if Canadian

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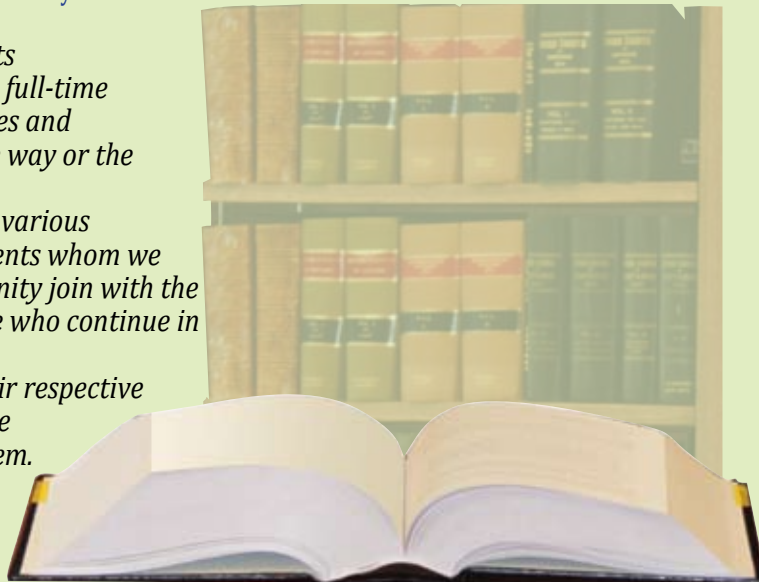
As soon as you become eligible to apply for citizenship under the present rules, you are encouraged to do so because you may not be eligible under the new rules that will come into effect next year.

Sandra Sutherland is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) and immigration counsel. She is licensed with the new regulatory and governing body of immigration consultants, the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com. See Suthern Immigration & Paralegal Services Inc. advertisement above for more information. Mention that you saw this article or the advertisement in The Insight to receive a free consultation.

SVGAT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE by Gideon Exeter

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto began its scholarship program in 2005 to provide financial assistance to full-time students in our community who are currently attending colleges and universities. The Association is grateful to all those who in one way or the other supported this program.

Over the years 17 persons received bursaries and have studied various disciplines. We provide some updates on a number of the students whom we were able to contact. We feel confident that our wider community join with the leadership of the Association to congratulate our young people who continue in their pursuit to higher learning and/or adjusting themselves in the workplace. We wish them every good for their respective futures. Each student expressed their profound gratitude to the Association and the community for the support rendered to them. More about what some of some of the students have provided can be found on the Association's website, on the Scholarship page. www.vincytoronto.com



Keisha Carrington was the first recipient in the program in 2005. At that time she was attending the University of Toronto and enrolled in the Life Sciences program from which she graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in 2009. Keisha currently works as a Project Analyst at the University Health Network.



Taisha Lewis received a bursary in 2006 and wrote that she obtained her Bachelor of Honours Arts & Science degree from McMaster University in 2010 and went on to obtain her Juris Doctorate from the University of Ottawa in 2013. During law school she was Co-President of the Ottawa Chapter of the Black Law Students' Association and Chair of the Black Law Students' Association of Canada Executive Committee. Taisha was called to the Ontario

Bar in June 2014 and is currently enjoying private practice at a business law firm in Ottawa called LaBarge Weinstein LLP.



Jamile Garraway received the bursary in 2006 while attending D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY. He was pursuing a major in American History with a minor in Political Science while also studying to become a teacher. "A combination of hard work, dedication, and perseverance allowed him to graduate Magna Cum Laude in 2008. After working a variety of different jobs that involved various levels of youth engagement and mentorship Jamille

was fortunate to secure a teaching position with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) in 2010.

Kenisha Bynoe received her bursary in 2008 while she was a student at the University of Windsor enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program from which I graduated with honours. I also later graduated from the University of Toronto with a Masters in Education degree and am currently employed with a Toronto District School Board as a French Kindergarden Teacher.

Alyson Sandy was a recipient of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. bursary in 2008 when she was enrolled at the University of Toronto in the Life Sciences program. In 2012 she successfully completed the program and graduated with an Honors Bachelor of Science degree. In the following year she took a short break from academics to give back to my community. She volunteered at the CIBC Breast Centre at St. Michael's Hospital which was a very fulfilling experience. Shortly after, she applied to The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences where she is currently enrolled in the 2nd year in the medical laboratory science program. She plans to graduate and receive a license to practice as a medical laboratory technologist (MLT).



Hasani Vendryes was a student at the University of Toronto when he received his bursary in 2009 and has since graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Historical Studies. Hasani states "however, I am currently about to complete a social work volunteer placement as a counselor at an organization called Spectra. I have been volunteering with Spectra for nearly a year now.

I plan to use Spectra, as a reference, and the skills and experience I have gained at Spectra, to gain employment in youth counseling or addictions counseling.

At the moment I wouldn't say that I am "gainfully" employed. I currently work part-time at a department store. This is temporary, as I hope to gain employment in a field relating to my volunteer placement soon.



Victor Bibby stated that bursary he received from your organization in 2009 went a long way in his university success. It allowed him to get a start on what is now an accomplished and successful goal. From four years of hard work and determination he was able to receive a honours bachelor degree in sports management from Brock University.

The knowledge and experience gained from the program led him to working with major sporting organizations such as the Toronto Argonauts, Ontario Coaches Association and Honda Indy. Using

all of this experience gained he decided to create and start his own event production and media company by the name of MDR (Making Dreams Reality). Along with my two other partners he co-founded this company to embrace and promote an urban culture that they feel is being misrepresented for the youth of our generation. Their mission is to create safe and innovative events in communities that showcase the urban culture in ways we can be proud of. Victor plans on returning to school to gain a masters degree in business administration and also have aspirations of receiving a diploma in radio broadcasting. Victor is currently employed as a Manager for Boston Pizza in Grimsby, Ontario and operating his company full time.

My name is **Samantha Lewis** and I received my bursary in 2009 while I was attending my first year at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. I graduated from Carleton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. Currently, I am enrolled at York University pursuing a degree in English and will graduate this academic year, 2015 with the intention of being a professor.

Malik Morgan-John received his bursary in 2010 while attending Ryerson University where he continues his studies and plans to graduate in 2016/2017 with a bachelors in Chemical Engineering. As part of his undergraduate program he was able to gain work experience in a number of different fields including human resource, chemical, logistics, and waste management which allowed him to gain and improve a number of skills and quality traits. Throughout his years in University he also joined a number of clubs and committees such the National Society of Black Engineers and Ryerson's Tri-Mentoring Program. Through a joint effort between Tri-Mentoring Program and the Faculty of Engineering Department at he was appointed Lead Mentor and asked to tutor 150-200 First Year Engineer students in the Calculus I course.

Andrea Providence was one of three recipients in 2010 and at the time was attending Ross University School of Medicine. Currently Andrea is in Residency and she hopes to graduate as a medical doctor in May 2015.



Jamaal Exeter received his bursary in 2011 and graduated in April 2014 in the field of Human Kinetics/Kinesiology from the University of Ottawa. After graduating from his program Jamaal was able to quickly find a job within his field of study as a Kinesiologist/Nutritionist. During his studies Jamaal found part-time employment in various fields including coaching so as to help him to graduate without having the burden of a student loan.



Jasmine Homer received the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association Scholarship in 2012 while attending the University of Toronto. She is still attending university and on graduation plans to work for one year before going on to graduate school for a career in the legal profession.

Jasmine noted that she had to quickly adjust to a level of study that called for more indepth analysis and critical thinking which made her to look at the world differently. She indicated that this level of learning forces you to challenge the status quo and to develop a more global outlook on life. As a result she found herself at Queen's Park in a protest march protesting the high cost of education. University is a different world.



Lemuel Stephens received his bursary in 2013 while attending Centennial College, Progress campus. He has changed from Bio-medical Engineering program to a Mechanical Engineering due to a bad job outlook for the original program's choice. He was able to transfer the majority of his courses into the new program and intend to graduate in the next year or year and a half. I would like to thank the SVGAT for helping me financially in my studies and am currently a member of the SVGAT Youth Committee.



Dylan

SVGAT 2014 - 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Khalil

Dylan Homer is a first year student at Seneca College. He is pursuing studies in computer programming after which he plans to pursue another course in Computer Programming Analysis. Dylan graduated High School as an Ontario Scholar and this past summer, he successfully built his own computer as well as a server.

Dylan is a certified National Life-Guard and Swim Instructor with the Life-Saving Society(LSS). He also holds various other certificates from the LSS in life-saving techniques including Emergency First-Aid with CPR-B and CPR-C; Anaphylaxis Rescuer and Automated External Defibrillation. Throughout high school, Dylan volunteered many hours at his community pool first as an Assistant Swim Instructor and then as a Swim Instructor.

In his spare time, Dylan is an avid guitar player and says "I cannot live without my music. It will always be a part of my life". He plans to someday incorporate his computer programming knowledge with his love of music. Dylan would like to thank the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association for awarding him a bursary. He says it would go a long way towards assisting him with his studies.

Khalil Sibal is a first year student at York University majoring in film production. It is no accident that Khalil wants to be a film producer. He has always loved acting and honed his acting skills during his high school years where he starred in many plays.

An honours high school graduate, Khalil involved himself in community work by taking on a "Big Brother" role to his neighbour's child and volunteering with the DJ Sound Crew – a company that provides the sound for Charities. Some of those charities were the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Toronto. Khalil also keeps very busy with various church activities.

In his spare time, Khalil loves to play basketball and to indulge his passion for acting. Those who know Khalil speaks highly of him as an individual who is respectful and responsible, well organized and has good communication skills and is self motivated.

THE ENTERTAINERS



Kimya Hippolite

Kimya Hypolite [pronounced KEE-MY-A HIPPO-LIT] has been performing since the age of 5. She was born and raised in Toronto, with Vincentian heritage. Kimya is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at the renowned Humber College Music Program, leading toward a career in the performing arts. Kimya is a dancer in the Caribbean Dance Theatre Company, teaches at the Roots & Branches Youth Dance Program, and is a singer in the Toronto-based Brazilian ensemble, The Samba Squad. She has performed at such venues as The Harbourfront Centre, Yonge-Dundas Square, Toronto Centre for the Arts, and Roy Thompson Hall. Her diverse musical and dance background includes: Jazz, R&B, Pop, Gospel, Calypso, African, Samba, and Rock.

Carlos “Rejector” Providence



Carlos “Rejector” Providence is the younger brother of former road march and calypso monarch of SVG, the late Lloyd “Caribbean Hawke” Providence.

“Rejector,” began singing at age 11 as a student of the Kingstown Anglican School. At 13, he was crowned primary schools calypso monarch and has been writing and performing calypsos since then.

He subsequently joined the Calypso Theatre Tent headed by Kenneth “Vibrating Scares” Alleyne, our first national independence calypso monarch. Three years later, in 1980, he co-founded another calypso tent, the “Calypso Classroom”. That same year, Rejector placed fourth in the Calypso Monarch Competition.

In 1981, he teamed up with fellow calypsonians, Samaritan Singer and Poorsah to create the “On Tour Calypso Tent” which he went on to lead.

Being crowned calypso monarch and independence monarch in 1992 and 1996 respectively, and qualifying for the national calypso finals and semi finals on numerous occasions, including gaining 3rd place in 2009 are among his numerous achievements.

Rejector migrated to the US in the year 2000 and co-founded the New York based Dynamite Calypso Tent with which he still performs. He was crowned Calypso Monarch of Washington DC in 2003 and 2005; was also crowned Calypso Monarch of Baltimore in 2005 and placed third in 2006. He took the 2nd spot but won the People’s Choice during the Miami carnival celebrations in 2004.

Among his many memorable hits are songs such as Drug Menace, My Banana is It, Invitation to Columbia, Upgrade the Satellite Dish, Unethical Doctor, Hairouna, Vagrant life... and there are many more.

Khadijah John

Khadijah John currently attends Centennial College in the Hospitality and Tourism Administration Programme. She is Canadian-born of Vincentian parentage. Khadijah recently represented St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Miss Black Beauty Canada (MBBC) Pageant which was held last August. When asked what she hoped to gain from the pageant, Khadijah was quick to reply that the pageant was a platform for women to showcase their talents and accomplishments and to voice their opinion on matters of interest to Society at large. The MBBC’s mission is to offer educational opportunities as well as promote leadership amongst women of colour. Khadijah has a creative bent and enjoys fashion and makeup artistry. In her spare time, she provides make-up services for proms, weddings and other gala occasions. Khadijah looks forward to a very promising career in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry while developing her talent for fashion and make-up.





Curtis Vincent (Curtis-C)

Curtis M Vincent was born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and grew up in Sion Hill. He attended the Zion Hill elementary school and then the Emmanuel High School in Kingstown. Curtis-C started singing reggae at the age of (13) and was known then

as Papa Curty. In the early (80's) he was the opening act for reggae legends and legendary groups such as Gregory Isaac, Third World, Jimmy Cliff, Erick Dennison, Barrington Levy and others. Curtis-C became known throughout SVG and recorded his first reggae album, in 1993 in Kingston, Jamaica. His recording included songs like, *Dance for Me*, *Approaching Couch* and *Women Lie*. He was nominated for the Vincy music award in 1994 for best song of the year and best record jacket of the year. Curtis-C has performed in many countries around the world including: Canada, Tortola, Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, Wembley Stadium in England, Madison Square Gardens in Manhattan and Brooklyn College, New York. In 1995, he recorded Behind the Bumper with Soca Giant Dolphin which became the people's Road March. His first Soca album *Comfort Me* had a hit song: *Bachelor Life*. Curtis-C graduated from the South Shore Education center and is the founder and owner of Brute Force Construction in Brooklyn.

Tonni Jack



Tonni Jack is singer/songwriter who started singing at the tender age of six. She just recorded her first song entitled "Dance" which would be released shortly. She graduated from SVG Technical College and is currently studying Advance Medical Laboratory Science. Her goal is to become a Medical Lab technologist.



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