

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES  
ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO  
CELEBRATES THE

39<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY OF SVG INDEPENDENCE

ESTATE BANQUET & CONVENTION CENTRE

October 27th, 2018



*Celebrating the Past... Embracing the Future*

IN COLLABORATION WITH: BEQUIA SOCIAL ORGANIZATION • THE SVG CONSULATE - TORONTO  
TORONTO SVG SUPPORT GROUP • UNION ISLAND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION



# Caribbean Airlines

the warmth of the islands

# *Programme*

*Mistress of Ceremonies* - Ms Jacqui DeBique

Recognition of Head Table

## *Anthem*

National Anthem of Canada

National Anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

## *Prayer*

## *President Remarks*

Mr. Gideon Exeter – President, The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.

# *Dinner*

*Performance* - Poetry by Zakiya, Munirah and Xhanun Hutchinson

## *Greetings*

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

The Honorable Minister Frederick Stephenson  
Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development,  
Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with disabilities and Youth

## *Feature Address*

The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders

*Performance* - Kimya Hyppolite and the Caribbean Dance Theatre

## *Scholarship Awards*

## *Honourary Life Member Award*

*Vote of Thanks* - by Sandra Bobb

*Raffle* - Will be drawn during Dance

*Dance to the sounds of DJ Volcano Soundz. and DJ Fusion*

# National Anthems



*O Canada! Our home and native land  
True patriot love in all of us 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.*

## Menu

*Assorted Hors D'oevres*

### Salad

*Mixed Greens with Balsamic Dressing*

### Pasta

### Main Course

*Jerked Breast of Chicken with Mango Sauce*

*Baked Salmon served with Lemon*

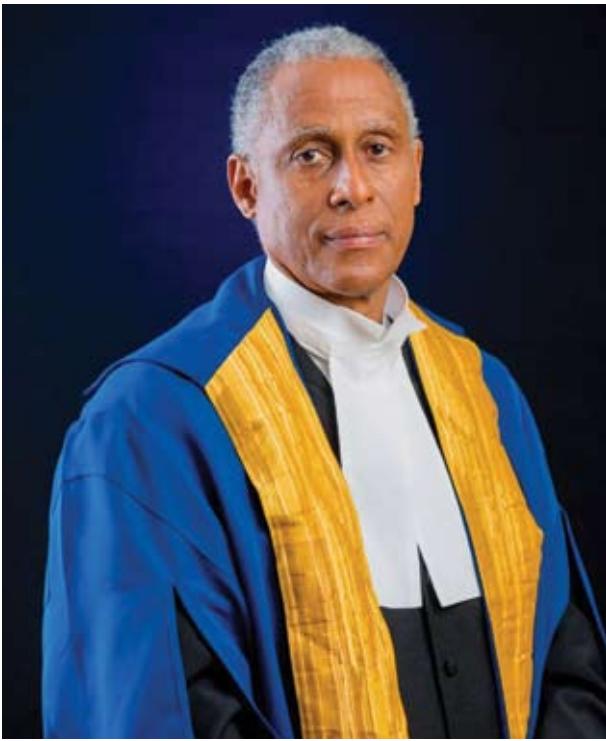
*Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables and Rice*

*Assorted Rolls*

### Dessert

*Ice Cream Stuffed Crepes*

*Coffee, Tea*



## Our Featured Speaker

### **The Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders President Of The Caribbean Court Of Justice**

*The Hon. Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders, a native of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) in 1975 and a Legal Education Certificate from the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad & Tobago in 1977. He began his legal career as a barrister and solicitor in private practice in his home country.*

*In 1990, he established the firm of Saunders & Huggins before being invited to join the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC) High Court Bench in 1996. On 1st May 2003, Mr. Justice Saunders was appointed to the ECSC's Court of Appeal and served as acting Chief Justice between 2004 and 2005.*

*While at the ECSC, Mr. Justice Saunders developed a passion for and was deeply involved in various judicial reform efforts. These included the introduction of court-connected mediation in the Eastern Caribbean and the development of that Court's first Judicial Code of Ethics.*

*He also served as Chairman of the ECSC's Judicial Education Institute from 2001 to 2004. His work in judicial education has continued with the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute (CJEU). He earned a Fellowship of the CJEU in 1998 and, he is currently and has been for several years the Course Director of The CJEU's Intensive Study Programme. He is also one of the Institute's Directors.*

*In 2005, Mr. Justice Saunders was among the first cohort of judges to join the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) bench. Mr. Justice Saunders has contributed greatly to regional judicial outreach and judicial education efforts. He is a founding member of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) and has served as the*

*organization's Chairman since its inception in 2009.*

*Due to his active engagement in advancing judicial integrity, Mr. Justice Saunders has recently been appointed to serve on the Advisory Board of the Global Judicial Integrity Network by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration.*

*Mr. Justice Saunders' interests also extend to the area of court administration where he has adopted an active role in the CCJ's public education and other strategic projects. He led the development of the Court's first Strategic Plan in 2012 and currently chairs the ongoing project to develop and execute the Strategic Plan for 2018-2023.*

*Mr. Justice Saunders has written many legal articles and publications and is a Consulting Editor of The Caribbean Civil Court Practice and a co-author of Fundamentals of Caribbean Constitutional Law. He serves as Chairman of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers which, in collaboration with UN Women, played a leading role in developing and promoting the adoption of Gender Sensitive Protocols for Judicial Officers for various Caribbean judiciaries. He also lectures part time at The UWI, St Augustine Faculty of Law on Constitutional Law.*

*At its 29th Intersessional Meeting in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in February 2018, the Caribbean Community Heads of Government agreed to the recommendation of the Regional and Judicial Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) that the Honourable Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders be appointed President of the Caribbean Court of Justice. He became President of the Caribbean Court of Justice on 4 July 2018.*

*The Honourable Mr. Justice Saunders is married to Marilyn née Joslyn and the couple has two sons, Yuri and Yanek.*



## **INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE 2018: SOLID PROGRESS CONTINUES AMIDST CHALLENGES**

**DR. THE HON. RALPH E. GONSALVES  
PRIME MINISTER**

Thirty-nine years ago, on October 27, 1979, St. Vincent and the Grenadines formally acceded to constitutional independence. In the process, the political and constitutional umbilical cord was severed from Britain, save and except in two critical respects: The retention of the British monarch as our country's titular Head of State; and the preservation of Her Majesty's Privy Council as the Court in which resides our nation's final appellate jurisdiction. These twin-colonial inheritances have been with us since Britain assumed suzerainty over St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 1763, except during a short period in the late 1770s to early 1780s when the French temporarily dislodged the British as our country's colonial overlord.

British colonialism bequeathed to our people at independence the awful legacy of underdevelopment consequent upon its genocidal acts against the indigenous peoples (Callinago and Garifuna), its enslavement of Africans transported forcibly to our country, its imposition of indentureship on recruited labourers from Madeira and India, and its distortion of our country's natural trajectory of development through colonialism and imperialism.

This debilitating, composite legacy of underdevelopment still constrains and hampers our country's developmental efforts, despite the fact that after independence Britain has become one of our reliable developmental partners. We acknowledge, too, that Britain has shaped one of our acquisition of two enduring assets: The English Language; and the Common Law as the foundation stone of our jurisprudence. Thus has evolved with Britain, and by extension Europe, a post-colonial relationship which is awash with complexities and contradictions but growing into a settled state of maturation to our mutual benefit, by-and-large.

The material limitations of our country's condition as a small island developing state inhibit our development: Small land area, small population, a scarcity of some vital skill sets, an inadequacy of capital resources, and the fragility of our physical environment, particularly in an era of adverse climate change. Still, the possibilities inherent in our very landscape and seascapes, our people's capacities and resilience, our practical commitment to the values of democracy and liberty, our collective wisdom and understanding in the pursuit of a better life, our partnerships with friends and allies overseas, and our profound belief and faith in Almighty God, have ensured that our country has enjoyed peace and, at least, moderate prosperity in the last 39 years. In fact, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is at the higher end of the category known as "middle-income developing country".

Migration has also been a recurring theme in the Vincentian narrative of development. Our nationals in the Diaspora continue to make significant contribution to this country's progress. The remittances from our brothers and sisters who are based overseas serve as tangible expressions

*Independence day message 2018: continued*

of their loyalty and commitment, as does their continued generous donation of their time, expertise and service. We acknowledge with gratitude their love and sacrifice, always cognizant of the fact that we remain inextricably linked in ways which transcend geographical boundaries and physical distance.

In the last 18 or so years, we Vincentians have been witnesses to significant, positive developments in our country, including: The Education Revolution; the Health and Housing Revolution; the immense, life-changing, upgrades in the physical infrastructure including the Argyle International Airport, the Canouan Jet Airport, and the Rabacca Bridge; the massive reduction in indigence and undernourishment; enhanced job-creation and wealth creation; the unprecedented expansion in the delivery of telecommunications, water and electricity; the bolstering of good governance, openness and transparency; strengthening our country's capacity in the on-rush of natural disasters; the huge upliftment of our people's practical sense of belonging to a magnificent component of our Caribbean civilisation; the deepening of regional integration; and the praxis of an efficacious foreign policy which delivers, material and non-material benefits, at unprecedented high levels.

In a strategic sense, our government has been pursuing since March 2001, continuously, the quest to build a modern, competitive, many-sided post-colonial economy which is at once national, regional, and global. Programmatic pillars in the overall policy goals are evident in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, and an assorted range of services such as medical education, air and sea transportation, banking and finance, and professional services. The private sector, the cooperative sector, and the State have all been productively active in these respects. Moreover, economic growth and fiscal consideration have been positive results.

Currently, the government has been actively pursuing a bundle of initiatives, including: Consolidating and expanding the Education, Health, and Housing Revolutions; elaborating the practical initiative on medical marijuana; upgrading the road infrastructure; the expanding of renewable energy (improving efficiency at hydro-electricity plants, starting-up of the Geothermal Project (\$100 million), and building-out solar installations); construction, expansion, and imminent construction of hotels and apartments; construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, sea and river defences (\$150 million, phased projects); advancing concrete plans for a modern cargo port (\$145 million), and the city at Arnos Vale including the anchor project of the Acute Referral Hospital (\$50 million); construction of satellite warehouses for NEMO; the private sector and government initiatives in fishing, cocoa, and coffee; and the external private sector's proposal for a significantly-sized call centre. Meanwhile, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank again forecasts modest economic growth in 2018 for St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and as at the end of September 2018 the fiscal outturn of the central government's finances has improved with modest current account and primary surpluses and a small overall surplus.

Amidst all these positive developments, a tiny minority of persons — mainly young men — have deliberately chosen to invest in violence and a kind of "armed entrepreneurialism" as a way of life. In the process, innocent lives are cut down. The government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines are determined not to permit these selfish, violently-inclined individuals to damage in any way the peace and tranquility of our blessed country. On this we are resolved! Those who make excuses on their behalf or construct absurd rationales for their conduct are doing a disservice to our nation. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, there is absolutely no reason for anyone to turn to violent crime; no space is to be allowed them for their criminal activities. The society does not make a violent criminal; he or she makes himself one!

I congratulate, and thank, all Vincentians who have been striving for excellence and who have been contributing to the wholesome development of our country. They are, by far, the vast majority of our people. We have been making solid progress. Let us build upon these efforts, despite the extant challenges. Vincentians of all walks of life can look forward to their future with optimism. Opportunities abound; take advantage of them.

**Happy Independence 2018!**



## **The Honourable Frederick Stephenson Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with disabilities and Youth**

The Honorable Frederick Stephenson was born on November 19, 1970 at Cedars to Sylvia Stephenson and Horace Andrews. The last of seven (7) children, he attended the Biabou Methodist School and the Saint Vincent Grammar School.

Frederick Stephenson began his career in the Magistrate Court where he served for a period of twelve (12) years before moving to the ministry of Health where he worked as a Senior Accounts Clerk. He also served as a Customs Officer at the Customs and Excise Department and in the office of the Prime Minister before being elected on December 13, 2010, to represent in Parliament, the constituency of South Windward.

A committed Christian, he served as President of the St. Matthew Anglican Youth Movement and as President of the Anglican Youth Council of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He is an active member of the Anglican Church in the Parish of St Matthew with St Marks and St. Sylvan, as an Anglican Lay Minister. In addition to serving in the Lay Ministry, Stephenson actively participated in a number of Community groups. In 2000 he formed the Bridgetown Community Development Organisation and was involved in community beautification and Christmas lighting up competition.

### **Strategic Programme Areas**

#### **Community Capacity Building**

Capacity Building is an important element within the Community Development Programme. It concerns working with communities and people to enhance their skills and competences to enable them to define the type of development they want to take place within their communities. Another important aspect of this programme concerns the development of the competences of staff to enable them to deliver effective programmes/projects at the community level.

#### **Village Integrated Development**

The Village Integrated Development Programme concerns the bringing together of all the various aspects of the Divisions' programme to bear on the overall development of the village/community. It comprises the development and implementation of projects/programmes in Capacity Building, Participatory Development Approaches, Micro Infrastructure Development and Small Enterprise Development. It uses the Aided Self Help Approach as a strategy for empowering and developing residents to define and participate in shaping their own development.

#### **Community Enterprise Development**

The Community Entrepreneurship Development programme is viewed as a strategy, which consist of the development of economic and social entrepreneurs. The Division intends to work in partnership with residents/communities/groups to develop their leadership abilities to enable them to implement small businesses and other innovative social development projects that have the potential to enhance their livelihoods. The Division will work with relevant agencies in order to bring critical resources to support the development of these projects.

### **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.*



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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### 39th Independence Message from Consul General Huggins

We celebrate Independence 2018 in Toronto under the theme “Celebrating the past, embracing the future”. Let us first give the Almighty God thanks for his goodness and his mercies as he continues to look over us. Your theme is quite appropriate since there are many who left our blessed land decades ago for a better life in Canada and have achieved much success to celebrate. Your work with the youth and scholarship program is indicative of your group embracing the future.

In St Vincent and the Grenadines, we celebrate under the theme “Working Together to Enhance National Pride”. These themes convey very powerful and progressive messages so the challenge for us is can there be a convergence of both themes? What would be the impact if we do? Are we prepared to Work Together to Enhance National Pride? To my mind that is the only way forward if we are to Embrace the Future. And while we are on that mission are we prepared to learn from our past and use that experience as a teaching moment so the youth can embrace their future?

This diaspora continues to demonstrate loyalty, dedication and service to our people at home. The annual fundraising events like the summer boat ride is a clear demonstration of what can be achieved when we Work Together. The annual Vincy Picnic is also an example of how we celebrate and enhance our National Pride. Both events have offered us shining examples of what can be achieved when we Work Together.

I want to use this opportunity to appeal to our diaspora to let us continue to Work Together as we move to organize our community groups to form an Emergency Response Committee. St Vincent and the Grenadines is a minuscule contributor to the events caused by climate change; hurricanes, trough systems, rising water levels eroding our shores, etc. These events have significantly impacted negatively on our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by damaging homes, roads, bridges, beaches, shoreline defences, our agriculture and our ability to grow the economy since we have to continuously replace damaged homes and road infrastructure. This committee when formed will be able to lend its voice to the main climate change offenders and say to them “Enough is Enough, Time to save our Islands”. We look forward to your support.

Let us Celebrate Independence 2018, our 39th birthday, with National Pride and Work Together to Enhance the Future

Happy 39th birthday SVG!!!

Sincerely  
Consul General of St Vincent and the Grenadines (Toronto)  
Fitzgerald Huggins

# *Message from the President*

## **The St. Vincent And Grenadines Association Of Toronto Inc.**



***Greetings to all on this our 39th Anniversary of Independence! I vividly recall this day back in 1979 when a vast crowd gathered at Victoria Park to witness the raising of our Flag for the first time.***

### *Celebrating Our Achievements.*

Today, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association kicks off a year of activities as it celebrates its own milestone, its 50th year, having been founded on December 1, 1968. Happy anniversary everyone on these two landmarks - the 39th Anniversary of SVG Independence and 50 years of service to our Community - today, we celebrate the past and embrace what is to come for us as a people both in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in the Diaspora.

I take this opportunity to thank all those leaders who paved the path for us to follow today, whether they be leaders in St. Vincent and the Grenadines or in the many communities where SVG nationals reside. Your contributions ought to be remembered and recognized. We applaud our young persons who are positioning themselves to take over the baton as the journey continues.

Community organizations, like the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, require more individuals to be involved to keep them alive, meaningful and productive. My sincere thanks to all members of the board, the organization and the community at large who have assisted us in what we have achieved so far. I appeal to all who have an interest in our community to become involved. Throughout the years of the operation of our Association, there have been many shining examples of persons who have contributed in one way or the other towards the development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in particular, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto. One of those persons who has been a good ambassador for his country, our country, is our brother, Malcolm "Comrade" Garraway. In recognition of his contribution, the Board of Directors has bestowed on him the title "Honorary Life Member of the Association". Malcolm, as you remember Independence Day for your birthland, you will also remember that members of your community chose to honour you on its 39th anniversary.

We are grateful today to have Justice Saunders as our keynote speaker. The Association joins with the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and SVG nationals in congratulating and embracing Justice Saunders as the third President of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

The Association is proud of its contribution in the area of education in helping to shape the lives of students in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In 2008, the Association launched its Adopt-A-Child Program to assist students in the primary school system in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Association also supports a Scholarship Program for children of SVG descent who are living here in the Greater Toronto Area. Today, the SVGAT joins with the Council of Caribbean Associations - Canada to financially assist three students as they pursue their goals and dreams for the future. Congrats to Kerifa, Lavon and Andre.

I am grateful to a number of individuals who have supported me during the times I have led the Association. Members of the Board of Directors in 2018 include Dennis Bucchan, Daffodil Davis, Erline Granderson, Jim Lewis, Prudence Morton, Bernadette Petra Ryan Phillips, Ulpia Stephens and Winston Woodley. I also recognize the invaluable contribution and assistance that Sandra Bobb and Cheyenne Samuel have provided. There are many others whom I should include in this list of persons to thank but in fear or omitting some good friends I will just say, thank you all for your support and contribution. You know who you are. My wife, Nichole and other family members have done their parts in supporting me as well.

I welcome all members of the various other organizations who have joined us in these celebrations and wish them all the best in continuing to pursue their goals and objectives to serve their respective communities.

*Happy Independence Anniversary to all! Enjoy the evening.*

*Gideon L. Exeter*

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

### **Board of Directors:**

Dennis Bucchan • Daffodil Davis • Gideon Exeter • Erline Granderson  
Jim Lewis • Prudence Morton • Bernadette Ryan-Phillips • Winston Woodley

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## The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. 2018 Honouree

### Honorary Life Member: Malcolm Garraway

Mr. Malcolm Garraway is a longtime member of the Association and has served in several capacities during his many years of service to our community with the Association. He is among just a few persons who led the Association as president on three or more occasions, having served in that capacity in 1988, 1994 and 1995.

During his terms as president, Comrade Garraway as he is affectionately called, was instrumental in establishing a number of initiatives in the Association, the SVG community in Toronto and the SVG community across Canada. In the 1980s, the Association introduced a publication called *The Newsletter*. Because this was a quarterly publication, Mr. Garraway became the driving force behind an 'as it happens' publication called *Larbel* so that our community can get important news and highlights in a timely manner.

During those years and under his leadership, Comrade Garraway forged the formation of the National Council which comprised all of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Associations across Canada, an organization that he also led for three terms. Malcolm Garraway was also a driving force behind the formation of the Association's Cricket Team of which he was the manager for over a decade. Sometime later, the team separated from the Association and became an entity on its own with the name St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sports Club.



Comrade Garraway was influential in encouraging many persons to join the Association including his family members.

In light of these attributes and the myriad of other qualities which Malcolm exhibited and which the records of the Association reflect, the Board of Directors of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. proudly confers on Mr. Malcolm Garraway the title of Honorary Life Member of the Association placing him amongst a heroic group of Honorary Life Members of the Association.



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The St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Association of Toronto  
on its 50th Anniversary

### Rhonda A. Metelsky B.A.(hons.); LL.B

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# Immigration Matters

## END OF YEAR RACES FOR APPLICANTS AND SPONSORS

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

### Vincentian Nationals to Provide Biometrics

**Starting December 31, 2018** Vincentian nationals and predominantly all other foreign nationals applying for a temporary resident visa (i.e.: visitor visa, study permit, work permit) or a permanent resident visa to come to Canada will need to provide biometrics at a visa application centre (VAC). Providing biometrics means providing one's biographic (identification) data, electronic fingerprints, and a digital photograph. At present the closest VACs to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other Caribbean islands are in Jamaica (Kingston & Montego Bay), Trinidad (Port of Spain), and Guyana (Georgetown). In addition to the costs of travelling to the VAC and the usual application processing fee, applicants must pay a non-refundable biometric service fee of Cdn \$85.00 per person or Cdn \$170 per family. So, a Caribbean national living outside one of these countries would be incurring travel expenses in order to get to a VAC to provide his/her biometrics. To avoid the additional costs and service fee many applicants are already racing to submit their temporary or permanent resident visa application before December 30, 2018.

The good news is that biometrics is valid for 10 years. Once a person gave biometrics when s/he applied for a temporary resident visa s/he need not give biometrics again within that 10-year period unless s/he is applying for permanent resident status.

There are very few scenarios where certain foreign nationals would be exempted from giving biometrics. Applicants younger than 14 years or older than 79 years, U.S. nationals who are applying for a work or study permit, U.S. green card holders who are applying for a visitor visa, visa-exempt foreign nationals seeking to enter or remain in Canada as a visitor, and in-Canada applicants whose applications will be processed in Canada are the more common applicants who, at present, are exempt from giving biometrics. Designated Officers would have the discretion to exempt applicants from providing one or two pieces of biometric information (fingerprints and photo) if the collection is deemed not possible or not feasible.

### Parents and Grandparents (PGP) Sponsorship

**Starting on or about January 2, 2019** the Government of Canada is expected to open the parent and grandparent sponsorship program. Unlike the "lottery" system of a randomized selection process in 2018, the government, in 2019, will invite eligible potential sponsors to complete and submit an online Interest to Sponsor form which will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will then invite eligible potential sponsors to submit an application to sponsor their parents or grandparent to live permanently in Canada. The government

plans to accept up to 20,000 complete sponsorship applications in 2019 so sponsors risk being left out if their applications are not complete and/or not received before the 20,000 cap is reached.

For the applicant parents or grandparents this is like an amazing race for Canada with their sponsor(s) being the runners. More specifics about this PGP sponsorship program are expected to be announced by November but, in the interim, potential sponsors who want in on this race should find out if they are likely to meet the eligibility criteria before they consider applying on or about January 2, 2019.

### HAPPY INDEPENDENCE to all nationals of ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES!

Sandra Sutherland is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) and Immigration Counsel. She is licensed with the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at [ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com).

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# Scholarship Award Recipients



## Lavon Johnson

Lavon Johnson was born in Chateaubelair, St. Vincent and the Grenadines to a Guyanese mother and a Grenadian Father. Her desire to defend others began at a tender age; though she was not known as one to defend herself physically, she took a stand for injustice—offering her support and speaking words of comfort to those who were often seen as failures in society.

As the years progressed, Lavon took her vocal defenses to new heights; she attended the Petit Bordel Secondary School where she engaged in student political debates, and aided her school and town in earning first place at every competition she took part in. At the age of 13, Lavon migrated to Canada and attended North Kipling Junior Middle School in Rexdale Toronto. Despite her strong Vincentian accent, after 5 months of being in Canada, Lavon did her first speech on the misuse of marijuana and the effects of premarital sex, and won first place at her school's Public Speaking Competition.

At the age of 17, she was forced to discontinue her high school education until she was granted permanent residency in Canada.

After a few years of struggling with the Canadian government, Lavon was able to continue her studies and she gained entrance into a dual credit program with Durham Alternative and Centennial College. Lavon graduated in June of 2014 from Durham Alternative Secondary School with an overall average of over 95% and the proud winner of the Leader's award from Durham District School Board and the Ontario Principal's Award. Lavon was later accepted into the Paralegal Program at Durham College, where she graduated on the President's list with Honours.

It was through the bad that she sought to do good; it was through her struggles that she found strength to persevere. Lavon continues to be the futuristic achiever that she was destined to be. She has now dedicated her time to mentoring at risk youths in the Rexdale community and partaking in missions work directed to the Caribbean and Central America. Her heart's desire is to unite the divided in the black community and to destroy the barriers that have prevented black immigrants from accomplishing greatness in Canada.

Currently, Lavon attends the University of Ontario Institute of Technology; she is in her third year of studies in the Criminology and Justice program. Lavon has chosen to specialize in Youth Crime and Justice and will be graduating in 2020. Lavon aspires to be an immigration lawyer and use her skills for the edification of the Black community and immigrants as a whole.

*Congratulations Lavon! We wish you well in your future endeavours!*



## Kefira Thompson

Kefira is currently a student in the Hotel and Restaurant Operations Management Program at Humber College. Kefira graduated from High School as an Ontario Scholar with a Specialist High Skills Major in Business. She also received her High School's Certificate of Academic Achievement in the Co-operative Education as well as the Kinsmen Award for Community Involvement.

This year, Kefira was a Youth Ambassador for the Town of Ajax. This position helped her to land her first job with the Town as a camp counsellor. Kefira also studied competitive dancing for eight years and the last five years worked as a volunteer assistant dance instructor working with young children.

Kefira says "By balancing my extracurricular activities and my academic studies, I learned the value and importance of good time management, teamwork, perseverance, compassion and patience. I am counting on these skills to guide me towards success in my post-secondary pursuits and throughout the rest of my life".

*Congratulations Kefira! We wish you well in your future endeavours!*



## Andre Mullings

Andre currently attends the University of Waterloo and will be going into his last year studying Legal Studies and Business.

Andre says he has been blessed to have had numerous opportunities over the course of his studies. Most recently, he finished an eight-month internship at

Microsoft's headquarters in Mississauga working alongside the Consumer Devices and Sales team. Andre is very passionate about marketing and hope to pursue a career in either the Technical or Sports and Entertainment field. Andre hopes to one day provide a scholarship for students of Caribbean descent coming from a single-parent household.

While working at Microsoft, Andre helped to organize a tech-empowerment day for an under-served community in Rexdale. He says the opportunity to inspire so many kids who are in a position where he once was was rewarding—to say the least. Andre says, "Being raised by a single-mother, I understand the plights of life – I hope to one day provide a boost to those in need. I am very appreciative to the CCAC for awarding me this bursary – I will continue to defy odds with your support!"

*Congratulations Andre! We wish you well in your future endeavours!*



P.O. Box 62518, 85 Ellesmere Road, Toronto, ON M1R 5G8  
Website: [caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://caribbeancouncilcanada.org) ~ Email: [admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org](mailto:admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org)

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October 27, 2018

### MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATIONS CANADA

On behalf of the Executive and members of the Council of Caribbean Association Canada I wish to express our heartiest congratulations to the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the 39th anniversary of your country's Independence.

Independence is not only a time of reflection. It is also a time to pay tribute and to express gratitude for freedom still upheld today. Also, to look forward to tomorrows that are bright with opportunities still to be explored and attained.

I challenge the citizens of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to take up this challenge and make a difference in their country and community and applaud those who are working tirelessly to this end.

Let's not forget that we shouldn't always ask what our country can do for us but more importantly what we can do to help improve our country.

The CCAC wishes to thank the Executive and members of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. for being a pillar of support to the Association.

I wish you all an enjoyable celebration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Ingrid King".

Ingrid King  
Secretary

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

### ABOUT THE CCAC

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

The financial member organizations are:- Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto (ABAT), Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations (AGCO), Barbados Overseas Community Canada (BOCC), Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association (CDOA), Grenada Association Toronto (GAT), Montserrat Association Toronto (MAT), 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 three major areas:

(1) to assist young persons in their pursuit of higher learning and sustainable employment; (2) to undertake a disaster preparedness program that provides outreach and guidance when disasters strike the Caribbean; and (3) to work with our seniors to better provide them vital information to enhance their productivity in their golden years.

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## *Our Appreciation*

The Independence Planning Committee, on behalf of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc, the Toronto SVG Consulate General, the Bequia Social Organization, the Toronto SVG Support Group and the Union Island Cultural Association, express sincere thanks to all our sponsors and advertisers in this brochure; all the artistes for donating their time and talent and all those who in one way or another assisted in making these celebrations a success. Finally, we thank you all for attending all of our events. We trust that as we look towards the future, we do so with optimism, togetherness and hope.

### *Members of the 2018 Independence Planning Committee:*

Sandra Bobb, Chairperson • Cheyenne Samuel, Co-Chairperson  
Cynthia Bentham • Dennis Bucchan • June Ellis  
Gideon Exeter • Consul General Fitzgerald Huggins  
Prudence Morton • Bernadette Ryan-Phillips  
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The Toronto SVG Support Group congratulates St. Vincent and the Grenadines on their 39th Anniversary of Independence



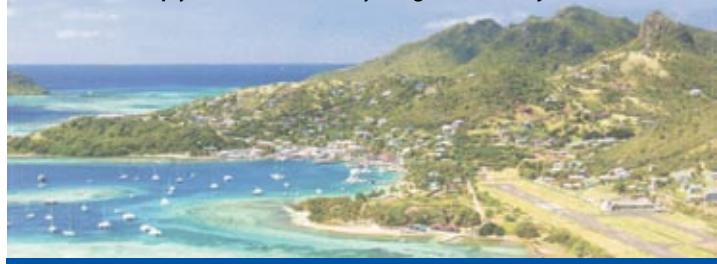
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## Union Island Cultural Association of Toronto (UICA)

On behalf of the Union Island Cultural Association of Toronto (UICA), the Executive and its Members extend hearty congratulations to the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) on this their 39th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations. Continuing to maintain a presence – and especially a noticeable one – garners much dedication from the Leadership and members. We (UICA) appreciate that effort and would always strive to help you (SVGAT) reach your goals and objectives.



## Union Island Cultural Association of Toronto (UICA)

[www.uicatoronto.com](http://www.uicatoronto.com)  
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## OUR ENTERTAINERS



### **Kimya Hypolite**

Kimya Hypolite (pronounced Ki-MYA HIPPO-lit) is a triple-threat performing artist from Toronto, Canada. She is a recent graduate of the world-renowned Bachelor of Music program at Humber College in Toronto, where she studied under and worked with some of Canada's and the World's top musicians. She is a Dancer in the Caribbean Dance Theatre Company, and a Teacher/Choreographer at the Roots & Branches Children's and Youth Dance Program. She writes arrangements and sings lead vocals in Toronto Pop band, "Really Big World." Kimya has also starred in leading roles in both the Toronto Fringe and Summer Works Theatre Festivals. Her talents extend to Songwriting, Music Production, and Modelling. She represented Canada at the 2016 Miss Legacy International Pageant in Jamaica, placing 3rd. Kimya recently recorded her first solo album, set to release in 2018, as well as produced the debut album of Contemporary Latin band, "The Nazca Project." A diverse artist, Kimya's dance and music background extends to Jazz, R&B, Pop, Latin, African, Calypso/Soca, Gospel, Reggae, Classical, Musical Theatre, and Rock.



### **Kwesi Kamani Hypolite**

Kwesi Kamani Hypolite holds two Bachelor Degrees from York University (BFA-Music and B. Ed.). He is a certified teacher in the Toronto District School Board. He teaches, arranges, and develops children and youth steel pan programs. He also teaches how to construct a pan from raw material. He has arranged music for the Panatics Steel band Network, Pan Masters Steel Orchestra, and the Nativity Steel Angels. He has performed at the annual Pan Alive Competitions, Snowflakes on Steel, Nathan Phillips Square and countless weddings and other socials events.



### **Caribbean Dance Theatre Company**

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### **Zakiya, Munirah and Xhanun Hutchinson - Poetry**

Three sisters who, apart from work and/or school are very active in the creative arts. As poets, Zakiya and Munirah have performed numerous times for the Association at Mothers' day events and at events for Black History Month. Xhanun, the baby of the trio, has been performing Modern Dance for several years.

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