

INFOCUS



The Official Publication of The Jamaican Canadian Association

NOVEMBER ISSUE 2015



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

JCA's New Approach to Advocacy



JCA President Barrington B. Coke.

The history of JCA during its 53 years as a community organization within the Canadian society is rich and varied. It started as a social organization where strangers in this faraway land could socialize, assist each other, and celebrate Jamaica's independence. It later advocated for injustice against our citizens and took on some social services roles. JCA is redefining itself by once again separating from social services. In this way more attention can be given to membership, community development, and advocacy.

If we examine JCA's history of advocacy we see that much of the work was primarily reactive. And that was necessary based on the need at the time: community demographics, economics, social, and political climate. As the demographics of our community changes we need to re-examine what advocacy means to today's generation of African Canadians and people of Caribbean descent.

The report "TOWARDS A VISION FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY" stated that "Nearly 100 years ago Marcus Garvey wondered about the progress Black people had made 77 years after the abolition of Slavery in the British Empire in 1833.

Not much has changed. In 2012, Blacks in the US control only 0.5% of that nation's wealth, and make up over 51% of their prison population. Their average income is the least of all the cultural groups. These statistics are unchanged from 1881. There is no real progress. However, individual accomplishments and the illusion of social inclusiveness give us the perception of actual progress. This is a result of systematic and institutionalized racism.

Our approach to advocacy today must be different from 1962. For one, the bulk of Black and Caribbean people were new immigrants. Today, most were born here and do not identify with the struggles of that time. There is a more universal and generic need for advocacy, that does not depend on the birth place of the disenfranchised or their perception of the issues. It is economic power.

An interesting correlation is the distribution of average income compared to rate of business ownership. According to Dr. Claude Anderson (President of the Harvard Institute), 1 in 10 Asians own their own business and has the highest average income. For Whites, 1 in 54 owns their own business and enjoys the second highest average income. The lowest average incomes are among Blacks, where 1 in 104 owns their own business (the least of all the groups).

In the Canadian context, Stats Canada data for 2006 suggests that 62.8% of Blacks had wages and salary income of less than \$20,000 as compared with 55.7% of visible minorities as a whole and 59.5% of the total population. Self-employment income for individuals in the Black community was at 4.8% as compared to 7.2% percent for the general population. There was no available data correlating business ownership and income.

President's Message cont'd— Advocacy

Some key factors for the development of any community are education, employment, health, housing, justice and safety, family, and political engagement. As long as the wealth is in the hands of other cultures, and we have to depend on them for these development needs, we will be unfairly treated. Economic well-being is an important cornerstone to improving our performance in these areas and facilitating social inclusion. This will bring us a far way towards effective income redistribution, keep our children out of jails, and prevent unfair treatment by the justice system. Our approach to advocacy then must be formulated around increasing our economic power through business ownership and group economics.

While our position remain stagnant the relative wealth of other cultures (like the Jews and Asians) grows by leaps and bounds. This is because, in addition to business ownership, they practice group economics. Group economics is practiced by every culture; except blacks. That is, they pool their resources vertically. Dr. Anderson also suggested that money circulates (stays) within their community many times before leaving it. In the Jewish community it circulates 18 times, Asian community - 14 times, White - 10 times. In our community this is less than 1 time.

In my mind, what advocacy means for our community today is to improve those economic and social measures. A long term improvement approach is required. There are immediate issues like carding that must be addressed. However, if we focus entirely on these short term reactive approaches, we will be kept busy for eternity, as the more than 130 years of stagnation will continue.

We ought to advocate internally and externally as follows:

1. Influencing public policies to provide the environment for Black business success. That is capital, business education, and physical space.
2. Educate our people into the benefits of business ownership and supporting our businesses.
3. Work with at risk families to guide our young people into a disciplined approach to basic education, business education, and how to better exercise our economic power by increasing money circulation within our community. The power of group economics.
4. Provide incubation and assistance to guide businesses. Such as identifying where there is a competitive edge and where the bulk of our money is spent.

Therefore, instead of only reacting to the issues of the day, JCA will begin to transform its approach to advocacy into research, data collection, identification of trends, and putting forward policy positions to impact those trends. Then we can advocate and lobby for public policy directions that assist our aim of increased business ownership and money retention within our community. Thus improving the metrics cited above.

We must be adequately represented, have the power to live in our own neighbourhood with pride, and hire who we want.

Barrington B. Coke

President



JCA Vice-President Maureen Ennis

Dear Readers,

In my first six months as Vice-President I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you formally and informally in your various capacities as JCA Staff, Volunteer, Member, Committee Chair and/or Friend.

Without doubt, your individual and collective commitment to the JCA and the broader community it serves is inspirational.

I respect the good work that you have done and continue to do. And, in this my first Infocus Newsletter message would like to express my gratitude for all your hard work, dedication and commitment.

Also in the past six months, I have been privileged to work with a Board comprised of devoted individuals whose singular goal is to build on the legacy of JCA founders by addressing the challenges the JCA currently face and, thus, propel our organization to greater heights.

At this time, the Board's primary focus is charting a new course to build wealth so that we can extended the cultural and political reach of the JCA, repair and refurbish our building and expanded our membership base.

In order to realize this objective, I believe "we should always listen for inspiration and impression to proceed in ways different from those we may have thought of" (John H. Groberg).

That is to say, we must hear, be open to and consider new, innovative or creative solutions to achieve the full potential of our beloved organization. To this end, I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board, JCA members and the community.

It has been an honour to serve thus far and I look forward to providing more updates in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen A. Ennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maureen A. Ennis

MERRY CHRISTMAS



VENUE:

The Jamaican Canadian Centre,
995 Arrow Road, North York

DATE:

Sunday December 6, 2015

TIME:

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION:

Toddlers to Youth (12 years old)

DONATION:

\$10.00 donation per child

Registration Deadline: November 30th, 2015 (Only registrations paid by this date will be honoured).

For further information contact the JCA Office @ 416 746 5772

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

REGISTER YOUR CHILD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE !

Toys, refreshments, visit with Santa!

For further information contact the JCA membership Office @ 416 746 5772 Ext: 249



Keith Mills — JCA Annual Charity Golf Classic

The 16th of what we hope will be many more, the JCA Annual Charity Golf Classic took place on Saturday, August 15, 2015 and by all reports was a great event for everyone.

This 62-player event started at 1:30pm at the Royal Woodbine Golf Club 18-hole championship, par -72 course. The weather was perfect for a day of golf, with the sun shining mostly with a sprinkling of rain and not too much of a late summer breeze.

After playing 18 holes, everyone returned to the Club House for dinner, an auction, and prizes. There were a few sponsors for this event so all who participated received prizes or gift certificates. A big thank you to all the sponsors who generously gave.

In the end, the JCA 16th Annual Charity Golf Classic raised funds for the JCA Saturday Morning Tutorial Program and the JCA Scholarship Awards. The golf committee was thrilled with the day. They said, "This is a great start in rejuvenating the tournament and we are very pleased that it made a moderate profit in spite of the lower than usual turnout." A huge thank you to the golf committee for their hard work! We are truly grateful for everything they have done to help youth in our community.

Remember to keep your eyes on the ball and check out the website and Facebook page next year for more details of the JCA 17th Annual Charity Golf Classic.

JCA Political Advocacy Committee

The JCA Political Advocacy Committee is dedicated to increasing political engagement within the African-Canadian communities through forums, meetings, community discussions, training and research projects. The committee's aim is to galvanize the community in order to increase overall participation in politics, inside and outside of election cycles.

Since its re-launch in July 2014, the committee has been quite active in creating important dialogues in the community. In March of this year, an event was held to recognize those community members who ran in the 2014 municipal elections, as well as to discuss the state of the community politically. This past July was quite busy. It started off with a non-partisan candidate training workshop for Black candidates who were running in the Federal elections and ended with a community roundtable which was held to dive further into the political challenges facing the community and possible solutions. In November, a community celebration and send off was held for newly elected MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes and MP Ahmed Hussen.

The Committee is busy and active and looks forward to an exciting 2016 that will include many more community meetings, presentations and strategizing dialogues. The PAC will continue to play a key role in addressing the challenges faced by the African-Canadian community.



MP Ahmed Hussen (York South-Weston), former MP, The Honourable Jean Augustine, MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes (Whitby) – Community Reception, November 12, 2015



Tiffany Gooch (standing) providing training alongside fellow panellists Tamer Abdalla and Suzanne Nurse – Get Ready to Win: A Non-Partisan Campaign Team Readiness Workshop, July 4, 2015



Royson James sharing his political observations – JCA Connect: An Evening Dedicated to Political Mobilization, March 12, 2015

Transition Team Update

A Family in Transition

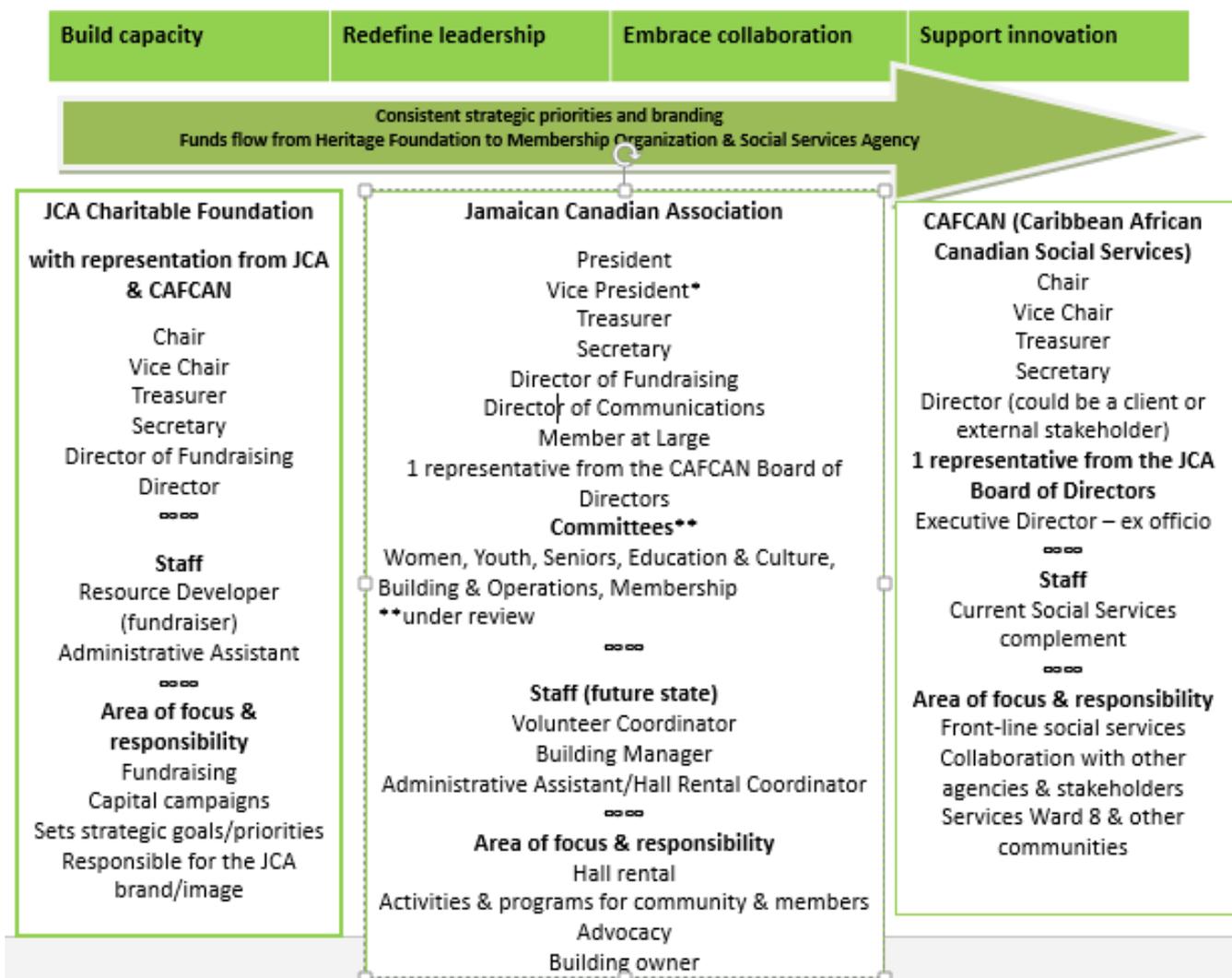
‘All great achievements require time.’ Maya Angelou

It should not be a surprise to you that the JCA is in transition – the biggest transition in the organization’s history. The most difficult changes are often the most necessary and this transition is no exception. The Transition Team thanks both Boards of Directors and you the members for your steadfast support, even when things do not seem to be heading in the right direction or you are not sure what is happening. We encourage you to stay the course – continue to be involved in this great organization because good things cannot happen without your participation and support.

Questions you may have

Why did the Transition Team break up the JCA?

The Transition Team did not ‘break up’ the JCA. You will recall that you the membership moved a motion in 2011 for the board to call a special membership meeting to decide if JCA should separate its social services from membership. The Board decided to expand that request by forming a working group who reviewed research, held several consultations and workshops over a 12-month period and provided an update at every quarterly meeting. A special membership meeting was held on June 27, 2013 and the members present, voted to accept the recommendation to separate the JCA into three organizations (see chart below).



Transition Team Cont'd

Since that June 27, 2013 meeting, the Transition Team has provided updates at the quarterly meetings and in the newsletter.

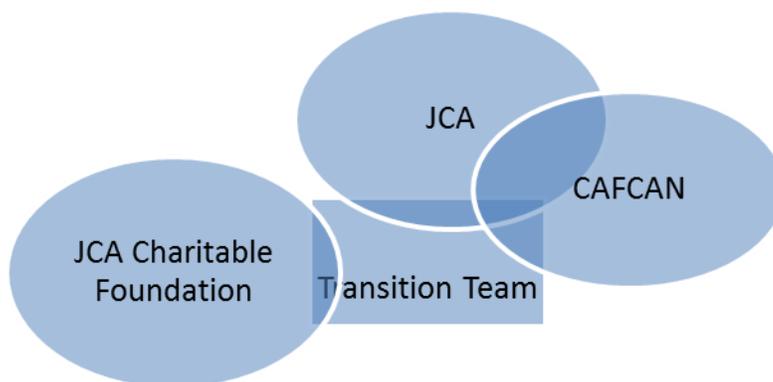
2) Why is the Social Services so focused on African-Canadian rather than Jamaican?

The reality is, the JCA social services, now called CAFCAN, has been serving the wider Black, Caribbean, African community plus others for several years. Social Services is funded by the government and United Way to deliver services to everyone, not just Jamaicans. Like everything else around us the social services has had to change to stay relevant. The social services of today is not the one of twenty-five years ago and was struggling to be effective within the old structure. Over the years, many of you expressed concerns about our ability to do and say what we wanted because of the funded services. CAFCAN is and will continue to be part of the JCA family but it is creating its own identity. Just like our children, once they reach a certain age, we let them fly and find their way; JCA is doing the same with CAFCAN.

3) This transition feels the same as what we went through with the expansion of the credit union. Is this the same as the Credit Union?

No. During the 1990's, the provincial government offered JCA support to expand the credit union provided we broaden it to include the wider Black/African-Canadian communities. As a result of ongoing struggles, fights and inability to work together, the government pulled the funding. JCA's separation was not initiated by the government but by you the members and the decision was only made AFTER significant discussions with you. The Jamaican Canadian Association still exists in a similar form as before.

What is next?



The Transition Team will continue to play a visible role in managing the changes at JCA and CAFCAN.

Transition Team Cont'd

- We will work with the JCA and CAFCAN boards to ensure the plan stays on track
- We hope to roll out a communications strategy and would like to you play a role. We will provide quick updates on Facebook, Twitter, our web-site and the JCA weekly email.
- We will work with Kamala-Jean Gopie to get the Charitable Foundation up and running
- We will be here to answer your questions and address your concerns about the changes

How can you support?

- Invite your friends and family to join as members and/or volunteer
- Tell them about the changes taking place
- Trust that despite the challenges we are moving in the right direction
- Contact the transition team at acpcommsservices@gmail.com or call any of the members if you have concerns and/or suggestions.

 *Jamaican Canadian Association*
Presents

CHRISTMAS GRAND MARKET
Last Minute Christmas Shopping!
December 23 & December 24th
from 12 p.m to 12 a.m
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

The Jamaican Canadian Association Women's Committee

Excerpts from a Round Table Discussion on Domestic Violence Awareness held by the Jamaican Canadian Association Women's Committee on June 19, 2015.

Domestic Violence can affect anyone including men, women, youth and children. Your first priority if you are a victim is to ensure the safety and security of you and your children. Violence can present itself in many forms such as physical, mental, emotional, psychological and verbal. Most violence is centered around power and control.

You might be experiencing domestic violence if your partner:

- ⇒ Hits, kicks, shoves, slaps, chokes or otherwise hurts you or your children
- ⇒ Engages in sexual acts against your will
- ⇒ Calls you names and insults you
- ⇒ Prevents you from going to school or work
- ⇒ Stops you from seeing your family members or friends
- ⇒ Threatens you with a weapon
- ⇒ Shows jealousy or possessiveness or constantly accuses you of being unfaithful

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Q. Why don't the abused leave the situation?**
 - A. Fear of breaking up the family and the threat of leaving may escalate into more violence. Many victims think that they can change the abuser's behavior. Many victims leave and return because of embarrassment and societal expectations. The victim may see the ending of a relationship as a failure. Many abusers are seen as being nice people and are loved by their communities and have many friends.
- **Q. At what age should a child learn about healthy relationships?**
 - A. As early as possible. What a child sees in an abusive situation, may extend to the school. Fights and bullying might ensue. The child might grow up to be an abuser.
- **Q. How can a victim maintain privacy when the abuser constantly checks the phone and email messages ?**
 - A. Delete all messages as soon as possible. Be educated on how to clear browsers and communicate through a central number.
- **Q. How can I help a friend or co-worker?**
 - A. Listen, reassure the person that the abuse is not their fault. Remind the victim that help is available. Encourage the victim to get help from advocacy agencies such as the Jamaica Canadian Association.

Know The Signs, Don't Be Abused

Women's & Community Services in the GTA

JCA Domestic Violence Against Women

Phone: 416-746-5772

Women's Health in Women's Hands

Phone: 416-593-7655

Family Services Association of Toronto

Phone: 416-595-9230

Women's Shelter (24 hours)

Distress Centers of Toronto

Phone: 416-408-4357

Safest ways to leave an abusive situation:

- Have a safety plan
- Tell people you can trust
- Plan ahead - pack clothing, photocopy important documents - keep in a safe place
- Put away some money in a safe place
- Be prepared to call 911
- Get legal advice about the situation

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CORNER

EVENTS UPDATE

Since our last report the membership committee has been very busy with various tasks such as the Seniors Brunch which was well attended and was very successful. The membership planning committee worked tirelessly, Thanks to you Chef Theo, Esmay Murray, Janet Samms, Glenford Gordon, Dean Parker, Edith Hines, Vina Bennett, and Nadine McLean. We are now planning our annual Children's Christmas Party where we are expecting approximately 150 excited children to attend. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the membership office at 416-746-5772 ext 249

Special thanks go TO OUR SPONSORS: Ms. Beryl Nugent, Florence Brown, Raphaelita Walker and Sheila Bullock

Our 2015 Toy Drive has began November - December. In this drive, we are seeking cash/cheques, unwrapped new toys, and personal items from companies and individuals across the GTA and our members, board members and staff. We are asking for donations suitable for children 0-12 years. Our goal is to promote community empowerment through awareness. A drop off box will be placed in the JCA lobby and the membership office.

Membership Recruitment & Outreach

The attendance at the August 2015 quarterly meeting was up significantly from our usual numbers. Thanks to the many phone calls made by the committee outreach communication sub-committee. We are hoping to see more members attend these meetings and use them as forums to share ideas, thoughts and opinions that could enhance the growth of the organization. On a closing note, we understand the needs of our members.

The membership committee continues to show dedication and continues to excel in membership services for the organization. Although we have seen growth in the organization, we are still aiming for more growth. Many of our visible members need to renew and keep their membership up-to-date. Here is an example if membership dues not up to date, they are not qualify to be considered as a member today. This means that if you are not currently paid up you are not able to take advantage of the many benefits of being a member. Keeping your membership current is very important to us and to the organization. I would encourage you to check your membership information and let us bring your membership current. So please PAY UP. As Membership Chair I am more than happy to assist you.

Our sincere sympathies to bereaved families of our members and our heartfelt good wishes for a speedy recovery to those members who are ill or on the road to recovery. We continue to provide support to members and their families throughout their difficult periods and ask you all to keep them in your prayers.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALANDER FOR: Sunday December 6, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm for your children and grand children to participate in this special event.

Membership cont'd

Christmas Shopping - Grand Market at JCA. This year the JCA will be hosting the JCA Christmas Grand Market on December 23 and 24, 2015. This special 2 day event will bring together business in the community, vendors selling clothes, books, toys, baked goods, jewellery and many other goods – Take home or while you shop.

It will be a Blow-Out sale of Christmas gifts items. Please come out and support your JCA. There will be plenty of food for sale, baked goods, take home or while you shop....join us on December 23 & 24 for your Christmas Shopping to support your JCA.

We encourage members and their friends and families to show their support. Admission is FREE
The membership committee needs volunteers who are committed and dedicated individuals to execute membership services for JCA. We must continue our goal to attract new members and retain existing members. Please do your part by signing up at least five to ten members from your circle of friends and family and enter a draw to win a prize at the next AGM.

We encourage you to keep your membership current as members. If you are unsure of your current status, please do not hesitate to contact the membership office to check for an update.

Our challenge to the membership at this time is: "EVERY MEMBER SHOULD SIGN UP AT LEAST FIVE TO TEN NEW MEMBERS PER QUARTER".

Congratulations to the all our new members and their families who joined the Association within this period and hope you will take an active roll into the organization.

Jamaican Canadian Association

Presents

*Annual Children's
Christmas Party*

*Sunday, December 6, 2015
TIME 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM SHARP*

Deadline for registration November 30, 2015

At the Jamaican Canadian Association



JAMAICA CANADIAN ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

Ten Tips to Walking Good

1. **Set a target that your organization intends to raise and devise a strategy to reach it!!!**
2. Decide on how many walkers will help you reach that goal with each bringing in...x goal to hit the target.
3. Involve your board. Ask for a \$ commitment from **EACH board member**.
For example min could be \$250.00. **10 board members x \$250 = \$2,500**
Remember each member does not necessarily give this money. BUT each member commits to asking enough people to hit the target
4. Involve your memberships/constituency by getting **TEAM LEADERS** who will agree to raise a minimum of:.....
(**set a target for team leaders**). Eg \$250 or \$150 or \$500 whatever you feel comfortable in asking them to raise.
5. Ask your suppliers to donate and find a person who will walk on their behalf
6. Send emails letting people know what you are walking for and ask for their support.
Encourage all your participants to contact their individual networks as well as to the organizations networks
They can email you the money or you can direct them to the JCA website to make a donation to YOUR organization...
Select how many emails you will need to send in order to reach YOUR target
7. Put information about YOUR Walk Good campaign on YOUR website directing people to the JCA website to donate to YOUR organization (We at the J.C.A will keep track of all pledges received in this manner)
8. Have a contest in your organization to see who raises the most money
Find small prizes to give-a-way
-Gift cards; tickets to your events
9. Ask people **OUTSIDE** of our community!!! Your doctor; dentist; drycleaner
ASK!!
10. **HAVE FUN DOING THIS. THIS IS STRICTLY A NUMBERS EXERCISE**
 - a. **DECIDE ON YOUR GOAL**
 - b. **Decide ON YOUR NUMBERS**
 - c. **DO THE ASKS**
 - d. **COLLECT THE MONIES...**

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JCA

Christmas

Grand Market

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The Country Has Changed. We Must Continue to Change It

By Roy G Williams, BA, MA, MComm., PhD (Abt) - Thursday Nov 12th 2015

It is indeed a pleasure to see you here on this auspicious occasion to welcome and applaud two, I emphasize (2) black, equal gender members of parliament from the Greater Toronto Area. A 100% increase from the last time.

I will speak briefly on what Canada is now and what it was and what we, the Jamaican Canadian Association in Collaboration with other groups and individuals did to change it.

Racism: What does this mean? How does it manifest itself? Let's start with

Immigration Law and Policy—White people from England and Europe were admitted to Canada. People from the rest of the world were not. Barriers to entry included direct travel from country of origin to a Canadian port of entry. There were no Canadian embassies or consulates in these (so called 3rd world) countries. One could not gain access to documents much less get them processed. If you just happened to get to the port of entry as a visitor the immigration officer could summarily reject, detain and deport you. The JCA and the collective “we”, referred to above, pushed back vigorously (advocated) and gradually over time and in incremental steps the immigration laws and policies were changed to become the open door, non-racist immigration law and policy we have today.

Service in Commercial Establishments

Can you imagine walking into a restaurant, a hotel, a pub, a grocery store, a dry cleaning store and the proprietors refuse to serve you because your skin colour is not white? That was the case as late as the 1970's. The JCA and the other collective “We's” pushed back, and prohibitive legislation was put in place in Ontario outlawing the discriminatory practice.

Housing Accommodation

Imagine you have arrived and are seeking a place to live. You see a sign “Room for Rent”, “Flat for Rent”. You walk to the door. You ring the bell. The landlady appears looks at you and then slams the door in your face. Or another landlady says we don't rent to “niggers”. Or you see a “For Rent” sign in the window. This landlady tells you it's already rented. A week later the sign is still in the window.

The JCA and the collective “we” pushed back vigorously and a law prohibiting housing discrimination was passed in the Ontario Legislature.

Employment/Unemployment

You have arrived in the country because the new immigration policy selected only the brightest and best from these formerly excluded countries. You cannot get a job. You suspect it's your skin colour. They advertise but they reject you.

Roy Williams Cont'd

Some give no reason but you can tell by the look on their faces. One tells you you are overqualified for the position. Many tell you you have no "Canadian Experience." Only jobs available are for the porters on the trains and janitors; for the women, domestics and in the garment industry. Racism is rampant. The JCA and the collective "we" pushed back vigorously. We obtained legislation prohibiting employment discrimination.

Promotional Opportunities

You worked hard but you don't get promoted. All the non-whites are at the bottom rung of every organizational ladder. Employees less senior and less qualified, who are white get promoted. Some we helped to train. An employment ghetto is emerging. We visualized a rainbow spectrum throughout organizations. We fought for employment equity. We pushed back hard. We got legislation to outlaw ghettoizing within organizations.

Police Relations

To police every black man looked like every other black man. Thus they had the right to stop and question every black man walking or driving under the pretext that this one fits the description of a suspect they were seeking to apprehend. On the radio the race and colour was always mentioned and often they would claim that the suspect has a "Jamaican accent". We pushed back on this as well even though still today there are some remaining issues. You may have heard of "carding".

Education

In schools, children were misplaced, streamed into non-career, non-higher education and non-professional career directions. We had to push back here as well and we did. We now have better schools, better educational prospects and opportunities for our children. And we now have racialized Teachers, Principals and Administrators within the school systems.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

These were all populated by old white males. We pushed pack on this and we are getting some changes. ABC's are beginning to have a rainbow complexion.

Participation in Governance

The JCA has constantly and continuously advocated that every immigrant become a citizen as soon as he or she qualifies. Thus he or she becomes eligible to be active and fully participate in the governance of his or her new country. We are therefore thrilled and ecstatic that you two recently elected Members of Parliament have advanced the desire for the new Canada and can exhibit the reality of the new face of Canada. You will build on the efforts of those who preceded you in gaining or attempting to gain elective office.

The earliest of these was Bill Whyte. He was the first black man to seek election to Parliament in 1949. He lost. In 1959 Stanley Grizzle was the first black man to seek election to the Ontario Legislature. He lost as well. But things began to change and in 1963 Leonard Braithwaite, a Liberal, was the first black person elected to the Ontario Legislature where he served 12 years until 1975. In 1985 Dr., Hon. Alvin Curling was the second black person elected to the Ontario

Roy Williams Cont'd

Legislature and the first black person to serve in the Ontario Cabinet. He became Speaker of the House and he retired in 2005 after serving for 20 years. In 1990 Hon. Zanana Akande became the first black woman elected to the Ontario Legislature and the first black woman to be appointed to Cabinet in Canada. She served until 1994. Hon. Mary Ann Chambers, Ontario Legislature, 2003 to 2007, was a member of Cabinet. Margaret Best, Ontario Legislature, 2007 to 2013. Hon. Michael Coteau, Ontario Legislature, 2011 to present, is a member of Cabinet. Hon. Mitzie Hunter, Ontario Legislature, 2011 to present, is a member of Cabinet. Granville Anderson, MPP, Ontario Legislature, 2014, to present.

These all have served or are serving in provincial politics and in the Ontario Legislature. However, I cannot close this section without bringing to your remembrance the late Rosemary Brown, the indomitable Rosemary Brown. She was the first black woman ever elected anywhere in Canada. She served Vancouver-Burrard from 1972 to 1986 and she had the audacity to challenge Ed Broadbent for the national leadership of the NDP. That one she lost.

At the federal level the color bar was broken in 1968 by the venerable Hon. Lincoln Alexander, from Hamilton. The first black man elected to Parliament, the first appointed to Cabinet as Minister of Labour. He had a long and illustrious career as he served from 1968 to 1984. The dynamic Dr. Howard McCurdy, the second black man to be elected to Parliament represented Windsor constituencies from 1984 through to 1993.

Then in 1993 in from Grenada came the first black woman to be elected to Parliament, the first from the GTA and the first to be named to Cabinet as Minister of Multiculturalism. She served with distinction from 1993 to 2006 and was Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Jean Chretien. You would know her as Dr. the Hon. Jean Augustine. Also serving in Parliament from 1993 to 2004 was Ovid Jackson, from Guyana, representing Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound.

And so to Celia and Ahmed, whom I respectfully refer to as rookies. You have an illustrious tradition to follow. Others have pioneered and blazed a trail for you. They have broken barriers. The baton has now been passed to you. Run well with it. The work is not yet finished. Continue to move the ball closer and closer to the finish line. We have been doing and have done our part in transforming this country. Canada is now one of the best countries in the world to work, live, raise a family and to do business. Please maintain and make it even better. We are here to support you. You've got our backs. We've got your backs. But you must leave a legacy. Something that says we are all better because you were there.

My last advice to you. You are no longer the only black person in Parliament toiling in isolation. Take advantage of the numbers. A critical mass is developing. Dr Hedy Fry, Celia Caesar Chavannes, Ahmed Hussen, Emmanuel Dubourg, Greg Fergus. Create a Parliamentary Black Caucus to exert greater leverage as a group rather than as a lone voice, individually.

We want to hear from you, and often. As you launch out on this voyage we wish you God Speed, God Bless, Good Luck. ----Roy G Williams

Well done and well deserved. Congratulations Mr. Telfer!!

2015 BADGE OF HONOUR
FOR LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE (BH {L})



Award Recipient Mr. Alton Telfer ,co-founder of The Canadian Friends of St. Thomas Health Care Organization which, with its partners, provide vision care at Princess Margaret Hospital's eye clinic in Morant Bay, St. Thomas.

THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS 2015

Report from Saturday Morning Tutorial Program

The Saturday Morning Tutorial Program is on its way to another successful year. We have retained most of the volunteer tutors from previous years and have gained a couple more who are equally as dedicated and excited about the program; our students have received scholarships from the JCA membership and gifts from a community businesses.

Our student population of over 40 in number, is quite varied - they range in all the academic levels from grade one through to grade 12, some are from Jamaica or have Jamaican parents or grand-parents, some are from other Caribbean countries or have family heritage in those countries, and some have family heritage directly from countries in Africa. Some of the students are also returning to the program from previous years and we have recruited new ones.

This gain in numbers is due to the partnership we have established with officials and parent council members in the local schools in the catchment area of the JCA centre. We have had a meeting a school principal and student success councilor from the local schools, JCA executive members and CAFCAN CEO to discern the needs of our target population in the schools, to promote our program and present JCA's new organizational model. The president of the Parent Advisory Council of one of the schools, Ms. Sharon Grant, has also been jubilant in talking about SMTP to the school community and encouraging parents to bring their children to the program.

At the recent JCA Scholarship Awards presentation, three of our students were recipients of scholarships and bursaries, and other students were given the opportunity to attend the Gala by way of gifts of entrance tickets from community members. This had been a very enjoyable experience for them as, in addition to seeing the possibilities for furthering their education, they were able to dress up, dine in elegance, and dance. Thanks to the contributions from TD Bank – Rexdale Branch, 95 Cents Plus Discount Store, Mr. Roy Williams, Mr. Alton Brooks, Ms. Norma Clarke, Ms. Bernice Bailey, Mrs. Abena Ghassoub, Ms. Pam Powell, Ms. Ruby Collymore, Mr. Kenneth Anderson, Ms. Haslene Davis, Dr. Enid Collins.

This year one of our dreams has materialized. We believe that we should feed our children - both minds and bodies. While the tutors have always been working on motivating and encouraging the students to excel in their academics and their attitudes towards life in general, JCA's board members have been vigilant and successful in obtaining donors from the local community businesses to provide the program with healthy snacks for the students. Thanks to Mr. K Mangat of ReMax Realty, and Tessa White of Jerk Vibes Catering for their generosity

SMTP has started on a new project this year. Students will be working on Robotics through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program. Currently tutors are being trained in the process and will then present the program to interested students. We thank Mr. Donald Ogilvie of OPG, and Mr. Sean Brown for dedicating their time and energy to bring this program to us.

SMTP is off to a good start.

November 2015

**ADDRESS TO THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENCE GALA, Aug. 8, 2015. By ROYSON JAMES**

Good evening.

I have now lived in Toronto three times as long as in Jamaica, the land of my birth. And still, Jamaica has its hooks in me – especially on an August night like tonight.

I don't recall flirting with the bait, chomping on the hook/lure or ingesting the flesh-covered steel that has toyed with me since birth. Yet now, far from her shores she reels me in – tugging, guiding, letting me run, then jerking me into her embrace. Hook, line and sinker.

That's how I began an essay for a book celebrating Jamaica's 50th anniversary three years ago. Not much has changed. The more Canadian I become, the more Jamaica beckons.

Most of you here know what I'm talking about. It's the beautiful duality of our existence – product of an island nation that anchors its citizens to the idea of Jamaica and a Toronto, Canada that welcomes you, one step at a time.

We love 'em both. This Jamaica, this Canada.

Eternal Father, bless our land – land we love

Our Home and native land – land of wood and water

True North strong and free – keep us free from evil powers – Glorious and free

We stand on guard for thee

Justice, truth be ours forever – O Canada – Jamaica

Ja-na-da – Ca-maica Land we love.

From the day we arrived on these shores we've tried to improve what we found. The early students. The early professionals who somehow slipped through the net. The domestics grudgingly allowed in 1955 and after. The busted dam of the masses in the 1970s that changed the equation forever. We came. We endured. We stumbled. We survived. We thrived. We raised hell when reason and anger failed to stem the evil of bigotry. We populate. We aren't going anywhere. We are here to stay.

We all must deal with that.

And so I have a message for our adopted land and the people with sway and influence and power. I have a message for you, the people, my people, resplendent as you are in your black, green and gold. And a message for the JCA, the guardians of our collective presence here in Canada.

Toronto, Canada: What you see here tonight is who we are. This is the everyday, natural, reality of my Jamaicans in Toronto. We are your boss, your caregiver, cabinet minister, your surgeon, your police chief, your plumber, your university chancellor, your judge, your banker, your broker, your bus driver. We outnumber the criminals thousands to one.

Yet, it's so easy to forget us. We are not in the news. We don't shoot up, shoot out, gang bang, breed indiscriminately, suck the welfare system, take more than we give. We just build this city with verve and energy and force of will. And it's easy for you to forget about us because our contributions are not the subject of press reports.

The richest Jamaican among us, Michael Lee Chin, seethes when he talks about this. "Our contributions are not the headlines, so they are unsung. Our reputation has been ambushed. A few bad men have hijacked our reputation." On Nov. 4, 2012, I was fortunate to head an effort at the Toronto Star to present this counter-narrative. To celebrate Jamaica's 50th, the 8 staffers of Jamaican descent executed a project called Jamaicans Run Tings.

The premise? We could easily find 50 Jamaicans in Toronto, follow them for 24 hours, and show how much impact and influence they wield in making Toronto great. I could see the wheels turning in the editors' heads as I proposed the project. 50? How do we avoid repetition? Are they out there?

We, of course, know better. We live, sleep with, worship and play with thousands every day. So, consider this list:

Alvin Curling, Donovan Bailey. Dwight Drummond. Millionaire Ray Chang. Justice Michael Tulloch. Councillor Michael Thompson. Hamlin Grange. Joe Halstead. Julian Falconer. Denham Jolly. Pamela Appelt. Kardinal Offishall. Nene Kwasi Kafele. Mary Anne Chambers. Professor Carl James. Writes Olive Senior, Rachel Manley, Afua Cooper. Trevor Massey. Gail "Till Debt do us Part" Vaz-Oxlade. An impressive list. Guess what. Not one of these made our 50. The bench strength is that deep.

Go Online and call it up. Be blown away by the sheer brilliance and reach of Jamaicans here.

Patients at NY General do a double take when they realize the highly recommended surgeon Everton Gooden is a black guy. The guy running the water system in Durham and York is Cordell Samuels, a Yardie. In the middle of the largest corporate takeover in Canadian history is lawyer Cornell Wright. Can't have a baby? They go to Dr. Marjorie Dixon. The construction manager of the tallest condo building in the city is Julie Robinson, another Yardie.

Those are the ones who opened the windows on their lives to let the Star readers in. A whole other group wouldn't even be interviewed for the story. They just want to travel under the radar. We call them "Incognegroes."

We are not bad news. We are intricately intertwined with the infrastructure of the city. We are builders. We belong here. And any attempt to treat us as other than such – to dismiss us as criminals, to card us and harass us with street checks – is to be met with stiffened outrage.

The message is, please remember that the lack of positive exposure of the Howard Shearers and Justice Donald McLeod and dentist Ken Montague does not mean that the brilliant and gifted and productive Jamaican is the exception.

"We are the rule," says Justice McLeod. "We are the unwritten rule. Nobody hears about us because we are doing so good. Here we have a society of Jamaican-Canadians and the ones we focus on aren't the ones worth billions to our economy, but the ones shooting each other at the corner."

That's not just a message for the average Torontonians. It's a message for the majority of you here – the black middle class; the professionals who make this place tick; the ones who bear the brunt of the negative stereotypes of Jamaicans.

Don't take it lying down. Fight back. Know that the stereotype is a vicious lie perpetrated by people who never wanted us here in the first place and refuse to account for our contributions.

My mother came here in 1963 and worked as a domestic in Forest Hill. My father was an orderly at Sunnybrook. They got in only because of people like Stan Grizzle, Don Moore, Bromley Armstrong and Harry Gairey. We came later. Worked hard. Followed the rules. Got an education. Volunteer. Job. Mortgage. Taxes. Cheer on the hopeless Toronto Maple Leafs. Put up with the treacherous weather. For what?

So your son can walk down the street and have some punk cop stop him for no good reason other than he has the skin colour of a gang banger. C'mon. That's insulting. It is spitting on the legacy of your parents. It cannot be tolerated. You must not countenance it. You must fight the disrespect with every ounce of energy – whether it comes from the mayor you love or the police chief you dreamed for, or the leader of your political party, or your neighbor.

My message to the masses here is. Resist. Fight for justice. Speak up. To the pollsters. In letters to the editor. On talk radio. In the barbershop. In the public square. This is no time for incognegroes. We are at a critical time when human rights gains could be reversed. To sit and be quiet is to desecrate the promise of a True North Strong and Free.

There are two streams to this. Some of us are not versed with the issues and are often confused when leaders we respect spout something. The media is often in that group. Speaking as a reporter on the carding issue – if it weren't for key community teachers – those who knew the issue, could outline the pitfalls, and expose the strategies of the mayor, the police brass and their acolytes, I could easily have been swayed.

I implore you – as you make money, as you pursue your education, as you work 2 or 3 jobs, as you struggle valiantly to make ends meet, take time to listen to the teachers. Or community leaders who have proven themselves as guardians of our heritage and our future.

Many of you are in big jobs. You are at the table. You have worked hard and have a lot at stake. The temptation is to turn the door on your community, act as if you are not cut from the same cloth, then forget their struggles; and dismiss them as weak and unworthy of advocacy.

Your community needs you.

Everyone needs an anchor, roots, tributaries that lead to some headwater far away that may need some mapping. The community needs your voice wherever you are.

Chief of police. Your community needs you.

Cabinet minister. Your community needs you.

Banker, political strategist, city planner, social scientist, university professor, TTC manager – your community needs you.

Finally, the JCA.

You are blessed and highly favoured.

You are the strongest, largest, most established institution in our community. With such privilege comes great responsibility.

Two things I ask of you.

ONE. Incapable as we are of quickly stemming the virus that infects some of our youth, considering the dysfunction of their lives and station, the JCA may want to channel and focus a campaign of Jamaican Goodness to counter the debilitating effect of Jamaican badness. The former outnumbers the latter thousands to 1. It may be time to showcase it. Deliberately.

A few years back, I deliberately started playing up my Jamaican roots. It was a counter to the narrative of the bad Jamaican. This mission of the JCA is not hard. All the goodness is all around us. Jamaican goodness. We just need to package it as such. Promote it. Brand it. So Toronto sees us for what we really are – a boon to the city.

Secondly. Lead the rest of the black population.

To remain in our Jamaican enclave is to limit our potential. What if on our 50th Anniversary the JCA had launched an initiative to bring together all the people of Caribbean and African descent. What if we had challenged all the other islands and continental African nations to join and expand the effort as they celebrated their 50th, imagine what we might have started.

I love Jamaica and me naw sell out. But at the end of the day, my brother may have been sold into Barbados or Haiti or Martinique or Brazil. Our strength as an island nation – especially here in Toronto – will be so more effective and powerful if we lead an initiative that brings us together as peoples of the African diaspora.

God keep our land, glorious and free.

Jamaica, Janada. Camaica land we love.

JCA Annual Charity Golf Classic Aug 15th 2015



2015 Women's Committee Activities



JCA Flag Raising Aug 2nd 2015



JCA INDEPENDENCE GALA Aug 8th 2015



JCA INDEPENDENCE GALA Aug 8th 2015



JCA Seniors Brunch Sept 13th 2015



JCA Seniors Brunch Sept 13th 2015



JCA Seniors Brunch Sept 13th 2015



Photo Logistics Photography



Photo Logistics Photography

JCA Seniors Brunch Sept 13th 2015



SPECIAL THANKS TO :

PHOTO LOGISTICS PHOTOGRAPHY

BEVAN MCLEOD

tel: 416-880-4962

email: bevanmcleod1@gmail.com



JCA Seniors Brunch Sept 13th 2015



JCA Scholarship Awards Sept. 19th 2015



JCA Scholarship Awards Sept. 19th 2015



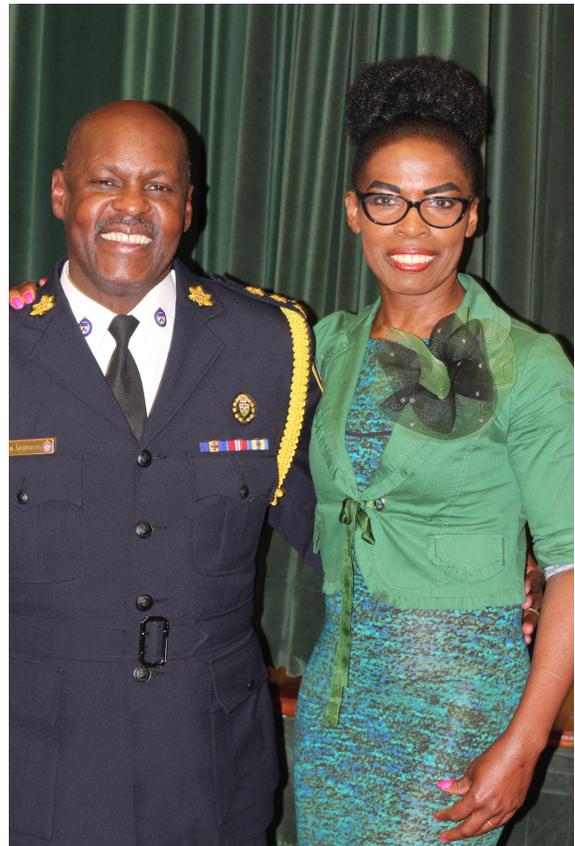
JCA Scholarship Awards Sept. 19th 2015



Chief Saunders Reception Sept 23rd 2015



Chief Saunders Reception Sept 23rd 2015



Dominica Relief Rally - Let's get together for Dominica Sept 25th 2015



Let's get together for Dominica: A Diaspora Relief Concert

JOIN US

Live auction, high-valued raffle prizes
Entertainment by a variety of Caribbean artists.

All proceeds in aid of Dominica Tropical Storm Erika relief efforts.

Friday September 25, 2015
Jamaican Canadian Association
995 Arrow Road (Finch West of 400)
6:00pm Reception and Cocktails
7:00pm Showtime

Ticket Price: \$25

Tickets on-line:

[facebook.com/ togetherfordominica](https://www.facebook.com/togetherfordominica)

or call:

Frances 647.515.6649
Hetty 647.702.6831
Zisker 416.447.5886
VJ Graphics 416.587.2979
Caryl's HairDressing 416.293.9365
Darnelle 416.452.4891



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Cultural dances were also featured at the event. Photo by Robert Larocque

Dominica Relief Rally - Let's get together for Dominica Sept 25th 2015



Resolution of the Jamaican-Canadian Association
Assembled on May 31, 2015

That Protests the Toronto Police Service of Carding, Racial Profiling and Anti-Black Racism

Whereas: The members of the Jamaican-Canadian Association absolutely abhors the practice of the Toronto Police Service where its members arbitrarily stop, question, record and store individual's personal information in the police data bank for an indeterminate period of time;

and, Whereas: The most persons so stopped have not committed a crime nor are they about to commit a crime, are not under arrest nor are they being investigated in relation to a specific crime;

and, Whereas: The police do not tell them why they have been stopped nor their right to walk away as provided under the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, are not provided with a record of the interaction unless they ask, at which time only a business card with the officer's name and number is provided;

and Whereas: The above practice is referred to as "carding,"

and, Whereas: The *Toronto Star* research reports the incidence of "carding" of black and brown teens and adult men is disproportionately high in relation to their population or in relation to other population segments;

and Whereas: This has led to the Toronto Police Service being perceived as engaging in racial profiling and overt anti-black racism;

and Whereas: The members of the Jamaican-Canadian Association sees "carding" as counter-productive as it fosters negative attitudes and distrust of the police when what the police and the community wants is exactly the opposite.

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Jamaican Canadian Association hereby register their unqualified opposition to the practice of "carding", racial profiling and racism in all its forms by the Toronto Police and demands that the practice be discontinued forthwith;

Be it further resolved that this resolution be delivered or otherwise communicated to each of the following persons, the media and others that are not specifically mentioned:

- 1—Ms. Kathleen Wynn M.P.P, Premier of Ontario
- 2—Mr. John Tory, Mayor of the City of Toronto
- 3—The Toronto Police Services Board and its Chairman, Dr. Alok Mukherjee
- 4—Mr. Mark Saunders, Chief, Toronto Police Services
- 5—Ms. Andrea Horwath M.P.P, Leader of the Opposition, Ontario
- 6—Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P.P., deputy leader, N.D.P.

and, Be it further resolved that the Jamaican Canadian Association will publicly advocate for change and will support and cooperate with such other groups, individuals and institutions in the struggle to abolish this horrible practice.

Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) News Release

Address: 995 Arrow Rd, North York, ON M9M 2Z5

Phone:(416) 746-5772 info@jcaontario.org

Stop Carding Now

Toronto, ON - June 2015

A growing group of prominent citizens are speaking out against the police practice of carding.

The JCA believes the practice of Police Carding violates the human rights of citizens and it goes against the principles of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Residents are offended by the notion of police being able to casually and routinely stop law abiding citizens, outside of police investigations of actual criminal acts that have occurred, to question and record, and then store personal data in police files. The JCA is deeply distressed that Toronto residents of colour are subjected to this invasion of their privacy when the overwhelming majority of other citizens are not.

This disposition is not intended to interfere with the common police practice of conducting criminal investigations in order to apprehend criminals in the interest of public safety. Rather, it seeks to correct an injustice that harms police/community relations, and damages the reputation of our police service and the city it serves.

Torontonians need to oppose carding vehemently due to its debilitating impact on our neighbours and it sends a message of hopelessness to young people of color. The JCA cannot and will not accept this for any group or community in our city.

We cannot allow an environment of anger and distrust of our police to exist and fester in our city, particularly among the African Canadian and other racial minority communities. We also do not need a new generation of Torontonians growing up to believe our police are their adversaries.

If this demeaning practice of selected carding is not terminated quickly, it will irreversibly divide and separate our various communities and cultures. Toronto must be a city where every citizen is treated equally and justly.

We urge Mayor John Tory, Alok Mukherjee, Chair of the Police Services Board and Mark Saunders, Chief of Police to immediately cease the practice of carding. And we call on all citizens of this city to step forward and make known their distaste of this practice on law abiding citizens.

We cannot sit back and allow this to undermine everything we teach our children about Canada being a fair and equal society.

We are committed to a Toronto that is inclusive, diverse, welcoming, and respectful, and carding does not fit that vision.

Stop carding now

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Annual Flag Raising Ceremony

Toronto, ON – August 2nd, 2015

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) held its annual Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday, August 2nd 2015. The Hon. Mitzie Hunter, MPP Scarborough-Guildwood, Mr. Haynesley Benn, Consul General of Barbados and Aliecia Taylor, Consul of Jamaica joined the crowd of Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica in the festivities. Consul General Benn commented on Jamaica's strength and all it has given to the world. The Universal Soldier's of Faith opened the event with a ceremonial march and the children from Allman Town Primary School visiting from Jamaica participated in the program. JCA's President, Barry Coke, stated "The JCA takes pride in upholding the traditions that are the milestone in Jamaica's history". The Flag Raising is the lead off to JCA's Independence Celebration. It will culminate with the JCA's Annual Independence Gala on Saturday, August 8th at the Jamaican Canadian Centre at 995 Arrow Road. The keynote speaker will be Toronto Star columnist, Royson James. Arnold August, Share Publisher and Winston Larose , Jane Finch Concerned Citizens are among the people who will be honored for their community service. Attendees will be entertained by DJ Rosa and cultural dancers. Tickets are available at the JCA by calling (416) 746-5772 .





A Membership / Social Service Agency serving the Black and Caribbean Community; providing Cultural Integration & Settlement to New Immigrants, Advocacy, Crisis Intervention, Youth and Family Services, Counselling to Women who are Survivors of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault and Employment Preparation for Experienced Workers

NEWS RELEASE

THE JCA'S 53rd INDEPENDENCE GALA WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

For Immediate Release



Premier Wynne and MPP Anderson poses with JCA Board at 53rd Independence Gala

Toronto, Ontario, August 8, 2015 - On Saturday, August 8th, the Jamaican Canadian Association celebrated Jamaica's 53rd year of independence at its Annual Independence Gala. The JCA had the pleasure of having in attendance and the support of the Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Judy Sgro, MP York West, Hon Granville Anderson, MPP (Durham), Lloyd Wilks, Consul General of Jamaica at Toronto, and Mark Saunders, Chief of Toronto Police Service.

The evening's keynote speaker was Toronto Star columnist, Royson James. He implored all in attendance to become fully integrated into and make Canada our home. He asserted that Jamaicans have made tremendous contributions within the Canadian borders; and, as such, should be viewed positively.

Arnold Auguste, Share Publisher, and Winston LaRose, of Jane Finch Concerned Citizens, were honored for their community service.

Fitzroy Gordon, of G98.7FM, received a Special Recognition Award. In his acceptance speech, he appealed for everyone to embrace his radio station as it belongs to the people.

Barry Coke, JCA President, stated that "It was a fabulous event, the quality was superb and all the special guests were excellent in their delivery of great positive messages. We thank everyone who attended, and supported, the event".

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For more details please contact the Jamaican Canadian Association
Phone: (416) 746-5772 Email: info@jcaontario.org www.jcaontario.org



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE JCA'S Annual Seniors Luncheon had a great turnout!



Ms. Charmaine Sewell (left) and Ms. Tanya Chin (right) pose with Best Hat Competition winner Raphaelita Walker.

Toronto, Ontario, Sept 13th, 2015 - On Sunday September 13th, the Jamaican Canadian Association celebrated their Annual Seniors Appreciation Luncheon. The JCA had the pleasure of having in attendance the support of the Hon. Judy Sgro, MP York West, the Hon Mario Sergio, MPP York West and the Jamaican Canadian Association VP Maureen Ennis.

The evening's keynote speaker was Elizabeth McNabb. She talked about the importance of the JCA, its rich heritage and that we need to keep working to uplift the organization. The evening was hosted by Ms. Charmaine Sewell and a terrific welcome was provided by the JCA VP Maureen Ennis. The JCA stands with its Seniors and appreciates them very much for all they do.

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For more details please contact the Jamaican Canadian Association
Phone: (416) 746-5772 Email: info@jcaontario.org www.jcaontario.org

995 Arrow Road, Toronto, Ontario M9M 2Z5 Ph: 416-746-5772 Fax: 416-746-7035
web Site: www.jcaontario.org E-mail: info@jcaontario.org
Charitable Reg. # 890534068RR000J



A Membership / Social Service Agency serving the Black and Caribbean Community; providing Cultural Integration & Settlement to New Immigrants, Advocacy, Crisis Intervention, Youth and Family Services, Counselling to Women who are Survivors of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault and Employment Preparation for Experienced Workers

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Recipients unveiled at the 2015 JCA Scholarship Awards



Mr. Kyle Denzil Rose giving Keynote speech at the JCA Scholarships Awards

Toronto, Ontario, Sept 19th, 2015 - On Saturday September 19th, the Jamaican Canadian Association honored student winners at the 13th Annual JCA Scholarship Awards. The Awards were announced and presented by Ms. Marcia Brown & Dr. Vincent Conville. The Donors of the awards were just as enthused to give back as the awardees were to have received a push forward.

The evening's keynote speaker was Kyle Denzil Rose. He stressed the word Passion on many occasions, reinforcing that having passion can be the driving force to getting over any hurdle. Pursue your passion, stand firm and obstacles are only opportunities to help you to grow to reach the stars. The JCA President Mr. Barry Coke says congrats to all the recipients and extends a sincere appreciation to all the donors who are investing in our youth.

The JCA had the pleasure of having in attendance the support of the Hon. Judy Sgro, MP York West, the Hon Lloyd Wilks, Consul General Jamaica (Toronto) and Chief of York Region Police Eric Joliffe.

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For more details please contact the Jamaican Canadian Association
Phone: (416) 746-5772 Email: info@jcaontario.org www.jcaontario.org

995 Arrow Road, Toronto, Ontario M9M 2Z5 Ph: 416-746-5772 Fax: 416-746-7035
web Site: www.jcaontario.org E-mail: info@jcaontario.org
Charitable Reg. # 89053106BR00CJ



Police Chief Mark Saunders with Vivienne Dickson from ASUPREME FOUNDATION

Toronto, Ontario, Sept 25th, 2015 –A wonderful Community Reception for City of Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders was held on September 23rd, 2015. Chief Saunders took in the festivities in his honour and did not shy away from promising to do his very best for the community in this new role, including implementing recommendations and changing how policing is done. The issue of Carding is still a hot topic and per JCA president Barry Coke "It's important our community understands we have to work together and build bridges". The event was a collaboration between the Jamaican Canadian Association, the Black Business and Professional Association, A SUPREME FOUNDATION and the Ontario Black History Society. Dignitaries included the Hon. John Tory, Toronto Mayor, the Hon. Judy Sgro, MP York West, and the Hon. Lloyd Wilks, Jamaica Consul General to Toronto.

THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
995 ARROW RD, NORTH YORK, ON M9M 2Z5

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For more details please contact the Jamaican Canadian Association
 Phone: (416) 746-5772 Email: info@jcaontario.org web: www.jcaontario.org

Let's get together for Dominica: A Diaspora Relief Concert Sept 25th ,2015

TORONTO, ON. Artistes from Across the Caribbean united in an exhilarating fundraising event for Dominica, hosted by the Jamaican Canadian Association last week.

A jam-packed house, into the early hours of morning, made up of people from across the Caribbean islands, watched artists from across the Caribbean, deliver rousing and highly entertaining performances of a wide range of musical styles and genres, all in support of relief for the people of Dominica, following the devastation brought on by Tropical Storm Erica. The event was hosted at the Arrow Road headquarters of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA), which sponsored the event in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Dominica, Ontario Association (CDOA).

The event titled, Let's get together for Dominica: A Diaspora Relief Concert, reflected a ground-breaking level of collaboration and unity among people of the Caribbean diasporas in Toronto, and demonstrated the immense support and concern for the plight of the people of Dominica. The island of Dominica, formally known as the Commonwealth of Dominica and the 'Nature Island of the Caribbean, is a lush tropical island used to substantial rainfall of about 5,000 mm (or an average of 14 mm/day) in the wettest interior areas. In the early morning of August 27, Tropical Storm Erika unleashed 322mm of rain in a 12-hour period, across the island, which caused an unprecedented level of destruction in Dominica.

The event, included grand prize draws, a live auction, silent auction, food, drink music, and more music got off to a roaring start and never slowed down.

A diverse range of musicians from across the Caribbean, which included gospel, reggae, cadence, calypso, R&B and comedy artists, kept the audience riveted and entertained throughout.

Artistes included Macoumere Fifi, The Juiceman Dick Lochan, Jimmy Reid, Hermina John, King cosmos, Dance Caribe, Letna Allen-Rowe, Moses Revolutions, Structure, Dino and the CDOA Cultural dancers among many more. Many Caribbean dignitaries and members of the Caricom Consular Corps in Toronto were present to extend their organizations' and governments' support. Three properties in Dominica namely Rosalie Bay Resort, Picard Estates and Pagua Bay, Caribbean Airlines, Businesses serving the Caribbean, and people of the Caribbean in Toronto, donated prizes.

The CDOA has a planned schedule of activities that include the following:

- Accepting donation via The Commonwealth of Dominica, Ontario Association Emergency Fund (CDOEF) at: The Bank of Montreal, Transit # 2924 Account #8330-256;
- Crowdfunding via a GoFundMe site (T.S. Erika Relief for Dominica) at: <http://gofundme.com/DA-ErikaReliefFund>
- Independence Day Masquerade Ball on October 31, 2015
- A Dominica Tropical Christmas on December 6, 2015

Dominica's Trade and Investment Commissioner for Canada, Ms. Frances Delsol has also been assigned to the role of Tropical Storm Erika Relief Co-ordinator in Canada, and is working with the Commonwealth of Dominica, Ontario Association (CDOA), and other groups to coordinate Tropical Storm Erika Relief efforts.

You may reach Ms. Delsol at 647-515-6649 or 905-433-0916.

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The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is to deliver programs and services, provides a physical hub, and to advocate to improve the well-being and equity of Jamaican, Caribbean & African-Canadian communities within the Greater Toronto Area.

On December 2, 2015 the JCA held a rally for Ms. Opal Austin to show her community support as well as to raise funds to support her and her family through this difficult time.

Due to overwhelming requests from people who wanted to contribute, but were not able to that evening, we have set up a crowd-funding campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/Rally4Opal>.

Please give generously and share this link with others in your network. All proceeds from this campaign will go to Ms. Austin and her family.

BACKGROUND

Opal sent her children to Canada for a better life with their father and step mother, never once imagining that she would never see them again. She took that leap of faith, because with 7 children to raise in a one bedroom shack galvanized by a zinc roof, her options were limited.

As Toronto Star columnist Royson James wrote in his article "Mother mourns her daughter's ghastly death"

(http://www.thestar.com/news/crime/2012/04/01/mother_mourns_her_daughters_ghastly_death.html):

"Dirt-poor and desperate, all Opal Austin needed was a little help..."

...Who could have imagined that Canadian authorities would soon be telling Austin, 57, that her son had jumped off a Parkdale apartment balcony at age 15; and that her daughter, Melonie, was soon to become the victim in a 1994 "suitcase murder" that police only now solved."

Opal continues to need assistance to support herself and her family. Since the father of her children and his wife were charged with murder, she has not been able to work and has been plagued with a variety of stress and anxiety induced health challenges.

The funds raised in this campaign will assist Opal in getting the medical care she needs as well as helping her to take care of her family. No donation is too small and all are appreciated.

Help Support Opal by visiting and donating at this link : <https://www.gofundme.com/Rally4Opal>

Meet The Board 2015 - 2016 Board of Directors

Barry Coke - President

Maureen Ennis - Vice President

Audrey Campbell - Immediate Past President

Tanya Chin - Secretary

Roy Williams - Treasurer

Cheryl-Ann Ewan - Director of Fundraising

Alton Brooks - Director of Communication

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