

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings to members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto, other nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and friends of the Association.

I accept the challenge and honour of being given the privilege of leading the Association again, the third time since being first elected in 2003 and I'm grateful for the confidence placed in me. It is my hope to build on the foundation that was laid by previous leaders. A group of individuals have volunteered to serve on the board of directors with me in 2017 and I have confidence that together we will build a strong team to move the Association forward.

Times have changed and I am aware that the circumstances are different now in this constantly changing world. Organizations like ours do not have the same attraction as when they were formed 30 or 40 years ago. The youngsters whom we hope will take charge of our organizations are for the most part born here and have a different sense of belonging than those of us who were born elsewhere.

As immigrants, we were happy to get together with others from "home" to support each other in one way or the other. As we get older we are losing most of the interest in organizations and we find it difficult to attract persons to lead and since the younger ones do not have that sense of belonging, organizations like the SVGAT may one day be something of the past.

Among the things organizations like ours were formed for, was to raise funds to support projects and our folks back home. While we continue to do a lot of that the changing economic climate affects our ability and desire to do as much as we did before. For the time being, as we continue to support our homeland through being involved and organized I appeal to you all to help the Association to continue with its aims and objectives of encouraging a high level of volunteerism through recruitment, training and effective utilization of skills and to organize and promote events to enrich the lives of our children, youths, adults and seniors in order to strengthen their relationship and transfer information and experience among them.

As we continue to host some of our regular activities and look for new interests our team will be depending on your support. Please visit our website, [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com) to see the activities we are involved in and how you can support them. Together, we can make a big difference. Volunteer to assist on one of the committees or make a contribution to the causes we support.

I am confident that we can count and lean on you.

Gideon L. Exeter