

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Association of Toronto Incorporated Quarterly Newsletter

April 2004

From The President's Desk

Fellow Vincentians and friends, greetings on all points of the Sacred Triangle. It is with much gratitude that I take this opportunity to extend greeting to you in our first publication in my new term. Also, to say how grateful I am for the support shown towards me and your unselfish service to the Association.

This service has prepared us for greater work in the years to come. For me, it is not only an honour but a privilege to be placed among such a group of sincere and dedicated workers and I thank God for this humble experience to lead such a group. Since past achievements cannot be repeated, we must now look for greater challenges in all our endeavours in the months ahead.

This year promises to be a tremendous opportunity for great advancement, therefore, as we rededicate ourselves in the weeks and months to come, may we all find the love, the insight and inspirations that God has in abundance.

I embrace the responsibilities of my office with a sense of urgency knowing that the Executive under my leadership would strive to guide the Association to achieve its full potentials. However, the strength of the Executive and its effectiveness is in the cooperation received from each member. This would involve a shared responsibility among officers and members and only then will we be able together to realize the accomplishments that joined forces can.

There are many opportunities for us to work together as an organisation, as well as in our daily lives. However, for us to work together we must share the same objectives and purpose. To this end, I ask that when you pray please include St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto in your prayers.

As we embrace the glorious season of spring, I share my heartfelt love and joy for the advancement of our organisation. Let us be determined to work for our organisation with zeal, dedication, humility and love for the good of all humanity in the Greater Toronto Area.

With all Peace Profound,

Mr. Kenneth Farrell, President

From the Membership & Publicity Committee

Greetings to our membership, other readers and supporters of the Association. This new committee is grateful for the work done in the past by former members of the committee. We are committed to strive to at least maintain the high standard that was achieved in producing our newsletter, *Insight* and our website, "vincytoronto.com". We trust that with your help we can continue to present them in a manner you would be pleased to associate yourself with.

We reprint the article on Immigration as a courtesy to those who may have missed it from our January issue.

We recognize that our membership has become accustomed to the timely production and regular updating of these two means of communication with you. Please assist us by providing any articles or material you would like to share with our readers and comments on how we could improve on both the newsletter and website. We request that those of you who have email addresses to provide them to us so as to help us reduce the costs associated with the mailing of hard copies to you. Further, please help us to keep the mailing list to update by forwarding corrections to your contact information if and when they change.

The Membership & Publicity Committee currently consists of Ken DeLecia – Public Relations Officer, Jimmy Lewis and Gideon Exeter. Please contact any of us if you will like to assist on this committee.



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Our sincere thanks to those companies that have provided assistance to this publication by advertising with us again. Please support them.

To place your Ad, please email us at svgatoronto@vincytoronto.com, or contact any member of the Executive.

Meetings and Contacting Us

The Association meets on the last Sunday of each month at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele & Sheppard area) North York from 4:00 p.m. Business meetings are held in January, April, July and October. The other Sundays are used for educational discussions and social events. One can get in touch with the Executive either by writing to P.O. Box 392, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2L8, e-mail at sygatoronto@vincytoronto.com, or phone at (416) 763-9889.

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Peter Haywood, Proprietor

Make a contribution to the Association

You can now donate to any of the following, the Relief Fund, the Scholarship Fund, the Children's Christmas Party, the Christmas Hamper to Families In Need and/or to General Operating Funds.

SVGAT Elects New Executive for 2004

The Association held its Annual General Meeting on January 25th. At that well attended General Meeting were Mr. Bernard John, Consul General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Mr. Clem Ballah, Consul with responsibilities for Economic Affairs. Both Mr. John and

Mr. Ballah addressed the meeting to update the membership with activities concerning the Consulate and its operations here in Toronto.

Those present reviewed the activities of the Association for the previous year and held election for officers for the new term.

Mr. John acted as the returning officer during the elections. Outgoing president, Gideon Exeter decided against running for a second term due to personal reasons. Four of the positions were filled at this meeting in Mr. Ken Farrell as President; Ms Elma Gabriel as Vice President; Wendell Cole as Treasurer; and Ken DeLecia as Public Relations Officer. The election of the remaining members to comprise the executive was done at the following meeting on February 29. During that meeting Vice President Elma Gabriel resigned and in her stead Ms Sonia Sutton was elected. Also elected were Ms Marcia Farrell as Executive Secretary, Cordel Telfer as General Secretary and June Ellis as Assistant Treasurer. Jimmy Lewis was named as a Nominated Member to represent the Cricket Team on the Executive.

The full Executive reads as follows:-

President:Kenneth FarrellVice President:Sonia SuttonGeneral Secretary:Cordel TelferExecutive Secretary:Marcia FarrellTreasurer:Wendell ColeAssistant Treasurer:June Ellis

Public Relations Officer:Kenneth DeLeciaImmediate Past President:Gideon ExeterNominated Member:Jimmy Lewis

It is expected that a few more persons will be named as Nominated Members to represent the interest of several committees. If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees please contact any member of the executive.

The committees are Education & Culture; Sports & Recreation; Finance; Fund Raising & Entertainment; Seniors Enrichment; Relief; Public Relations; and Youth.

Children's Christmas Party & Youth Recognition

The Association held its annual Children's Christmas Party on December 14. Over 50 children attended and were entertained by clowns and members of the organizing committee. Thanks to Western Union, our Cricket Team and other members of our community who contributed to the food and gifts. During the evening, ____ of our young graduates were recognized for completing high school, college and university. Please visit our website to view some of the pictures.

Walk-a-thon Proceeds

Each year the Relief Committee organizes a walk-a-thon to raise funds to assist a cause either locally or in our homeland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Through the generosity of some sponsors and contributions from members of our community (some came as late as early March 2004) \$1,000.00 was raised. The Bequia Mission, an organization made up of Canadians who for many years have been holidaying in Bequia annually and saw the need to provide assistance to Bequia has agreed to match the amount raised and donate it to The House of Hope, an organization in St. Vincent which caters to the needs of those affected by the HIV/AIDS.

This money was handed over to The House of Hope by members of the Mission during a recent trip (in March) of a small group from the organization to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this cause. The Executive of the Association and members of the Relief Committee are happy to receive the assistance of the Bequia Mission and we look forward to working with the Mission on others projects to aid our homeland. We expect to host the Mission at one of our monthly meetings where they will have a presentation of their work in Bequia.

The text of a letter sent to donors to the walk-a-thon from The Bequia Mission is herewith reproduced:

March 10, 2004

Dear Friends of the Mission,

Many thanks for your contribution via the annual walkathon. A receipt is enclosed for income tax purposes. This money has all been directed to the work of the House of Hope Society in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition to the money raised by your group, the Bequia Mission has donated a further \$1,000 to the House of Hope.

Gerry Bird of Lakefield College School is leading a group of students on a trip to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and they leave today. While there they will present the cheques to the House of Hope Society.

You may be interested to know that the Bequia Mission has a local committee of interested people in Bequia. They assist us in identifying and meeting needs on the island. Among the activities supported: students have been assisted, and emergency medical needs met as well as a lunch program for seniors provided.

Again, thanks for your support.

Yours truly, George Irwin, Treasurer for the Bequia Mission

REPORT FROM OUR CRICKET TEAM

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association Cricket Team held its election for members of its management committee for 2004. The committee consists of:

Manager - Malcolm Garraway
Treasurer - Carlos Smith
Captain - Brensley Dickson
1st Vice Captain - Phillip Pompey
2nd Vice Captain - Titus Joseph

Mr. Jimmy Lewis is the liaison between the committee and the executive of the Association and therefore represents the Cricket Team on the Executive of the Association.

The cricket season begins in May and the home ground is at the Eaton's Complex at Arrow Road and Sheppard Avenue.

The team holds its next general meeting at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court on Sunday, April 4 from 4:00 p.m. Please come out, join the team and participate in which ever way you can.

The team is looking to recruit new members for the current season. If you are interested, please contact any of the above persons or call Malcolm at 416-755-4406.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION CRICKET TEAM

invites you to its

ANNUAL EASTER DANCE

Saturday, April 10, 2004 from 10:00 p.m.

C.A.W. Union Hall 30 Tangiers Road (Keele & Finch)

Admission: \$10.00

Please contact any member of the team for tickets

FEATURED ARTICLE

Alston Becket Cyrus

Legendary calypsonian/composer, Alston Becket Cyrus, has fostered an illustrious 27-year career with nineteen albums and numerous award-winning singles to his credit. Through his achievements and distinguished musicianship Becket has earned his title as the 'ABC' of Calypso/Soca.

Born in Layou, St. Vincent, Becket's first love was the steel pan. As a teenager he realized that he also had a gift for singing and he quickly became popular as a young calypsonian. In 1972, while a member of the US Army, Becket decided that he wanted to pursue a singing career and as a result he performed in the successful US Soldier's Tour-Hawaii 1972 - 1974. His professional career began in 1975.

In 1977, Becket struck gold with his popular hit Coming High and followed with equally successful singles like Calypso Noel (1982) Ooh La La (1983), Teaser (1990) and Small Pin (1999). In 1991, he received the Record of the Year and Best Party Tune awards at the first ever Caribbean Music Awards held at the Apollo Theatre (NYC). He was honored three times by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and earned an award from the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Houston for Teaser. In 1994, Ella Me Vacila (the Spanish version of Teaser) earned him a BMI Latin Award and a Billboard/Univision Award for the Salsa/Tropical Song of the Year. Cover versions of this song have been done in several other languages. During Trinidad's Carnival 2000, smash hits Small Pin and Doh Eat and Lie Down swept the Caribbean airwaves by storm. In addition to party tunes Becket creatively penned several songs related to world events. Caribbean politics and carnival such as *Love* is the Answer (remade in 2001 featuring post 911 lyrics), Carnival History (earning him the Calypso King of St. Vincent 1975) Legalize The Grass, Human Rights, I Am An African, Hezekiah, Mama, Oppression, Cardo, Marie-Anne, I Cry, Gal Ah Rush Me, Say No To Drugs and Laramania

As a veteran calypsonian Becket has performed throughout the Caribbean, Europe, Canada, Spain, England, Columbia and the United States to include various college tours/festivals. In 2000 Becket made history becoming the first Caribbean artist invited to perform at the US Open and was listed as one of the 17 Outstanding Caribbean Personalities of the 20th Century. In addition, Becket has shared the stage with legends like the late Lord Kitchener, the Mighty Sparrow (Calypso King of the World), Singing Sandra, Lord Shorty, Black Stalin, Shadow, Lord Nelson (Trinidad), King Short Shirt, Burning Flames, Swallow (Antigua), Arrow (Montserrat), Gabby (Barbados), Lovindeer, Freddie McGregor, Fabulous Five, Pluto, Burning Spear, Eric Donaldson, Eddie Lovette, Third World, Inner Circle (Jamaica) and numerous R&B groups.

This prolific composer and highly revered Caribbean music icon continues to be a source of inspiration for generations to come. His style, grace and versatility leave you with an insatiable desire for more of his hypnotic melodies reflecting the musicianship of a master. Currently his new CD *Love Is The Answer* includes a mixture of strong lyrics and uplifting Caribbean rhythms.

(Article with the courtesy of WEFM, St. Vincent – www.999wefm.com. THIS RADIO STATION IS NOW AVAILABLE LIVE ON THE INTERNET).



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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY DINNER Sunday, May 9, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Disciples Banquet Hall
30 Gordon MacKay Road, North York
(Jane & Fallstaff Road)

Admission: \$15:00 Children under 5 years - FREE

For more information and tickets, please contact: Gracelyn - 905.417.9625 Gideon - 905.831.1814 Cordel - 416.630.4965 Ken - 416.762.3283

COMMUNITY NEWS

Help a child in your homeland to a brighter future.

An old saying reminds us that children are the future of every country. Each of us can help to build the future of St. Vincent and the Grenadines by helping the children. As little as Cdn\$1.00/day per month will give at least EC\$50.00 per month. This small amount can help to keep a young child in school and contribute to his or her development in the community. If you are interested in learning how you can go about sponsoring a child in St. Vincent, how to get such a child and how to ensure that your sponsor money is used for the development of that child, please enquire in confidence by writing to the Association either through regular mail or e-mail. You can also contact any member of the Executive.

HIGH COMMISSION FOR ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

130 Albert Street, Suite 700 Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4

Tel: (613) 236-8952 Fax: (613) 236-3042

High Commissioner: Her Excellency Ms. Lorraine Williams

Want to get news and views on SVG matters on the web?

Here are some links and sites to view: -

 www.nbcsvg.com
 www.vincy.com

 www.svgtourism.com
 www.cananews.com

 www.scubasvg.com
 www.svgbc.com

 www.windiescricket.com
 www.svgottawa.com

 www.embsvg.com
 www.visitsvg.com

www.svg.8m.net www.freenet.hamilton.on.ca

www.tonyoldies.homestead.com

www.vincytoronto.com www.caribbeannetnews.com www.crc.vc www.svgconsulate.org

www.999wefm.com

THE ONTARIO HEALTH CARD

The original red and white OHIP card is being gradually replaced by a new green card with a picture of the insured as well as his/her address. If you are in possession of either card it is still valid. For the interest of members of our community we provide the following information taken from the website of the Ministry of Health.

Who is eligible for Ontario Health Insurance?

You must have Ontario health insurance to use Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funded health care services. You are eligible for the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) if you are included under one of the following categories:

- o you are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or landed immigrant, convention refugee, or are registered as an Indian under the Indian Act
- you have submitted an Application for Permanent Residence or an Application for Landing and have been confirmed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada as having satisfied the medical requirements for landing
- you are a foreign worker who holds a valid work permit or employment authorization which names a Canadian employer situated in Ontario and your prospective occupation and is valid for at least six months
- you are a foreign clergy member who will be providing services to a religious congregation in Ontario for at least six months
- you hold a Temporary Resident Permit or Minister's Permit with a case type 80 (for adoption only), 86, 97, 88 or 89

- you are the spouse, same sex partner, or dependent child (under 19 years of age) of a foreign clergy member or eligible foreign worker who is to be employed in Ontario for a period of at least three consecutive years
- you hold a work permit or employment authorization under the Live-In Caregivers in Canada Programme or the Foreign Domestic movement
- you have been issued a work permit or employment authorization under the Caribbean Commonwealth and Mexican Season Agricultural Workers Program administered by the federal department of Citizenship and Immigration
- and you make your permanent and principal home in Ontario

and you are in Ontario for at least 153 days of the first 183 days after applying for coverage

and you are in Ontario for at least 153 days in any 12-month period

Tourists, transients or visitors are not eligible for OHIP coverage.

See OHIP Eligibility Fact Sheet

Refer to the question "What documents should I bring when I register?" or to the Ontario Health Coverage Document List for a complete listing of approved documents.

You pay no premiums for Ontario health coverage. Federal and provincial taxes fund health care. Your coverage is based solely on residency and is not determined by whether you have a job or are unemployed, or where you pay your income tax.

Everyone, including babies and children, must have their own health cards. Always carry your health card with you. You should be ready to show it every time you need services.

What should I do if I move?

You should inform the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care if you change your address. It is important that the ministry has your current address for any direct communication with you and to keep your account and personal information up to date.

There are four ways to update your address:

- 1 Use Ontario Online Services to send your change of address electronically.
- **2** Go to any <u>ServiceOntario kiosk</u>. They are similar to automated teller machines and provide extended hours of service seven days a week.

You will need your health card and the health cards of all members of your family as well as your new postal code.

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Here is a list of ServiceOntario kiosk locations.

- 3 Obtain a "Change of Address" form and return it by mail. Forms are available from your local OHIP office or from the Forms Online section of this Website.
- 4 Send a letter to your local <u>OHIP office</u>. You must include your name, health number, telephone number, current address, and new address including postal code.

If you have a photo health card and update your home address, you will receive a new card with your new address. If you have a red and white health card, you will continue to use it but the ministry database will be updated.

For more information:

Call the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care INFOline at 1-800-268-1154 (Toll-free in Ontario only). In Toronto, call 416-314-5518. For TTY service call 1-800-387-5559.

TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines 333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 601 Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199

Consul General: Mr. E. Bernard John website: www.svgconsulate.org
Email: consulategeneral@svgconsulate.org

Obituaries

Quite a number of our friends and relatives of our community have passed to the great beyond since our last publication. At the time of going to press, we have been unable to get a complete list and for the fear of unintentionally omitting anyone, we would like to state that the Executive and Members of the Association take this opportunity to express sincere condolences to all who have lost their loved ones.

On March 21 the Association hosted a session on Wills and Estate preparation with Vincentian-born, Toronto-based lawyer, Gidron Cadogan. This is the second time that Mr. Cadogan participated in these discussions with our community. Quite a number of questions were raised concerning Vincentians living here in Canada and owing property in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We look forward to sometime in the not too distant future to organize another session with a lawyer based in Toronto and one in SVG in a call-in programme.

The Executive is looking to reach out to Vincentian groups around the world as we feel that from time to time we may be able to work together on matters of mutual interest and on projects designed to benefit St. Vincent and the Grenadines. If you know of any of these groups in Canada, the United States or elsewhere, kindly ask them to contact us.

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Are visitors leaving money in Canada that they can take home instead?

Canada benefits from numerous persons who visit this country each year and some are unaware that they can claim for a refund of the taxes on some of their purchases and lodging while here. In this brief article we purport to point out who and what are eligible for these refunds and how one can go about getting that money to take back 'home'.

The following information is taken from a brochure entitled "Tax Refund for Visitors to Canada" and available at any Canada Customs and Revenue Agency or by visiting their website www.ccra.gc.ca.

As a *non-resident visitor*, you can claim a refund for goods and services tax (GST) and the harmonized sales tax (HST) you paid on eligible goods and/or short term accommodation while visiting Canada.

A *non-resident visitor* qualifies for a tax refund if the following conditions are met:

- you are not a resident of Canada;
- you purchased eligible goods for personal use, eligible short term accommodation or both;
- you paid GST/HST on these purchases;
- you have original receipts, no photocopies, or debit or credit card slips (see <u>Proof of export</u>);

- the total of your purchase amounts (before taxes) for eligible goods and accommodation must be at least CAN\$200;
- each individual receipt for eligible goods shows a minimum total purchase amount (before taxes) of CAN\$50;
- the goods are removed from Canada within 60 days of the date they were purchased.

What qualifies for the refund?

There is **NO REFUND** of the tax paid on such items as: entertainment; meals; alcohol; tobacco products; services such as dry cleaning and hairdressing; air, train, and bus tickets; car rentals; automotive fuels; rentals of travel trailers and other recreational vehicles; cruise ship cabins; train berths; or timeshare arrangements. This is not an all-inclusive list.

In addition, any goods that you consume or leave in Canada do not qualify for this refund.

Eligible goods

You can claim a refund of the GST/HST paid on **most** goods you take home with you. Goods generally qualify for a refund if you meet the following conditions:

- you paid GST/HST on the goods;
- you bought the goods to use primarily outside Canada; and
- you removed the goods from Canada within 60 days of delivery to you (see the section entitled "Proof of export and stamping of your receipts").

Eligible short-term accommodation

You can also claim a refund of the GST/HST paid on short-term accommodation if the following conditions are met:

- each accommodation unit was provided to you for less than one month of continuous occupancy; and
- each receipt shows the number of nights of shortterm accommodation in each unit of a lodging establishment made available to you.

The tax paid on camping accommodation and any charges for hook-ups, qualifies for a refund of GST/HST.

How to get your refund

The Government of Canada offers two ways to get your refund with no processing fee:

 Complete and send the form included in this brochure to the address shown on the back of the form (see the next section for information on documents you have to send with your application). Visit one of the participating duty-free shops at land border crossings to get a cash refund for eligible claims that do not exceed CAN\$500.

Note

You can contact Canada Customs and Revenue Agency within Canada at 1-800-668-4748 or from outside Canada at (902) 432-5608.

You can also mail your refund application to: Visitor Rebate Program, Summerside Tax Centre, Canada Customs & Revenue Agency, Suite 104, 275 Pope Road, Summerside, PE, C1N 6C6.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.

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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES UNITY PICNIC

Join Vincentians and friends in the Montreal, New York, Ottawa and Toronto areas at our Annual Unity Outing

Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands

Saturday, July 17, 2004

Please make sure that you get your ticket early.

Contact any member of the Executive for more details.

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or visit

www.westernunion.com

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Membership Appreciation	TBD	TBD
Monthly General Meeting	March 28, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Annual Easter Dance	April 10, 2004	CAW Union Hall, 30 Tangiers Ro
Monthly General Meeting	April 25, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Mothers' Day Dinner	May 9, 2004	Disciples Banquet Hall
Monthly General Meeting	May 30, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Cricket Team in Montreal	June 25, 27, 2004	Montreal
Monthly General Meeting	June 27, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Canada Day Picnic	July 1, 2004	Chinguacousy Park, Brampton
Vincy Unity Picnic	July 17, 2004	Brown's Bay Park, 1000 Islands
Monthly General Meeting	July 25, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Summer Games Evening	August 7, 2004	TBD
Monthly General Meeting	August 29, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Monthly General Meeting	September 26, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Independence Church Service	October 24, 2004	TBD
Monthly General Meeting	October 31, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
25 th Independence Banquet	November 6, 2004	TBD
Town Hall Discussions	November 7, 2004	TBD
Monthly General Meeting	November 28, 2004	Northwood Community Centre
Winter Games Evening	December 4, 2004	TBD
Children's Christmas Party	December 19, 2004	TBD
Community Sing-a-long	December 18, 2004	TBD
Christmas Hamper Distribution	December 23, 24	

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To the United States

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ANNUAL PICNIC

July 25 at **DARIEN LAKE**and

SHOPPING & PICNIC

August 14, August 15 CEDAR POINT

Reserve your seats early Contact Carrol at (416) 279-1588

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. Membership Registration Form

Be a Member! Join with us in achieving our goals.

Mission Statement

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association (SVGA) of Toronto is a non-profit community based Association. We are committed to providing assistance and support to groups, institutions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ontario and wherever the Association deems fit. To provide an anti bias forum for Cultural, Educational, Social and Recreational enrichment and to maintain a network of communication through information and referral.



Objectives

To maintain a high level of volunteerism through recruitment, training and effective utilization of skills.

To provide a forum to promote leadership and advocacy for the enrichment of Culture and Education.

To provide an anti bias environment for the discussion of matters of general interest to its members.

To plan, implement and participate in fundraising activities to meet urgent human needs.

To promote social and recreational events to enrich the lives of Children, Youth, Adults and Seniors.

To maintain a network of communication through information and referral.

Our membership meetings are held on the LAST SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH from 4:00 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court (Keele St. & Sheppard Ave. W), North York.

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