

# INSIGHT

THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT)

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

January 2014

*From the President's desk . . .*

## SVGAT Approved as a Charity

*Love is the most durable power in the world. As President of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto, Inc., I bring you greetings and wish you and your loved ones happiness, peace, and prosperity in the New Year.*



In 2012, I was among a group of proactive individuals who took on the task of changing the status of the Saint Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto from a not-for-profit organization to a Charitable one.

With that mission in mind, we organized ourselves as a unit, knowing full well that if we were to accomplish this mission it will change the way the association provide services to the community.

Our first action was to evaluate and customize the invaluable work our predecessors, over the years put into developing the Association's Constitution. This effort paved the way towards making this Association a charitable organization.

An untold amount of effort went into researching the records of the Ministry of Government Services of Ontario to ensure all documents required were available for our review. The Association's past Presidents and members made invaluable contributions by providing us with documents and collectibles and some were even able to share substantive information from shared memories of events, which occurred many years ago. However, before the application process began, we reviewed the Association's Constitution compliancy within the Ontario Corporation Act, 1990 and discovered it was not in compliance. Ms. Rhonda Metelsky, Barrister and Solicitor, who was asked to review the draft Constitution and provide legal advice on the document, advised us of the many areas of non-compliance with the statute. Ms Metelsky provided her services on a pro bono basis.

The six-month journey to bring the Association into compliance with the Act was tedious. Special meetings were organized to explain what was necessary to bring the Association into compliance with the Act, such as the development of By-Laws and other internal policies. This entailed a re-organization of the corporate structure of the Association, which included electing

a board of directors and purchasing Liability Insurance for our Directors and Officers.

Although, at times, the scheduled meetings were not very well attended, those who were present contributed greatly to the discussions.

We are also delighted to inform you that in its application for charitable status, the Association's activities and Board and Executive members passed the scrutiny of the Public Guardian and Trustee and on October 11, 2013, the SVGAT was approved for charitable status.

The next step is to make an application to the Canada Revenue Agency for a charitable number, which would enable us to provide tax receipts to donors. It will also allow us to fast-track applications for funding for programs from all levels of government.

Now that we are a charitable organization, the Association's mandate has expanded to include, but not limited to, services for Senior Citizens, programs for the physically and mentally disabled (Training, Education and Counselling), Immigration services, Literacy and Employment Training, International Development, Relief of Poverty, Substance Abuse, Arts and Preservation of the Environment.

With the assistance of Ms Metelsky and the Board's professional approach to management, acquisition, joint ventures, and international undertakings, attaining Charitable Status for the Association is a great accomplishment. We applaud and thank the Board for its vision and foresight and for achieving this goal during its first two years in office. As the Association moves into another year with a new Board, we look forward to setting new goals and objectives so that we can serve you better.

*Marcia Farrell - President*

# SVGAT 2014 ELECTION OF THE BOARD

*Dear Financial and Prospective Members:*

The Board of Directors of The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Incorporated has approved a new policy to govern its election process. Each year Board seats are open for elections. Nine Director positions are available. Elections will take place during the Annual General Members Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2014.

Under this new policy the logistics of the elections and its running will be managed by an Election Committee who will ensure the Election process follows the basic criteria outlined below:

- ⇒ Eligible Candidate
- ⇒ Eligible Voters
- ⇒ Proxies
- ⇒ Election Timelines
- ⇒ How to Nominate
- ⇒ Verifying Nominations
- ⇒ Finalizing the Slate of Candidates
- ⇒ Notification of Candidates
- ⇒ Voting
- ⇒ Paper ballot on Election day
- ⇒ Vote Counting and Announcement of Election Results

The new policy is in compliance with the Ontario Corporations Act, 1990 and our By-Law No. 1. Our organization, the SVGAT, has recently been approved for Charitable Status. This new direction will allow for a more inclusive approach towards providing more programs primarily to our community and also in the Greater Toronto Area.

Let your voice be heard! Nominate a member to sit on the Board of Directors and attend the Annual General Members Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. and make your vote count. The meeting will be held at the Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court (off Arletta) Drive, North York.

Sincerely yours,  
Marcia Farrell  
President

## Welcome

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto (SVGAT) welcomes the new Consul General, Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins, to the Toronto Consulate Office and to Canada.



The SVGAT responded to a call from the Consul General to be part of an Ad Hoc Relief Committee to chart a course of action to aid in the rebuilding of the many homes in SVG that were lost to the flooding. We look forward to working with the Consulate Office for the betterment of SVG nationals both here in Toronto and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

## TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
55 Town Centre Court suite 624  
Scarborough, Ontario, M1P 4X4

**Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins**  
Consul General

Tel: (416) 398-4277 Fax (416) 398-4199  
Email: consulategeneral@rogers.com

## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES TOURISM OFFICE, TORONTO



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Director of Sales

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Ontario, M1P 4X4

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E-mail: svgtourismtoronto@rogers.com





# Low-Level Trough System Event in the Eastern Caribbean

This type of flooding is a 100 year cycle event

Sources: CDEMA, National Disaster Office of Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, MOH of Saint Lucia, CPC

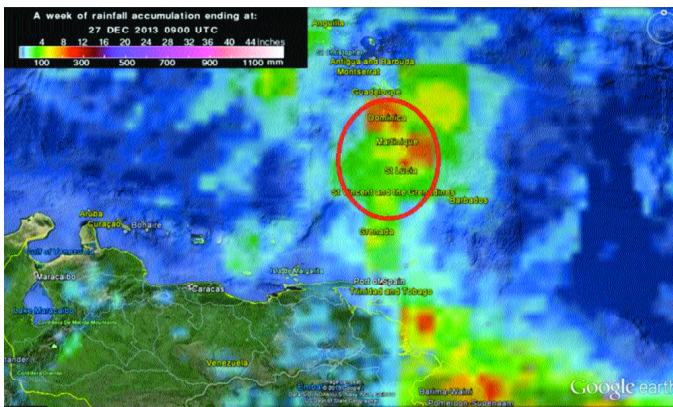
Severe rains and high winds due to a Low Level Trough System impacted Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, and Grenada on the 23rd to 25th December 2013. The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines declared it a Level II Disaster.

Reports of severe damage due to high winds, torrential rains and overflowing rivers were received from Dominica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Some health facilities were damaged which included the loss of supplies and equipment and became inoperable.

Access to potable water was a major concern. There was no piped water in Saint Lucia and many persons in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were without piped water for several days.

Several communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia were isolated due to damaged bridges and blocked roads.



## Response

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, several areas were declared disaster zones: Vermont Valley, all the way down to Buccament Bay; Spring Village, Rose Bank and Dark View on the Leeward Side; South Rivers; O'Briens Valley, Georgetown and Spring Village, Georgetown. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) was partially activated and a number of key agencies and volunteers remain involved in the operations.

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) provided sleeping bags, comfort kits and jerry cans to those affected. The SVG Red Cross Society distributed jerry cans in affected areas.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Thank you

The SVGAT along with all of the other SVG groups in Toronto extend a big thank you to everyone who responded so readily to the needs of our brothers and sisters in SVG who suffered great loss as a result of the recent flooding. Your generosity was unsurpassed as clothing and food items poured into the drop-off locations that were set up across the City.

Within days of the flooding, all of the SVG groups in the Toronto area had come together under the auspices of the Consulate Office, who spearheaded the relief effort, and collected, sorted and packed eight crates of items for shipment to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The response across the GTA and Canada was so great that we are now asking only for food items and monetary donations.

Monetary donations can be made at the TD Bank: account number 10802521908 and cheques can be made out to SVGREMA and mailed or dropped off at the Consulate offices at 55 Town Centre Road, Suite 624, in Scarborough. For more information on how you can help in the rebuilding of homes that were lost, please contact the Consulate Office.







*Water rushes through the children's ward at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. (Photo: Jerry George in St Vincent)*

*Your help is needed!  
Make your donation at the TD Bank account #10802521908 or call the Consulate Office at 416-398-42277 or email: [consulategeneral@rogers.com](mailto:consulategeneral@rogers.com)*

## **Thank you KLC**

The SVGAT says thank you to Ken Chitole and his team at KLC Eastern Caribbean Freight Lines Ltd. for shipping all of the relief supplies to SVG free of charge. This donation amounts to thousands of dollars which is in addition to another generous monetary donation made to the Relief Effort by KLC.

Please continue to support KLC with all of your shipping needs.

An initial assessment of the damages sustained at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH) is estimated at EC\$2 million. A number of records and essential pieces of equipment were damaged. The pediatric, male medical, maternity (delivery), and the neonatal intensive care units of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital have been temporarily relocated as clean-up operations continue. Chateubelair Hospital also suffered damage, as well as various other clinics. Georgetown Hospital (which is a part of PAHO's SMART hospital project) is in good condition.

The Roads Building & General Services Authority (BRAGSA), Ministry of Transport and Works and the Forestry Department continue their road clearing operations.

*Crating and Shipping to SVG*



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## CONSULATE GENERAL OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

55 Town Centre, Suite 624, Toronto, Ontario M1P 4X4

Tel: 416-398-4277 fax: 647-438-5312

E-mail: [consulategeneral@svgta.com](mailto:consulategeneral@svgta.com)

**Toronto, Canada...January 7, 2014** - Following is a brief report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with regard the flash floods that occurred on the main island of St. Vincent on December 24, 2013.

### **BRIEF OVERVIEW ON DECEMBER 24, 2013 DEVASTATION SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

On December 24, 2013, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines experienced the effects of the worst flash floods in its recent history, caused by unprecedented torrential rain. Nine people are confirmed dead and four are still missing. Early estimates of the resulting infrastructural damage are expected to be in the hundreds of millions.

Pursuant to visits to many of the flood-ravaged areas on Friday December 27, 2013, and on the advice of the relevant experts and officials, the Prime Minister declared large sections of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to be disaster areas. There are approximately two hundred and fifty (250) people already in eight emergency shelters throughout the country and many more remain homeless. Many roads and bridges have been destroyed or severely damaged; there have been heavy losses to the agricultural sector; several homes and businesses have been destroyed or severely damaged; significant damage and disruption to the water supply system; extensive damage to one of the country's three (3) hydroelectric plants. The main hospital, located in the capital, The Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, was flooded, resulting in substantial damage to critical equipment, and several sections had to be closed and patients relocated.

Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Given the nature and scope of the damage, monetary contributions are most useful. Immediate supplies needed include: building materials, mattresses and cots, food, toiletries, clothing - particularly for babies and children, medicine and basic first aid supplies.

Additionally, expertise and equipment in the construction and project management fields are of special importance for the reconstruction.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade,  
Commerce and Information Technology  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*

Please note that the correct address for the Consulate General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Toronto is as contained in this correspondence.

Monetary donations can be deposited in the SVG Relief, Education and Medical Assistance Organization of Ontario (SVGREMA) TD Bank account number 108025212908. You may forward your donations by mail to: The Office of the SVG Consulate General, at 55 Town Centre Court, unit 624, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 4X4. You may also attend in person at the Office of the Consulate during operating hours. All cheques, drafts or money orders must be made payable to SVG REMA. All monetary donations in the excess of \$20.00 will provide the eligibility for a Tax receipt (at your request) therefore, you are advised to retain your original deposit transaction log as reference. SVGREMA is a registered charitable organization in Ontario; its contact e-mail is [svgrema@yahoo.ca](mailto:svgrema@yahoo.ca)





## 16 year old Vincenton Cheyanne Smith makes her mark in New York

### Advocacy groups are calling for a reduction in the use of police officers in schools.

Jahi Chikwendiu/

The Washington Post via Getty Images

By Molly Knefel

September 12, 2013 10:30 AM ET

As students in New York City return to school for the fall, a coalition of youth and legal advocacy groups, including the [New York Civil Liberties Union](#), has launched a campaign to address disciplinary policies that they argue criminalize students, making them less likely to graduate and more likely to end up ensnared in the criminal justice system. The "[New Vision for School Safety](#)" presented by the campaign calls for a citywide reduction of the use of police and NYPD school safety officers in schools and an increase in the power of educators, parents and students to shape the safety policies in their school communities.

Advocates argue that strict disciplinary practices, including police presence, metal detectors and "zero tolerance" policies, disproportionately target students of color, especially black and Latino youth. Although only a third of students in New York City are black, they received over half (53 percent) of the suspensions over the past decade, [according to the Dignity in Schools Campaign](#). Of the students suspended for "profanity," 51 percent were black, and 57 percent of those suspended for "insubordination" were black. Students with disabilities are also four times as likely to be suspended than their non-disabled peers. (A representative for New York's Department of Education did not respond to a request for comment.) The creeping criminalization of school spaces targeting already marginalized populations is not limited to the city of New York - [as The New York Times reported earlier this year](#), hundreds of thousands of students around the country face criminal charges, as opposed to school-based disciplinary measures, each year. A civil suit filed earlier this year in Texas alleges that misdemeanor ticketing disproportionately targeted African American students.

These arrests are resulting from the same Stop and Frisk approach we see in the streets," says Steven Banks, Attorney in Chief of the Legal Aid Society. "The continued criminalization of normal adolescent behavior in schools is literally feeding the school-to-prison pipeline." There were 2,500 arrests and 69,000 suspensions in New York City schools last year, and Banks says that the overwhelming majority were for behavior that, in another era, would have been handled by educators rather than police. The presence of school safety officers (SSOs) - agents within

the School Safety division of the NYPD - means that a child's minor misbehavior or perceived disrespect can quickly escalate to lead to an arrest, criminal summons or suspension. "We've watched SSOs be disrespectful to students and treat students like they're criminals," says [Cheyanne Smith](#), a 16-year-old senior at the Bushwick School for Social Justice in Brooklyn and youth leader at coalition group Make the Road. "School is an environment where people come to learn. Instead of learning, it feels like a prison."

Smith says that the scanning machines sometimes detect even gum wrappers as metal, leading to humiliating public inspections that take place in front of other students. Her friends have been told to remove their clothes because an SSO suspected they had something concealed. "We have to go to school every day and we want to feel welcome and comfortable," she says. "Instead, the adults are disrespecting young people." SSOs and police intervene in non-criminal incidents twice as often at schools with metal detectors than without them, and high schools with metal detectors are [more likely to issue suspensions](#). "There are extraordinary collateral consequences for treating children as suspects rather than as adolescents who need to be educated rather than criminalized," Banks says of the high rate of suspensions and arrests. In addition to falling behind in school, children who face criminal charges may end up with a record that affects their ability to obtain employment, remain in public housing with their families, receive financial aid for college or even stay in the country, depending on their immigration status.

According to NYCLU research, the School Safety Division of the NYPD has over 5,000 SSOs, which actually makes it the fifth-largest police force in the United States - and leaves more officers in New York schools than there are guidance counselors. The Student Safety Coalition is calling for a renegotiation of power from the NYPD back to educators, with an emphasis on empowering students and parents. They cite alternative models for discipline policies in places like Los Angeles and Denver, whose school districts have implemented positive behavior support programs, as well as schools within New York City that successfully employed [similar initiatives](#). Smith hopes that if the NYPD does remain in schools, that there is increased accountability for their treatment of students. "All over America, there are officers targeting students and making them feel like they've done something wrong just by showing up to school," she says. "It hurts, and it makes you not want to come back to school anymore."

#### Read more:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/when-high-school-students-are-treated-like-prisoners-20130912#ixzz2nD23KitC>

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

### **Annual General Meeting**

**January 26, 2014, at 4:00 p.m**

Northwood Community Centre (Banquet Room)  
15 Clubhouse Court, North York, ON (off Arletta)

### **Unity Picnic Planning Committee Vacant Position**

#### **Sponsorship Officer for Unity Picnic**

St.Vincent and Grenadines Unity Picnic is an annual event (third Saturday in July) sponsored by the St. Vincent and Grenadines Associations of Montreal, of Ottawa and of Toronto. Over the last seven years, the Unity Picnic has grown from a five thousand attendance to over fifteen thousand. It is the largest event of its kind held in North America. Several businesses have shown interests in wanting to understand how they can benefit or be promoted through sponsorships.

The Unity Planning Committee is, therefore, seeking an individual who has the potential to develop a plan to attract and to consequently increase business opportunities for those who sponsor the Unity Picnic. This individual would also be responsible for seeking out potential businesses and for seeking sponsorships from them. Compensation will be 25% of all sponsorships money received by the Planning Committee. A marketing background would be an asset.

You may send an application and a resume indicating your interest in the position no later than 22 January 2014. You may also contact Sandra Bobb (416 222 1988) or (Jason Jones (647 499 6110) to further discuss this opportunity.

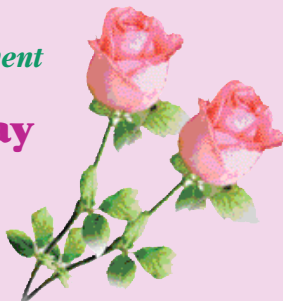
**St Vincent and Grenadines Association  
of Toronto Inc.**

*Next upcoming event*

### **Mother's Day**

**May 11, 2014**

Stay tuned for further  
information







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[ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com)





## Being Arrested and Detained for Immigration Reasons

*Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RC*

Foreign nationals and permanent residents of Canada may be arrested if the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has reasonable grounds to believe that they breached the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA). Foreign nationals may be arrested with or without a warrant but CBSA officers must have a warrant to arrest a permanent resident. Individuals may be held or detained for immigration reasons if they pose a danger to the public, if their identity is questionable, if they are inadmissible to Canada, or if they are deemed as being unlikely to appear for immigration proceedings (i.e: examination, hearing or removal).

Common cause of foreign nationals' arrest and detention are usually due to them overstaying their authorized visit to Canada, if it is deemed that they are trying to evade officials, or if it is necessary for CBSA officers to complete an examination. Certain criminal charges or convictions or misrepresentation issues are common reasons why permanent residents are detained and receive a removal order. Children under the age of 18 may be detained but only as a last resort. Once arrested or detained individuals must be informed of the reasons for their arrest or detention, their right to legal representation and their right to notify a representative of their government that they have been arrested or detained.

Persons who are detained (detainees) may be held in a minimum-security holding centre or in a provincial correctional facility. In Ontario (except for Ottawa and Kingston) most detainees are held at 385 Rexdale Blvd. in Etobicoke. Detainees with criminality issues may be held at a regional criminal correctional centre. Last August approximately 200 detainees were moved from the Toronto West Detention Centre to the maximum security Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ontario thus encumbering access by their family and their immigration counsel.

Once CBSA detains an individual they may authorize his/her release or refer the case to the Immigration Division (ID) of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB). Once the case has been transferred to the ID any negotiations for release will be held with a member of the ID at a detention review. The member has the sole

discretion to decide whether to release the detainee or continue the detention. Common reasons for continued detention may include the rejection of the guarantor(s)/bondsperson(s), insufficient bond amount offered, lack of credibility of the detainee and/or guarantor(s)/bondsperson(s), and/or the notion that the detainee is deemed to be a high flight risk and thus not likely to appear for an immigration proceeding or for removal.

As a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) and immigration counsel I have done many detention reviews and know that in some cases, depending on the nature and circumstances of the case, they can be challenging and the member may maintain the stance of continued detention. A detainee may be released outright, with the posting of a bond, and/or with conditions. A guarantor(s)/bondsperson(s) may be required to post a cash bond, a performance (guarantee) bond or a combination of both. If any imposed conditions are breached the guarantor(s)/bondsperson(s) faces the risk of losing the posted bond.

Detention reviews are held in person at the holding centre or via video-conferencing. The first detention review must be held within 48 hours after the case is referred to the Immigration Division and the next review must be held within 7 days if detention is continued. Subsequent reviews are held within 30 days and every 30 days thereafter until release or removal from Canada. Early detention reviews may be requested if justifiable. In addition to a Detention review, an admissibility hearing may be convened to determine if the detainee shall be rendered as being inadmissible to Canada.

The most vulnerable time to negotiate a release from detention is at the initial stages of being arrested or held. Failing that, vigorous efforts should be made to negotiate the release at the first detention review. The chances of obtaining a release order are deemed to become more challenging as the detention period expands. It is therefore imperative that detainees or their loved ones act quickly in negotiating the release or seek the assistance of a competent immigration counsel.

*Sandra Sutherland is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) and immigration counsel. She is licensed with the new regulatory and governing body of immigration consultants, the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC). She can be reached at (416) 431-2829 or via e-mail at [ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com](mailto:ssutherland@suthernimmigration.com). View her advertisement under Suthern Immigration & Paralegal Services Inc. in this copy of Insight for more information.*

# GEMS INTERNATIONAL

Gems International Cultural Association Inc. is a registered, non-profit organization who is committed to investing in our community by maximizing leadership development and educational advancement in our youths. Our Mission Statement is to empower our youths to become responsible contributors in their community, uplift their self-esteem, promote social awareness and leadership skills, as well as honour them for their academic and community excellence.

The concept of Gems was born in the realization that our youths are the Gems of our community and to focus that vision around the young men and women who benefit from it. Our strength as an organization comes from the combination of our shared values, vision and purpose.

## Objectives

The Association's objective is to raise the bar in our community by showcasing talent and producing events that embraced our vision. As part of GEMS' continued contribution to the community, our plan is to help facilitate the empowerment of our youth through education assistance by awarding post-secondary students with bursary awards.

## Community Involvement

After two decades of showcasing hundreds of intelligent young men and women in the community under the umbrellas of the Guyana Canada Pageant Cultural Association, Scholarship Recognition Awards, The Cotillion Ball, the Mother's Day Brunch and, most recently, our Summer Extravaganza Fashion Show Dinner and Dance. Our event mandate is to produce extravaganzas that showcase great food, great entertainment and camaraderie among family and friends.

## Upcoming Event

GEMS will be hosting a Dinner and Dance Soiree being held on Saturday, July 12, 2014 at the Celebrations Banquet Hall, where two post-secondary bursary awards will be provided to the successful recipients of \$1000.00 each. The first bursary will be awarded to a student in their first or second year and the second to a third or fourth year student.

To apply for the GEMS Bursary or to obtain more information on the organization, please visit our website at [www.gemsinternational.ca](http://www.gemsinternational.ca) or contact us by email: [gemsintra@rogers.com](mailto:gemsintra@rogers.com)

## GEMS Presents a Dinner and Dance Soiree

### Celebrations Banquet Hall

Music provided by:  
DJ Jones and  
Julian McIntosh and  
the Caribbean  
Thunderbolts Band

174 Bartley Drive.  
(Victoria Park & Eglinton)  
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Doors will open at 6:00 pm  
Cocktails: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Dinner: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Entertainment  
and Dancing  
to Follow Dinner





# VINCENTIAN TEENAGER SHAKES UP NEW YORK SCHOOLS...

Mayor of Teenagers - A Mover and Shaker for Youths' Rights  
Cheyanne Smith | Bushwick, Brooklyn

*(A teacher said: "...Or our next president").*

Damon Winter/The New York Times

Cheyanne Smith stood in front of the City Council in August to say that New York City schools treated students like prisoners. When she was done, Christine C. Quinn, the Council speaker, took the microphone and said that maybe Ms. Smith, who was 16 at the time, should be the one running for office. Ms. Quinn later pulled her aside to ask if she wanted a recommendation for college.

This kind of recognition is not surprising for those who know Ms. Smith, a senior at the Bushwick School for Social Justice in Brooklyn who zigzags around the country to rallies and conferences advocating laws that prohibit racial profiling and that protect young people from being pushed into low-wage work or the criminal justice system. The giggly teenager is a youth leader at Make the Road New York<<http://www.maketheroad.org/>>, a nonprofit organization that works with low-income and immigrant populations. She makes pinkie vows with friends who promise to come out for a protest or to attend one of the spoken word events she organizes. If they come, she will walk them to the subway afterward.

In September, Ms. Smith was quoted at length in a Rolling Stone Article <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/when-high-school-students-are-treated-like-prisoners-20130912> about restorative justice in schools. Her principal, Lucas Cooke, emailed it to the staff, half-joking they should atch out: Here comes our next mayor.

"But she's not just a voice," Mr. Cooke said. "She does the invigorating work of organizing, but also the administrative tasks and groundwork to turn an idea into action."

Last year, in between extracurricular activities like knitting and urban gardening, Ms. Smith took it upon herself to expand student government to the underclassmen. There were many nights she stayed on campus long after Mr. Cooke had left for the day, writing up mission statements, forms and charters, sending out emails.

Friends admire Ms. Smith's Afro (when she has one) and the colorful African dresses with head scarves she sometimes wears. In the hallways, even her ex-boyfriends stop to chat. It's her impulse to make even strangers feel welcome, she said, because of the way she was accepted when she moved to the United States six years ago from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"I learned a phrase: It takes a village to raise a child," she said. "So, my community or my village is everyone that I interact with, or everyone that I have an interaction with. My village is huge."

Before arriving in the United States, Ms. Smith imagined living in a mansion with a pool. But for the last year, she has lived in a one-bedroom apartment in Flatbush, Brooklyn, with her mother and younger brother. She sleeps on the living room couch. When her mother, Petronella, who works seven days a week as a home health aide, gets citizenship, "it's going to be easier to get out of our situation," she said. The family has permanent residency.

Benia Darius, one of her best friends, said Ms. Smith encouraged her to join Make the Road and get into public speaking, something she was afraid to do before they met. "She's like the female Malcolm X," said Ms. Darius, a 17-year-old from Haiti. "I find myself building on her." The pair attend college-level classes and church services on weekends and often discuss more serious things like politics and the economy, rather than boys or homework.

Every once in a while, Ms. Darius will interrupt her friend to ask, "Wait, how old are you again?" "I've been told that I have an old soul trapped in a younger girl's body," Ms. Smith said. "I like to surround myself with older people who are very intelligent, so I learn from them."

As a freshman, she dated a senior and played Lady Macbeth on stage. And she befriended an English and poetry teacher, Lisa A. Muhammad, who was taken by her preternatural maturity. "Her character is pristine for someone her age," Ms. Muhammad said. "She doesn't feel intimidated or feel like she can't share influence with other people." She smiled at the media attention her student was receiving. "Fast-forward down the line, and we see her engaged with something on a leadership level, I'm just going to smile again and say, 'Yeah, that was imminent too,' Ms. Muhammad said. "That was just a matter of time."

This winter, Ms. Smith will apply to nearly two dozen colleges. And she will call on Ms. Quinn for that recommendation.

## Membership Registration Form

*Become a Member! Join with us in achieving our goals*

### Mission Statement

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

Our membership meetings are held on the LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH from 4:30 p.m. at Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (Keele St. & Sheppard Ave. W. area), North York.

*We hope to see you there!*

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

TELEPHONE: ..... E-MAIL: .....

FAMILY MEMBERS: ..... .....

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**ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP:** (1) Single individual - \$40.00; (2) Husband & wife or Common-Law Spouses with no children - \$70.00  
(3) Family (Husband and Wife/Common Law spouses with minor children) - \$60.00

**YOUTH MEMBERSHIP:** (1) Employed (full-time) \$25.00; (2) Employed (part-time/part-time student) \$20.00; (3) Student (full-time) \$10.00

**MEMBERSHIP** (please tick): Ordinary Seniors \$20.00 (65 years and over) Youths AMOUNT ENCLOSED:  
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Please make cheques payable to **THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC.** and mail to:  
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