

# INSIGHT

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

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

January 2015



Happy New Year!!



As we welcome the New Year and all that it has to offer, let me take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2015. I presume many of you have already made your new year resolutions and even though we are still in January may have already accomplish some of them. The Association has a list of items that it, too, would like to accomplish in 2015. One specific item on the list is to obtain the charitable number from the Canada Revenue Agency. This would allow the Association to fundraise more effectively. Notwithstanding the fact that the Association has not held any major fundraising event this past year, it continues to provide excellent community and social services to the SVG community and other communities in the Greater Toronto Area. The Association has had much positive and constructive feedback from the SVG community to assist in maintaining and improving some of its programs.

The Association adopted a more forward approach by reaching out to the community for volunteers to plan and implement social activities or to sit on either the Executive or the Board of Directors. With that being said, I will like to call all individuals to participate in the development and growth of The

St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto. As a charitable organization, its aims and objectives consist of but not limited to:

- Establishing and operating a community centre to be used for workshops, programs, athletics, drama, art, music, handicrafts, hobbies and recreation for the benefit of the general public.
- Providing temporary respite to persons caring for the aged by providing such services as house-keeping, meal preparation, nursing and shopping assistance.

Thus, it is imperative for us to continue to move together in unison for the common purpose of maintaining and creating new initiatives to attract a more diverse group of individuals to fulfill the goals and objectives of the association. The burden becomes lighter when all hands are on deck to effectively and efficiently run the operations of the Association.

Come and support your community at the Annual general meeting on January 25, 2015 at the Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court (on Arleta off Sheppard W).

Sincerely,  
Marcia Farrell

## Eastern Caribbean responds to evolving telecoms landscape

Published on January 17, 2015



KINGSTOWN, St Vincent -- Officials from across the Eastern Caribbean are working on a joint response to major changes in the region's rapidly evolving telecommunications landscape.

A three-day training workshop on technology and telecommunications issues in the Eastern Caribbean will take place in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines from January 19 to 21.

The workshop will draw participants from Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. It will cover several weighty technology development issues, including broadband quality of service, consumer protection, Internet Exchange Points, and Internet neutrality.

Participants represent a broad spectrum of regional stakeholders, including the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions, the respective ministries with responsibility for telecommunications and consumer affairs, several Consumer Affairs organisations, and the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), which is the main organiser of the high-level event.

Presenters will aim to bring greater understanding of issues related to open access in the telecommunications sector. Through this three-day workshop, ECTEL hopes to improve key regional players' ability to manage and regulate of Internet traffic flows in the Eastern Caribbean.

The workshop is being held in partnership with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, under the umbrella of the Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme (CARCIP).

Funded by the International Development Association of the World Bank, the CARCIP helps governments and private sector to harmonise the development of critical telecommunications infrastructure in three participating Eastern Caribbean countries -- Grenada, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.



### Rhonda Metelsky

B.A.(hons.); LL.B

rhonda@metelskylaw.com

Senior Lawyer with over 12 years experience in Criminal Law, Family Law, Corporate Commercial, Civil Litigation, Wills and Estate Administration.

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# Horrors at Home!

## Our hearts go out to all

The following is an article written by:  
By Whithfield Turner, Caribbean News Now contributor

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent -- Flags are flying at half-mast in St Vincent and the Grenadines even as the search continues for two school children still missing after Monday's tragic accident in the north of the country. Five children died when the minivan they were travelling in apparently developed mechanical issues, veered off the road and crashed into the sea.

The resumption of the Vincentian parliament was delayed as a result and will now reconvene on January 28. In an address to the nation on Thursday evening, Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves told the nation his administration was doing all it can for the grieving families. He also assured the delay in the presentation of the budget will not lead to any laws being broken. "Parliament will now meet on January 28 at 4pm. The Appropriation Bill 2015 is expected to be enacted within the constitutional time frame following the budget debate. "The Estimates of 2015 have already been accorded Parliamentary approval in keeping with the constitution if St Vincent and the Grenadines," Gonsalves said.

As of Wednesday, flags are flying at half-mast until further notice.

The families of the five children who died have agreed to hold a joint funeral on the 25th of January.

A local funeral home has agreed to cover the cost for funeral arrangements on behalf of the families.

However an official day of mourning will not be declared until the two missing children are found.

"A day of national mourning will soon be announced. The community accepted a suggestion that such a declaration ought not to be made before the two missing students are found or the search and rescue operation is called off," Gonsalves said.

He noted that commitments have also been made to the children who were in the minibus and their families in respect of their care, comfort and education up to university level; these commitments will be laid out in detail in parliament at an appropriate time. Gonsalves promised no effort will be spared in getting the best medical treatment for those still at hospital both at home and abroad if the latter becomes necessary. Prayers will be said at Westminster Cathedral in London and at the Vatican on Sunday for the people of the multi-island nation. The government is ordering a new school bus to transport children from the northernmost community of Fancy to school; a temporary one will be on the road come Monday. The crisis centres at the Milton Cato Memorial hospital and the Fancy Seventh-day Adventist Church will remain in operation for the immediate future.



The remains of the minivan that plunged into the sea in St Vincent on Monday. Photo: St Clair Scott

While praising the response of various state agencies, Gonsalves made no mention in his address of calls for official recognition to be given to those who risked their own lives and waded into the churning sea to retrieve the bodies of those who perished. The prime minister ended his address with a word of encouragement found in a line from the national anthem: "What e'er the future brings, our faith will see us through."

Below is a list of those who were on board the ill-fated minivan:

Name	Status	Condition
*Jamali Edwards	North Union Secondary	Deceased
*Jamal Edwards	North Union Secondary	Deceased
Raquel Ashton	Georgetown Secondary	Deceased
Glenroy Michael	St Vincent Grammar School	Deceased
Anique Alexander	North Union Secondary	Deceased
Chanstacia Stay	North Union Secondary	Missing
Simonique Ballentine	Georgetown Secondary	Missing
Onique Michael	Georgetown Secondary	Survived
Kristy Bowens	North Union Secondary	Survived
Odesia Stay	North Union Secondary	Survived
Ayana Bowens	North Union Secondary	Survived
Terrel Thomas	North Union Secondary	Survived
Israel Roberts	North Union Secondary	Survived
Ruthan Bowens	North Union Secondary	Survived
Orlando Lewis	North Union Secondary	Survived
Shemroy Yorke	North Union Secondary	Survived
Candy-Ann Sterling	Georgetown Secondary	Survived
Ehood Myers	Conductor	Survived
Ravanand Nanton	Driver	Survived
Shurland Hoyte	Nurse	Survived

\* Brothers

# Vincentian sails through Royal Navy training

*Reprinted from The Searchlight newspaper, Friday ?? April 2014*

A 29-YEAR-OLD FROM Georgetown, St Vincent, has completed her transformation from a civilian into a Royal Navy sailor during a 10-week intensive training course at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall, UK.

From day one trainee logistician Annesta Cyrus has been put through her paces, undertaking a series of physical and mental challenges in order to reach the essential standards required by every member of the Naval Service.

She has been engaged in team work exercises that mimic as much as possible the operations that the Royal Navy is engaged in all over the globe. As well as the basics such as marching and fitness sessions, Annesta has also learned how to handle an SA80 assault rifle, seamanship techniques and how to tackle floods and fires at sea. The course culminates in the passing out parade attended by families and friends.

Annesta attended the Georgetown Secondary School and was an accounts assistant before joining the service. She said: "I joined the Royal Navy for the job stability, experience and to learn new skills. I also wanted to travel and for the adventure. The training was challenging and fun. It was exhilarating completing all the tasks. I now want to work my way up the promotion ladder towards becoming a warrant officer."

With the first phase of her training complete, Annesta will remain at HMS Raleigh for the next stage of her training at the Defence Maritime Logistics School. There she will undergo a 12-week course to learn every aspect of stores accountancy. Once qualified Annesta will be responsible for ensuring that her ship has everything it needs to operate at sea, ordering and storing millions of pounds worth of equipment, from engineering parts to stationery.

The Royal Navy's Initial Naval Training course is underpinned by nine Core Maritime Skills that are the foundations of naval life and underpin operational effectiveness. Recruits are taught the basics of Naval discipline and customs. They learn about navigation and are given the chance to take the helm of their own medium sized inflatable boat during a

Anesta Cyrus



waterborne orienteering exercise. Royal Navy personnel can also be called upon to play a vital role in land-based operations, so recruits undergo training in basic combat skills which includes survival in the field. Fitness is a key component of the training and is delivered using a disciplined method of military fitness which focuses on developing co-ordination and individual physical strength and endurance. As the course progresses the recruits take part in three extended exercises to test their skills and understanding of the principles they have been taught.

*Details of career opportunities within the Royal Navy are available online at [www.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk) <<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/>> or by calling the Recruitment Line on 03456 00 53 02*

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# Worth Repeating!

*“The following article was taken from the October 2009 issue of Insight. The article offers extremely valuable advice that we are repeating it here.”*

## 10 Ways to Motivate Your Child to Learn

By Caolan Madden

Inspire her thirst for knowledge inside -- and outside -- of school.

If you want your child to be a stellar student, don't limit learning to the walls of his classroom.

Although the skills he's learning there are crucial to his intellectual and social growth, your child needs your help to really “open up the world of ideas,” according to child psychologist Robin Forman, PhD. His renewed joy in discovery will transfer to his schoolwork, so you'll boost his academic achievement, too!

▸ Fill your child's world with reading. Take turns reading with your older child, or establish a family reading time when everyone reads her own book. It's important to show her that “it's not only a school task,” says Ted Feinberg, Ph.D, assistant director of the National Association of School Psychologists.

Demonstrate how important reading is to you by filling your home with printed materials: novels, newspapers, even posters and placemats with words on them. According to Stephanie Fanjul, director of student achievement at the National Education Association, “Children can learn to read by living in an environment that's rich in words.”

Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices. He can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select his own extracurricular activities. Ask for his input on family decisions, and show that you value it.

“One of the things valued in school is class participation,” says Feinberg, and “having practice at home expressing his feelings” is “good for self-esteem and self-confidence.” He'll be more likely to engage with the material he studies if he's comfortable asking questions and drawing his own conclusions.

▸ Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her. If

she's a horse nut, offer her stories about riding or challenge her to find five facts about horses in the encyclopedia. Make sure she has the tools she needs -- since Feinberg's daughter “loved looking for sea life” at the beach during family vacations, he bought her little nets so that she could catch crabs and minnows. Now, she's a marine biologist. ▸ Provide him with play opportunities that support different kinds of learning styles -- from listening and visual learning to sorting and sequencing. Fanjul recommends supplies that encourage open-ended play and “do more than one thing,” such as blocks -- your child will develop his creative expression and problem-solving skills as he

builds. He'll need lots of unstructured play time to explore them -- although sports activities and language clubs are valuable experiences, too many scheduled activities can add “too much stress” to your child's life, and distract him from exploring the pleasures of learning at his own pace.

▸ Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm. Discuss the different ways you find new information, whether you're looking for gardening tips on the Internet or taking a night class in American literature. Let her see you in action: choose an activity that's unfamiliar to you both, such as playing tennis or speaking Spanish, and schedule a lesson or pick up a couple of instructional tapes. “Parents are the single most important modeling agent in a child's life,” says Feinberg, and if you “demonstrate that learning is a lifetime adventure,” your kids will get the message.

▸ Ask about what he's learning in school, not about his grades or test scores. “Even if he doesn't do well grade-wise compared to the other students, he might still be learning and improving, and you don't want to discourage that,” cautions Fanjul. Have him teach you what he learned in school today -- putting the lesson into his own words will help him retain what he learned.

▸ Help your child organize her school papers and assignments so she feels in control of her work. If her task seems too daunting, she'll spend more time worrying than learning; as she gets older and has more responsibilities, things can get “excruciatingly painful,” warns Fanjul. S. check in with her regularly to make sure she's not feeling overloaded.

▸ Celebrate achievements, no matter how small. Completing a book report calls for a special treat; finishing a book allows your child an hour of video games. You'll offer positive reinforcement that will inspire him to keep learning and challenging himself. “If a child feels as if he is successful regardless of what it is, it builds him up and makes the next challenge easier,” says Feinberg.

▸ Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents. Even if she didn't ace her math test, she may have written a good poem in English class. In addition to a workbook for math practice, give her a writing journal. When she knows that she's talented in one area, she'll be confident enough to try to achieve in others. “You don't want to not offer challenges,” explains Feinberg, “but there's always a transfer when you have your kid feeling good about who she is.”

▸ Turn everyday events into learning opportunities. “Being educated doesn't mean knowing a lot of disconnected facts,” says Fanjul. “Learning is building from what you know and connecting it to new facts.” Encourage him to explore the world around him, asking questions and making connections. Fanjul remembers pointing to a prickly pear in the produce aisle and asking her young daughter, “Have you ever seen anything so bizarre?” When she replied that the fruit looked like “one of those fish that blows up,” Fanjul knew that the structures for learning were firmly in place.

# Employment Success

## *The Skills Employers Want*

*Are you missing out on great job opportunities and don't know why? Murali Murthy, Owner of Vantage Copy, Speaker, Coach, best selling author of ACE Principle and The ACE Awakening, Chairperson of CAMP Networking Canada tells us what employers are looking for in the article below, reprinted from the January, 2015 issue of Canadian Immigrant. He says:*

Although you may be able to tick off many of the skills that are mentioned on any given job posting, there may still be other transferrable skills that employers expect from you. Once you know what employers are actually looking for, you can easily customize your resumé, cover letter and even your job interviews to let them know that you understand their needs and that you possess the range of skills they expect. Here are the top 10 skills hiring managers look for in today's hyper-competitive workplace.

### **1. Communications expertise**

No matter what the job, hiring managers continually seek candidates who possess great writing, speaking and listening skills. The ability to communicate effectively is definitely a most preferred skill and, if you can demonstrate your mastery in that, you definitely have an edge over the competition.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*Make sure your resumé, cover letter and LinkedIn profile communicate your proficiency in communications, with examples and testimonials. Be prepared to talk more on this subject at the interview.*

### **2. Analytical and research skills**

The ability to optimally assess a situation, gather relevant information and identify multiple perspectives is crucial to progressing in your career. Every employer is looking to hire candidates who can help him or her solve problems.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*In the interview rounds, make sure you showcase your ability in coming up with multiple solutions to complex problems.*

*Make sure you have some good "real story" snippets ready of how you have analyzed and solved complex problems in the past.*

### **3. Internet, digital and social media mastery**

Regardless of your industry or background, just about every job today requires a basic understanding of the internet and, more and more, social media, in addition to your prowess with word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software and email.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*Remember Rome wasn't built in a day, but it was built every day. Increase your social media proficiency day by day and regularly keep polishing your LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter profiles.*

*Make sure you optimize the use of keywords and highlight your capability in these areas on your resumé and within your cover letter.*

### **4. Flexibility and adaptability to manage multiple priorities**

Your ability to adapt to rapidly changing conditions, set priorities and manage multiple work assignments is absolutely critical in almost every field. This skill has become an integral part of corporate life so make sure you articulate it at every opportunity.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*You should stress that not only are you a successful multi-tasker, but that you also thrive in an environment of change.*

*Demonstrate through testimonials that you have the capabilities to effectively prioritize and juggle multiple projects simultaneously.*

### **5. Interpersonal abilities**

This relates specifically to your ability to relate to colleagues, clients, customers and others, and how you share ideas, inspire others to participate, manage conflict and more.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*In your resumé, include information regarding your initiatives, collaboration with co-workers, group participation and facilitating teams in previous work environments.*

### **6. Leadership and management skills**

The ability to motivate and lead others is a skill that companies definitely value in the workplace. Every employer desires a goal-driven leader who maintains a productive climate and confidently mobilizes others to meet high performance standards.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*Share your top leadership and management success stories that demonstrate your ability to take charge and manage co-workers, meet goals and deliver to high standards.*

### **7. Multicultural awareness**

The Canadian workplace and society in general are becoming more diverse than ever before. If you can demonstrate your astute understanding of other cultures, you can be truly successful in the long run.

#### ***How you can excel:***

*Showcase your understanding of workplace diversity and dealing with other cultures.*

*Exhibit any multicultural or diversity campaigns that you have been involved in, places where you have volunteered in multicultural settings and your ability to build rapport with people from diverse walks of life.*

### 8. Planning and organization

The ability to plan, organize, set goals and get the work done in a realistic timeframe is a must-have skill for job candidates old and new. It's critical that you know how to take unorganized information and deliver it in a meaningful and concrete manner.

#### **How you can excel:**

*Demonstrate that you are a results-driven achiever with exemplary planning and organizational skills, along with a high degree of detail orientation.*

*Share examples of how you determined the best course of action by evaluating all options, resulting in creating intelligent solutions.*

### 9. Problem-solving, reasoning and creativity

The ability to think logically and solve problems creatively will make you a very valuable member of any team. From negotiating with clients to handling customer complaints and more, these skills are a must. Organizations daily face internal and external issues that affect the workplace. And every manager wants to hire people who can help him or her solve these problems.

#### **How you can excel:**

*In cover letters and during the interviews use the STAR Formula (Situation, Tactics, Action, Results) to show that you are an innovative problem-solver who can generate workable solutions and resolve complaints.*

*Keep a set of case studies ready to exhibit your ability in finding solutions to problems using your creativity and reasoning.*

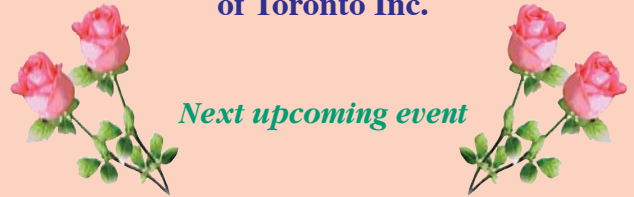
### 10. Teamwork

Most jobs require people to work effectively in teams, so employers certainly look for previous examples of teamwork in your profile. As a potential employee, you must communicate and demonstrate that you have the ability and experience of working effectively with other people in a professional manner to achieve common targets and goals.

#### **How you can excel:**

*Show how you have been a resourceful team player in your previous assignments. Have references and testimonials of people appreciating you for building trusting relationships with customers and colleagues. “*

## St Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.



*Next upcoming event*

## Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Stay tuned for further information

## SHARE YOUR ARTICLES IN INSIGHT

If you have an article or story you would like to share with other readers in Insight, we ask that you contact members of the Executive Committee by email to [svgat@vincytoronto.com](mailto:svgat@vincytoronto.com).

The next issue of Insight is due out in early April so your article should be submitted by the middle of March.



## Membership Has Its Rewards

Through the Arbor Alliance Program offered by Memorial Gardens Canada financial members of St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. (SVGAT) and their families are eligible for preferential pricing on cemetery and funeral services and products. Financial members and their immediate family are eligible for a 10% discount on products and services when pre-purchased, and a 5% discount when purchased at the time of need at any of the company's funeral homes or cemeteries.

Planning ahead allows you to enhance your family's security, spare them unnecessary emotional strain, and potentially save them hundreds, even thousands of dollars.

To find out more about the Arbor Alliance Program please contact any member of the SVGAT executive or Gideon Exeter of Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens by email at [gexeter@arbormemorial.com](mailto:gexeter@arbormemorial.com) or phone

416-992-4253



## *Independence Gala*

The SVGAT celebrated the 35th Independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines last October. Over 300 hundred attended the Black Tie event where patrons were entertained by four very talented artists. The President of the SVGAT, spoke of the organization's accomplishments for the year and its aims and objectives for the coming year; the Counsel General, SVG-Toronto, brought greetings from the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The CG highlighted the flooding in SVG that left some people homeless of which a few were still in shelters. Vincentians in the diaspora, namely, SVG-Ottawa, the SVGAT and the SVG Group presented cheques to the CG to go towards the building of a home for a needy family. The feature address was delivered by Reverend Pastor Raymond Burnett of Bethel Restoration Ministeries. He spoke stirringly about giving a hands up to our fellowmen. The audience danced to the sounds of *Moses Revolution*.

## *Nine-Mornings - Vincy Style*

OH My! Oh My! You should have been there, no question! On November 22, 2014, the Vincentian-famed musical Bowman Brothers flew into town to bring Vincy 9-mornings to Toronto. It was an evening designed to get everyone in the Christmas mood and to create a feeling of being at "home in SVG". And, the promise was delivered! Christmas Vincy-style was definitely in the air! With a video of 9-mornings in St. Vincent playing in the background, and Master of Ceremony, E.B. John, regaling us with stories and jokes, Vincy-style, one could not help but remember "Christmasses past" as visions of black pudding, black cake and ginger-beer danced in our heads. E.B. gave his audience a special treat on his harmonica as he played a duet with Ardon Bess who also rendered a beautiful solo piece to thrill the crowd. The evening also saw a commanding performance from Carlos "Rejector" Providence rendering a couple of his original Christmas songs in true Rejector style, and, Gideon James, formerly of the SVG band Touch, with "Oh Holy Night". As James' melodious voice hit the high notes, the

audience again roared its approval. The pivotal moment of the evening however, was the musical feast the Bowman Brothers rendered. With song after song after song, the brothers, Ricky, Roland, Lennox and Dennis doled out traditional favourites such as Pretty Paper, Sunshine, Christmas Shoes and numerous original songs that the brothers have written over the years. Of particular note, the brothers gave the audience a chance to hear each voice as brother after brother took centre-stage and sang solo after solo. Being a good host, local brother, Ricky, allowed his "guests" to perform first and just when it looked like the audience may be cheated out of hearing Ricky himself, he sauntered onto centre-stage to wow the crowd with his own particular brand of melody, ending of course with his signature song, "Everyday will be like a Holiday". Most songs took the mature audience down memory lane and evoked nostalgia of "the good old days". The spontaneous bursts of applause from the audience throughout the entire performance clearly indicated its appreciation. One almost wanted to say to the Three Tenors, "move over, here comes the Bowmans and Friends."

As the audience danced the night away, there was a feeling of "Christmas in the Caribbean". And, although it was evening, there was definitely an air of Nine-Mornings – Vincy Style. The brothers have been writing and performing Christmas music for 25 years now. Stay tuned for the Bowman's family event in 2015 and remember, all funds raised go towards the "Bowman's Children Christmas Fund" in SVG.

## *SVG-Group - New Years Eve*

The SVG Group heralded in the New Year with a dinner/dance on new year's eve. Celebrants were treated to a sumptuous meal served in very elegant surroundings. As party goers waited for the dancing to begin, MC E.B. John dipped into his repertoire of jokes which brought on back-breaking laughter from the crowd. He then invited the audience to come onto the stage and tell a joke. Several individuals rose to the impromptu challenge and delivered jokes worthy of any celebrity comedian. Funds raised go towards supporting the arts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### **ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

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# Immigration Matters

## New Changes to Ring In The New Year

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, CCIC

To start the New Year Citizenship and immigration Canada (CIC) implemented some new changes - some positive and some not so positive.

### Work Permits

Normally applicants who apply for permanent resident status under the spouse or common-law partner in Canada class (SLPC) have to wait until their applications are approved in principle at the first stage of processing in order to be invited to apply for an open work permit. Under a new one year pilot project which commenced on December 22, 2014, CIC will start issuing open work permits to certain eligible applicants in this class before the approval in principle decision is made.

New SCLPC applicants should complete a permanent residence application and an open work permit application and submit both applications, along with the required processing fees the Case Processing Center in Mississauga. The work permit application is expected to be processed within four months of receipt at the Case Processing Centre in Mississauga.

### Express Entry

To kick start 2015 CIC launched a new electronic system called Express Entry to manage applications for permanent residence under the Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), the Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP) and the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).

This new system will not change the eligibility requirements for these economic immigration programs; it is designed in a special way to permit CIC to manage the intake of economic immigration applications online.

Candidates who meet the requirement of one of the above three programs will be expected to create an online profile. Eligible high-quality (based on a scoring system) candidates will be entered into a "pool" with other eligible high-quality candidates. Candidates with the highest scores in the pool will be issued an Invitation to Apply in their respective program. Express Entry allows candidates and eligible employers in Canada who cannot find Canadians or permanent residents to fill job vacancies to connect with one another.

Provinces and territories (except Quebec) will also be able to recruit candidates from the Express Entry system for a portion of the Provincial Nominee Programs in order to meet their local immigration and labour

market needs. The most qualified and desirable candidates will be most likely to be approved and their applications will be processed faster.

### Citizenship

In my previous article I informed readers of some of the new changes to the Citizenship Act of which some had already been enforced and others slated to be in enforced around June 2015. I mentioned that the fees for citizenship applications will be increased. Well, rather than waiting until the middle of the year CIC implemented the fee increase at the start of the year. Effective January 1, 2015 the processing fees for an adult citizenship application (adult grant and resumption) has increased from \$300 to \$530. The right of citizenship fee remains unchanged at \$100. The total fees now amount to \$630. The processing fees for minors (minor grant) remain at \$100.

If you have not already read my previous article regarding the new changes to the Citizenship Act which was printed in the October 2014 Insight, I encourage you to refer to the SVGAT's website at [vincytoronto.com](http://vincytoronto.com) to review it.

*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 publication for more information. Mention that you saw this article or the advertisement in this publication to receive a free consultation.*

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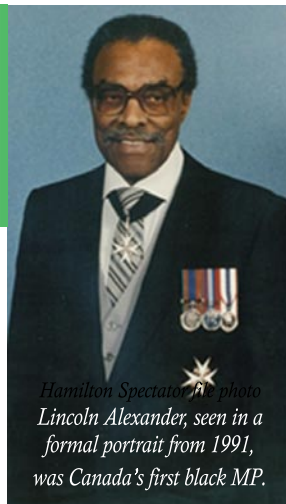
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## The Ties that Bind

**Lincoln Alexander's father  
came from St. Vincent  
and the Grenadines**



*Hamilton Spectator photo  
Lincoln Alexander, seen in a  
formal portrait from 1991,  
was Canada's first black MP.*

## Parliament declares January 21 Lincoln Alexander Day

*Reprinted from the Hamilton Spectator  
An article by Daniel Nolan*

The late Lincoln Alexander is finally being honoured by his peers in Parliament more than two years after his death. MPs gave third reading Wednesday evening to a bill naming Jan. 21 Lincoln Alexander Day across Canada.

Ontario MPPs gave Alexander the honour in November 2013, a year after Canada's first black MP and federal cabinet minister died at the age of 90. January 21 was his birthday.

Alexander, who served as MP for Hamilton West from 1968-1980, was Ontario lieutenant-governor from 1985 to 1991.

His widow, Marni Alexander, said the bill will get royal assent Dec. 9. The vote in the House of Commons was 275-0. "I could cry tears of joy," she said. "It has taken two years, but it was worth the wait. First Ontario wide, now Canada wide."

Alexander believes her husband's life journey is an inspiration to young people and to have a day in his honour can add further inspiration.

"This will open so many doors for kids and adults who feel challenged and fear," she said. "Lincoln's motto was, 'I did. You can. You will.' That and 'Stay in school.'"

Hamilton Mountain New Democrat MP Chris Charlton introduced a motion on Oct. 17, 2013 to have Parliament declare Jan. 21 Lincoln Alexander Day and then a bill on Dec. 9. She said the Conservatives would not give consent and then turned around and introduced their own bill in the Senate. It was steered through the House by Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MP David Sweet.

Sweet praised Alexander when the bill received second reading in June. Charlton said Thursday she was "delighted" and noted she received a thank-you note from Marni.

"The whole point was to celebrate the life of an incredible Hamiltonian. We finally get a chance to do that not just in our community, but across the country."

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Email the [Secretary@vincytoronto.com](mailto:Secretary@vincytoronto.com) to indicate your interest.

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*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

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