

# INSIGHT

**THE ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. (SVGAT)**  
 KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED THROUGH COMMUNICATION

Quarterly Newsletter

July 2017

## SVG Tourism Office Update

2017 will be remembered as an important one for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and by extension the SVG Tourism Authority (SVGTA), with the opening of the much anticipated Argyle International Airport. Those who travelled to SVG on the inaugural Sunwing Charter on February 14 were bursting with pride when they beheld the majestic terminal and the thousands of Vincys who were there to celebrate and welcome them to Hairouna – Land of the Blessed.

Our potential as a competitive tourism destination has entered a new level with the announcement of weekly scheduled flights from Toronto to St. Vincent, from December 2017 to April 2018 by Air Canada Rouge. It is safe to say that the awareness of St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be propelled to new heights as we shift gears and enter into some new and exciting promotional activity in the months to come.

2017 is also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the change from carnival during the Lenten season, to the June/July 10-day Vincy Mas. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the SVGTA organized a two-week charter flight from Toronto to SVG which sold out in quick time. Everything indicates that this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vincy Mas, with its exciting program and record overseas participation could very well attract exponential crowds next year.

Sunwing charter flights are already available for sale for Independence celebrations in SVG when a Masters Cricket Tournament will take place, as well as several flights through November and the Christmas season. Further announcements will be made soon for flights in spring and summer 2018. We are ensuring that there is direct access to SVG all year round and look forward to your support.

The SVGTA has been busy at head office with the implementation of the SVGTA Tourism Approved standards. Five tourism service standards have been developed and implemented – The Tourism Accommodation Standard; Code of Practice for Tour Operators; Code of Practice for short-term Vehicle Rentals; Code of Practice for Taxi Drivers. This means

that these sectors are providing a quality service which meets minimum standards. As part of the standards for instance, taxi drivers have been trained in first aid and CPR. We encourage you to look for the SVG Tourism Authority Tourism Approved logo and support these trained tourism partners when you visit SVG.



**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES SUNWING FALL/WINTER CHARTERS**

**SUNWINTER WONDISLAND EARLYBIRD FARES**  
 STARTING AT THE PRICES LISTED BELOW

YYZ (TORONTO)	SVD	SVD	YYZ
OCT 22 2100	0215 +1	OCT 23 0325	0920
NOV 09 0930	1545	NOV 09 1655	2150
NOV 23 0930	1545	NOV 23 1655	2150
DEC 16 2100	0325 +1	DEC 17 0425	0950
DEC 23 2100	0325 +1	DEC 24 0425	0950
JAN 06 2100	0325 +1	JAN 07 0425	0950
JAN 13 2100	0325 +1	JAN 14 0425	0950

**\$349<sup>CA</sup> / \$699<sup>CA</sup>**      **\$299<sup>CA</sup> / \$599<sup>CA</sup>**  
ONE WAY      RETURN      ONE WAY      RETURN

YYZ - Toronto Pearson International Airport  
 SVD - Argyle International Airport  
 +1 - Arrival day after departure

**G.G. TOURS**  
 Bookings available through G.G. Tours - Tel. 416 487 1146  
 or travel agents in Canada and SVG

Our accommodation sector is growing with a 200 room development that broke ground at Peter’s Hope, a villa development in Mayreau and additions to Beachcombers Hotel. This year also saw the opening of the exquisite Glossy Bay Marina in Canouan, considered the best in Caribbean. Investors are showing interest in our country as a potential new market. Our Diaspora is also encouraged to invest in the tourism sector; be it rooms, services or the food sector.

This is also an extra ordinary year for Canada as this great country celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence. Let us all celebrate with our adopted home and reflect on how we can contribute further to

shaping this multi-cultural mosaic by sharing your indigenous culture. This can only get our Canadian friends curious about finding out what our 32 island chain, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has to offer. Tell them that we have the best sailing waters in the Caribbean, sublime diving, eco adventures like no other, both black and white sand beaches, the oldest Botanic gardens in the Western Hemisphere, romantic islands for weddings and honeymoons, nine inhabited islands to choose from, a Marine Park where they can swim with the turtles, the friendliest people anywhere and much, much, more.

Please contact our office should you wish to be placed on our electronic distribution list.

You are our most authentic advertiser. Let's work together to make SVG the most sort after destination!

It is with great pleasure that we announce Air Canada's scheduled direct flights to SVG this winter. Air Canada Rouge will start a weekly service every Thursday from December 14, 2017 until April 12, 2018 from Toronto to Argyle International Airport. Flights will depart Toronto at 09:40 and arrive in SVD 15:50. Return flights leave SVD at 16:50 and arrive Toronto at 21:35.

You can start booking online on [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com) or via your local travel agent.

# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## Board of Directors & Officers

- President - Gideon L. Exeter
- Secretary - Sandra Bobb
- Assistant Secretary - Prudence Morton
- Treasurer - Dennis Bucchan
- Board Member - Kenneth Farrell
- Board Member - Erline Granderson
- Board Member - Odel "Ewan" Lewis
- Board Member - Winston Woodley
- Board Member - Zakiya Hutchinson

## Committees and/or Chairs of Committees:

- Independence Planning Committee Chair – Sandra Bobb
- Unity Picnic Reps - Dennis Bucchan, Ewan Lewis & Claudius Samuel
- Local Picnic & Walk-a-Thon Coordinator - Ken Farrell
- Bus Trip to 1000 Islands Coordinator - Erline Granderson
- Boat Cruise Coordinator - Gideon L. Exeter



Western Union Financial Services operating as Grace Kennedy Money Services (GKMS) and Arbor Memorial Services have agreed to continue as sponsors and supporters of the St. Vincent and Grenadines Association Scholarship Program. The program began in 2005 and over 20 students have so far benefitted.

## SVGAT's Scholarship Program

The board of directors has agreed to continue providing two (2) bursaries of \$1,000.00 each to two students who are attending colleges or universities through the annual scholarship program. Details of the program and the application form could be found on the Association's website [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com).

### ADDITIONAL BURSARIES FOR STUDENTS

The Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada is offering bursaries through its Scholarship Program for students of Caribbean heritage that are currently attending college or university. Please visit the websites [www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://www.caribbeancouncilcanada.org) and [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com) for details to apply before the due dates.

## Adopt-A-Child Program

In 2008 the Association began supporting two children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with their expenses for 5 years each to see them through primary school. In 2012 a second set of two children was selected from the Tourama and Fairhall Government Schools. This is the final year of sponsorship for these two children and it is hoped that two others will be selected from the 2018 school year. Persons who are interested in assisting a child or contributing to the cost are asked to contact any member of the Board. **HELP US TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN OUR HOMELAND.**

**Proud Sponsors**

<b>99.9 FM</b> St. Vincent and the Grenadines Celebrating 20 Years THE CLEAN FRESH SOUND Tel: 784-457-9994	<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tourism Office</b> 55 Steve Court Court, Suite 403 Toronto, ON M5P 1L4 Tel: 416-439-0292 email: <a href="mailto:stjohn@stvincetourism.com">stjohn@stvincetourism.com</a>	<b>AIA</b> Argyle International Airport Inc. Argyle Gardens P.O. Box 2382, Argyle St. St. Vincent & the Grenadines Tel: (784) 456-9339 • <a href="mailto:airside@argyleairport.com">airside@argyleairport.com</a>	<b>CCRI</b> KPI Insurance Inc.
<b>ECGC</b> 40 YEARS	<b>Coreas Hazells Inc</b> <a href="http://www.coreas.com">www.coreas.com</a>	<b>METELSKY LAW</b> Professional Corporation Business, Solicitors, Notaries Public Telephone (905) 686-1243	<b>National Insurance Services</b> Serving Business and Individuals Tel: 784 456-1514
<b>HIGHLAND FUNERAL HOME</b> by Arthur Memorial Helping families commemorate the lives of their loved ones according to their wishes, faith and budget. 4280 Sheppard Ave. E., Scarborough, ON Tel: 416-754-0151 • <a href="mailto:info@highlandfuneralhome.com">info@highlandfuneralhome.com</a>	<b>WESTERN UNION</b> moving money for better	<b>GRACE</b> QUALITY SINCE 1988 <a href="http://gracefoods.ca">gracefoods.ca</a>	<b>GECCU LINK 24 ONLINE</b> <a href="http://www.geccu.com">www.geccu.com</a> Tel: 784-456-1963

**Part Proceeds to SVG School for Children with Special Needs**

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.  
P.O. Box 392 Station F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L8  
[www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com) • email: [support@vincytoronto.com](mailto:support@vincytoronto.com)

The Toronto SVG Support Group  
The Toronto SVG Support Group  
Email: [torontovincyt@gmail.com](mailto:torontovincyt@gmail.com)

**Membership Has It Benefits**

Currently, members of the Association are entitled to discounts off tickets for SVGAT organized events. It is hoped that other incentives will be introduced to benefit members for their involvement.

**BUILDING BRIDGES TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

**Council of Caribbean Associations Canada (CCAC)**

“When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion!”

The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto is a founding member of the Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada, an umbrella organization comprising of 14 of the national associations of 13 Caribbean countries. The organizations include the Alliance of Guyanese Canadian Organizations, Antigua & Barbuda Association of Toronto, Association of Bahamians in Canada & Friends of the Bahamas (Toronto), Barbados Overseas Community Canada, Commonwealth of Dominica Ontario Association, Grenada Association (Toronto), Maison d’Haiti du Grand Toronto, Jamaica Diaspora Canada Foundation, Montserrat Association (Toronto) NevCan Cultural Association, St. Kitts & Nevis Association of Toronto, St. Lucia Toronto Association, St. Vincent and Grenadines Association. of Toronto, Trinidad & Tobago Association of Ontario.

Each member association of CCAC is entitled to three representatives on the Council. At this time, the SVGAT is represented on the Council by Gideon Exeter, Bernadine Phillips-Ryan and Erline Granderson.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Council of Caribbean Associations – Canada in conjunction with its member organizations is distributing Special Novelty Pens in exchange for a contribution to their respective scholarship and bursary programs. Collect a pen and support the education of our students as they embark to be our leaders of tomorrow.



The name of the organization along with its tag line, “When Spider Webs Unite, They Can Tie Up A Lion!” is printed on the pens. The pens are equipped with a stylus tip and flashlight.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SVG TORONTO CONSULATE OFFICE**

Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
55 Town Centre Drive, Suite 403  
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2

**Mr. Fitzgerald Huggins**  
Consul General

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

1968 - 2018

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD. TELL US HOW YOU FEEL WE SHOULD CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY.**

**Don't drive...  
Go by Bus  
to the Vincy Picnic July 15th**

**Reserve your tickets as soon as possible.**

**Tickets:**  
**Erline Granderson (coordinator) 416-788-5163**  
**Claudius Samuel - 416-762-2841**  
**Kenneth Farrell - 416-822-3601**  
**Gideon Exeter - 416-992-4253**  
**Hairoun Bakery - 416-754-3854**  
**Grafton Bibby - 647-405-9209**

**PRESCRIPTION EYE GLASSES PROJECT**

The Association is collecting unwanted prescription eye glasses to send to St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the benefit of persons there who need them. The project will be done in conjunction with the Lions Club South in St. Vincent and the Grenadines through the SVG Toronto Consulate Office. Please bring your unwanted eye glasses to a meeting, contact any member of the Board of Directors or drop them off at the **SVG Consulate Office** at 55 Town Centre Court, Scarborough.

There are people in our homeland that could make good use of your unwanted glasses.



**Tourism Authority**

Mrs. Shelley John  
Director of Sales - Canada  
403 - 55 Town Centre Drive  
Toronto, Ontario, M3H 1T2  
Tel : 416-630-9393



PART OF THE GROUP THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL WALK-A-THON – SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

The Association held its annual Walk-A-Thon, a 5km walk from Jane & Finch Mall on Sunday, June 25 to raise funds for the Adopt-a-Child Program, an initiative that supports school children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A picnic scheduled for after the walk was rained out. Thanks to all who supported the event. See photo on the following page.

## NEWS FROM SVG

### Sunil Ambris Gets Called Up For Windies

(Courtesy of iWitnessnews.com)

Vincentian prolific batsman Sunil Ambris has become the 11<sup>th</sup> SVG cricketer to play for the West Indies Cricket Team. The 24-year old right handed batsman has been included in a 13-member team playing against the touring India national team for the third, fourth and fifth games in the current OD1 series being played at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua.

Ambris has some very good scores in recent games in the domestic competition and observers feel that although he has been overlooked his time will soon come. He will follow other SVG players – Alfie Roberts, Michael Findlay, Winston Davis, Ian Allen, Cameron Cuffy, Nixon McLean, Deighton Butler, Miles Bascombe, Kenroy Peters and Kesrick Williams who previously played for the regional squad. Williams is also included in the current 15-member squad of players and it makes it the first time that two SVG players are included in a Windies party at the same time.

### NDP Petitions to Proceed to Trial

(Courtesy Searchlight Newspaper)

The election petitions filed by the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) will proceed to trial.

This is the decision of Justice Esco Henry who delivered her long awaited judgement at the High Court in Kingstown on Friday, June 30.

According to lead attorney for the petitioners Stanley John QC, the judge ruled that while the recognizances filed by the petitioners were insufficient, they were not invalid. He said the petitioners have been given until July 7 to pay \$5,000 to the High Court registry so that the case can proceed.

Henry had reserved her judgement after hearing arguments on May 2, 4 and 5, 2017 from lead lawyer for the respondents, senior counsel Anthony Astaphan and lawyers for the petitioners, Queen's Counsel Stanley 'Stalky' John and Kay Bacchus-Baptiste.

The NDP has brought two petitions challenging the results in Central Leeward and North Windward in the December 2015 general elections, after the Unity Labour Party (ULP) won the elections by taking eight of the 15 parliamentary seats.

Lawyers for the government had held that the petitions were invalid because the petitioners, rather than the sureties, had signed the recognizances.

In 2016, Justice Brian Cottle threw out the petitions, ruling that they were improperly filed. However, a ruling of the Court of Appeal of the East Caribbean Supreme Court restarted the entire court process, after they upheld an appeal by the NDP that there was apparent bias on the part of Justice Cottle.

The petitioners in the matter are candidates for the NDP Lauron Baptiste and Benjamin Exeter, while the respondents are supervisor of elections Sylvia Findlay; successful ULP candidates Montgomery Daniel and Sir Louis Straker; returning officers Vil Davis and Winston Gaymes; presiding officers Veronica John and Kathleen Jeffers.

### Government Buys Back Shares in GOSVG

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (GOSVG) has bought back 31 % of the Bank of St Vincent and the Grenadines (BOSVG) which it had sold to the Eastern Caribbean Financial Holdings Limited (ECFH).

This purchase increases the Government's total shareholding in the BOSVG from 12 % to 43 % and reduces the ECFH's holding 51 % to 20 %.

"The agreed price for the buy-back is EC \$32.3 million. Within the next few days the transaction is expected to be formally completed. Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the BOSVG would be reconstituted and refreshed.

In November 2010, the GOSVG sold 51 % of its shares in the wholly-owned State financial institution, then known as the National Commercial Bank (NCB), to the St. Lucia-based Financial Services Group, the ECFH at a price of EC \$42 million or \$8.24 per share.

As at June 30, 2017, the shareholding in BOSVG was as follows: ECFH, 51 percent; NIS of SVG, 20 percent; a number of private shareholders, 18 percent; and the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 12 percent.

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Scarborough, Ontario, M1V 5B7



## SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 9, 2017

### 6th ANNUAL

It's all about  
**Seniors**  
HEALTH & WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM



**Saturday, September 9, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

DENNIS TIMBRELL COMMUNITY CENTRE  
29 St. DENNIS DRIVE - (East of Don Mills Rd./South of Eglinton Ave.)

**LUNCH - ENTERTAINMENT & GIVE-AWAYS**  
**FREE ADMISSION ~ GET INVOLVED AND BE INFORMED!**

*Persons of Caribbean descent aged 60 and older are invited to attend.  
Information Session about services, benefits and opportunities are  
available to seniors in our community.*

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Website: [caribbeancouncilcanada.org](http://caribbeancouncilcanada.org) ~ Email: [admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org](mailto:admin@caribbeancouncilcanada.org) ~  
**Tel: 416-431-0273**

### ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO INC. TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017

Saturday, July 15	Vincy Unity Picnic	Brown's Bay Provincial Park, 1000 Islands
Sunday, July 30	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Friday, August 11	Toronto Harbour Boat Cruise	Toronto Harbour
Saturday, August 19	CCAC's Walk-a-Thon	Morningside Park, Scarborough
Sunday, August 27	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Saturday, September 9	CCAC's Seniors Symposium	Dennis Timbrell Comm. Centre, 15 St. Dennis Dr., Don Mills
Sunday, September 24	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, October 22	Thanksgiving Church Service	Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Ave
Saturday, October 28	Independence Banquet	Woodbine Banquet & Convention Centre
Sunday, October 29	Community Discussions	TBA
Sunday, November 26	Monthly General Meeting	Northwood Community Centre
Sunday, December 17	Children's Christmas Party	Northwood Community Centre
December 20 – 23	Christmas Hamper Outreach	Distribution of Hampers to the Less Fortunate

#### Addresses & Directions:

Northwood Community Centre, 15 Clubhouse Court, (off Arleta between Keele & Jane Streets)  
Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church, 2385 Warden Avenue, Scarborough, (Warden & Huntingwood)

*The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc. turns 50 in 2018. Join in the celebration.  
The Association was founded in 1968 with its first formal meeting on December 1, 1968. It was incorporated in 1971.*

ALL NATURAL INGREDIENTS

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A delicious and nutritious alternative to the "other" chips.

Made from specially selected Plantains (a cousin of the banana) and lightly sea-salted.



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 Phone: 905-479-3548, Fax: 905-479-3414  
 www.goldenbanana.ca vegetron@rogers.com

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Salara/Flapjacks	and so much more!	

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 Scarborough, Ontario, M1P 2M2  
 Tel: 416-754-3854




Membership Has Its Rewards  
 Arbor Memorial Services  
 is a proud sponsor of  
**St. Vincent and Grenadines Association  
 of Toronto Inc.**

Through **Alliances by Arbor Memorial** members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community in Ontario who are members of the **St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Toronto Inc.**

that choose to use the services of Arbor Memorial are entitled to special membership discounts at any of Arbor's cemeteries or funeral homes in Ontario.

Through the **Arbor Foundation** the Association also receives funds for its special activities/programs.

For further information, please visit any of the websites listed below, or contact Gideon Exeter (416) 992-4253 or by email [gexeter@arbormemorial.com](mailto:gexeter@arbormemorial.com) for more details.

# VINCY UNITY PICNIC

Organized by the  
**St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Associations of**  
**MONTREAL • OTTAWA • TORONTO**

**SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017**  
**7:00am—6:00pm**

**Brown's Bay Provincial Park**  
 1259 Thousand Islands Parkway  
 Mallory Town, ON K0E 1R0

From Toronto: Exit 675 off Highway 401  
 From Ottawa & Montreal:  
 Exit 675 & 685 off Highway 401

**Featuring:** Selekta Shelz, Ottawa  
 DJ Fusion, Toronto  
 DJ Supa Eyes, NY  
 Tropicks Band, Toronto

**Parking Tickets & Bus Tickets available from**  
 SVG Associations of:  
 Montreal | Ottawa | Toronto  
**Montreal: 514-364-3299**  
**Ottawa: 613-327-3406**  
**Toronto: 416-726-2841**

[www.svgamontreal.com](http://www.svgamontreal.com) | [www.svgaottawa.com](http://www.svgaottawa.com) | [www.vincytoronto.com](http://www.vincytoronto.com)

**Hon Robert Luke Browne,**  
 Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment will be representing the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Fun Activities for kids**  
 Live Entertainment

Tag-of-war  
 Sack races  
 Clowns & Ballooning  
 Bouncing Castle  
 Learn to Fish Program

Added attraction a Chance to win a Return trip to SVG on Sunwing Airlines + other amazing prizes up for grabs!  
 Tickets available from the Associations.

NO ALCOHOL  
 NO STYROFOAM PLATES OR CUPS ALLOWED IN THE PARK.  
 NO UNAUTHORIZED DJ EQUIPMENT ALLOWED!



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION, JOIN A COMMITTEE, HELP TO ADVANCE THE ASSOCIATION'S CAUSES.

# IMMIGRATION MATTERS

## NEW IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENTS

Contributed by: Sandra Sutherland, RCIC

The federal government has been hard at work this year in making amendments to legislation and regulations. Some of these changes are noteworthy of which I have summarized.

On June 19, 2017 Bill C-6 *an Act to amend the Citizenship Act and make consequential amendments*

*to another Act*, received Royal Assent. Some changes took effect on this date while other changes are slated to come into effect in the fall of 2017 and early 2018.

The following are some of the changes that took effect on June 19, 2017 (as copied from IRCC's Backgrounder):

<b>Previous Citizenship Act</b>	<b>Citizenship Act with Bill C-6 Amendments</b>
Citizenship could be revoked from dual citizens convicted of treason, spying and terrorism offences, depending on the sentence received, or who were a part of an armed force of a country or organized group engaged in conflict with Canada.	This provision is repealed. Dual citizens living in Canada who are convicted of these crimes will face the Canadian justice system, like other Canadian citizens who break the law.
The Department has reasonable measures to accommodate the needs of citizenship applicants. However, there was no explicit reference to accommodate persons with disabilities in the <i>Citizenship Act</i> .	The requirement to take into consideration reasonable measures to accommodate the needs of a citizenship applicant who is a disabled person is now included in the <i>Citizenship Act</i> .
The requirement for applicants to maintain the requirements for citizenship from the time they apply for citizenship until taking the Oath of Citizenship only applied to applications received on or after June 11, 2015.	This requirement now also applies to all applications, including those received before June 11, 2015.
Applicants were required to intend to continue to live in Canada if granted citizenship.	This provision is repealed. Applicants are no longer required to intend to continue to live in Canada once granted citizenship. This provides more flexibility to Canadians who may need to live outside of Canada for work or personal reasons.

In the fall of 2017 we can expect to see further amendments implemented. The period of physical presence in Canada is expected to be reduced from 4 out of 6 years to 3 out of 4 years; the 183 days' requirement of being physically present in Canada will no longer be valid; time spent in Canada prior to becoming a permanent resident may now be counted towards physical presence; and the age limit for applicants to meet the language and knowledge requirements for citizenship will be changed from between 14 and 64 to 18 and 54.

### **Visa Imposition for Antigua and Barbuda**

Effective June 27, 2017 citizens from Antigua and Barbuda will need a visa to travel to Canada. Travelers who had already booked their flight to Canada prior to June 27<sup>th</sup> and scheduled to depart on or before July 11<sup>th</sup> (even if they already have a valid eTA) would need a visa and should apply (and include proof that they purchased their flight before June 27<sup>th</sup>) to the visa office in Port of Spain in order to have their application

expedited. All other travelers (whether inside or outside of Antigua & Barbuda) with flights leaving after July 11<sup>th</sup> must obtain a visa, even if they already have a valid eTA.

### **Conditional Permanent Resident Provision**

On October 25, 2012 a two-year period of conditional permanent residence for spouses and partners who were in a relationship for two years or less with their sponsor and had no children in common at the time of the sponsorship application was imposed. Sponsored spouses and partners were required to cohabit with their sponsor for two years after the date they became a permanent resident. IRCC announced that, effective April 28, 2017 and onwards, this conditional permanent resident provision would be abolished and thus not be applicable to new applicants and new permanent residents. Additionally, anyone who was subject to this condition in the past no longer has to abide by it.

