



# **DLP** DLP BARBADOS (CANADA) NEWSLETTER

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## **In The Pipeline**

- **August 20 -22: 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – DLP, Barbados**
- **September 18<sup>th</sup>: Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner**
- **October – Date TBA: Members' Fun Event**

## **Stay Connected**

Visit our website at

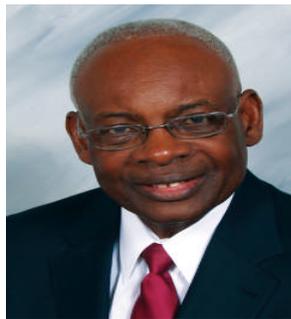
[www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com](http://www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com).

- and -

Visit Party HQ at

[www.dlpbarbados.org](http://www.dlpbarbados.org).

## **Message from the President**



I will be travelling to Barbados shortly to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Party and while I am excited to participate in this conference and to interact with other delegates in the DLP family, I am most excited about having the opportunity to report on the progress DLP Barbados (Canada) has made since inception in 2007 and the contributions we have made to date to the Party and Barbados.

As you all know the Prime Minister has taken a two month leave of absence for health reasons. It is a difficult time for the Prime minister and his family and we are all concerned about his well-being. I know that he is included in your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for his return to good health.

The title of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is "Team DLP – Sustaining Progress" and as a member of the Democratic Labour Party, we at DLP Barbados (Canada) are proud of the progress made by the DLP Government to date. Prime Minister Thompson and his cabinet have done a fantastic job in managing Barbados' economy in difficult economic times and we extend our congratulations and very best wishes for sustained progress. We will continue to assist however we can.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the Annual Errol Barrow memorial Dinner at which the Hon. Donville Inniss will be the guest speaker. For many of us who still have family and friends in Barbados, healthcare on the island continues to be of substantial interest and I am looking forward to hearing the Minister's comments on the Government's progress in this portfolio. However, while this event is an opportunity for us to enjoy a great evening in good company, be reminded that it is DLP Barbados (Canada)'s major annual fundraising event and it is important that we all play our part in making it successful. Please attend the dinner and invite your family, friends and acquaintances. We need your support!

I was unable to attend the Annual General Meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> because of  
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DLP Barbados (Canada), P.O. Box 83524, 91 Rylander Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1B 0B2.  
Tel: 416-287-8291 • E-mail: [dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca](mailto:dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca)

Supporting a Brighter Future for All Barbadians



## Minister of Health to be Guest Speaker at Upcoming Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner



Now named The Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner, this annual dinner is both our principal fundraiser and an event that memorializes the Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, DLP founder and 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of Barbados. Being held on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Toronto East Hotel, this year's dinner will feature Barbados' Minister of Health, the Hon. Donville Inniss, M.P as guest speaker.

Regarded by some as the best Health minister Barbados has had to date, Minister Inniss was appointed in 2009 and oversees a portfolio that accounts for 15% of Barbados's annual budget and includes the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Psychiatric Hospital, Drug Service, Polyclinics, District Hospitals and Outpatient Clinics.

Holder of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Administration and a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of the West Indies, Cave

Hill, Minister Inniss has held a number of corporate executive positions and worked in several capacities both in Barbados and abroad with the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation.

Mr. Inniss' business career also includes being Deputy Commissioner-General for Barbados at Taejon, South Korea in 1993. He has also actively involved in community work as a Member/Treasurer of the Democratic Labour Party; as a Public Relations Officer and Vice-President of the Barbados Youth Council and was a Youth Representative on the Board of Directors of the Barbados Family Planning Association. He has hosted a number of radio programmes for the youth on local stations and is a past President of the Rotary Club of Barbados West.

For tickets contact: Marsene Maloney (416) 325-1639, Heather Barker-Roberts 1-888-605-2405, Grant Morris (905) 420-3990, Helena Thorne (905) 712-3484 or [dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca](mailto:dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca).

## DLP Barbados (Canada) 2010 – 2011 Board Elected

With over 50 members in attendance and the election presided over by Consul-General Dr. Leroy McClean, the following were elected to the board of directors at the 2010 Annual General Meeting held on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Stage West Hotel in Mississauga. Returned to office unopposed were: *Reynold Austin – President, Hugh Graham – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Marsene Maloney – Secretary and Franklin Greaves – Treasurer. Steve Kirton* was acclaimed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, replacing Grant Morris who did not stand for re-election to the Board.

Also returned to the Board are *Heather Barker-Roberts, Harry Eastmond, Charles Gittens, Margaret C. Haynes, Michael Stanford, Keith Trotman and Alex Waithe*. Elected to the Board for the first time are: *Glyn Bancroft, Ovid Herbert and Victor Walcott*. George Griffith of Montreal was not re-elected.

Committee chairs are: Membership – Steve Kirton, Communications – Hugh Graham; and Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner – Grant Morris.

If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering call us at 416-287-8291 or send us an e-mail at [dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca](mailto:dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca) to obtain an application form or volunteer. A membership application form may also be obtained online at [www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com](http://www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com). Become a member and help us support a brighter future for all Barbadians.



## Strengthening the Bonds that Bind Us – A Report from the Diaspora Conference

By Alex Waithe

Conceptualized by Prime Minister David Thompson and implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Inaugural Diaspora Conference was held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Over three hundred persons attended sessions titled *Tourism Development and the Role of Overseas Barbadians*; *Philanthropy: Expanding the Horizons for Overseas Barbadians and Friends of Barbados*; *Investment Opportunities in Barbados: Capital and Skills of Overseas Barbadians*; *The Arts and Culture: Strengthening the Development of Barbados through the Cultural Industries*, and *Returning to the Rock*.

During the Opening Ceremony the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Maxine McClean welcomed participants to “reconnect with the essence of what makes Barbados such a special place and defining what we can do together, as patriotic Barbadians who truly love our country, to keep it strong and growing.” Noting that only illness would have kept the Prime Minister from this conference, she pointed out that the PM realized that “while not every overseas Barbadian intended to return they were all anxious to find avenues to contribute to our national development”, and he recognized that we needed to create a comprehensive structure to embrace the Barbadian Diaspora as an integral part of the economic, social and cultural development of Barbados.”

Also at this opening session, the Acting Prime Minister Mr. Freundel Stuart in the feature address stated that, “we value the enormous contribution which generations of Barbadian migrants have made to the development and made to the development and progress of their homeland. We believe that the contribution they have already made is deserving of much greater recognition than it has been accorded in the past.” He thought that with the right structures that will be put in place by government the “Creativity, entrepreneurship, and goodwill of the Diaspora can be harnessed more effectively and in ways which are sustainable and mutually beneficial.”

The audience heartily applauded as Minister Stuart announced major changes that will be effective this September 1<sup>st</sup> to what is known as the Returning Nationals Policy but will be called the Barbados Network Programme. Some of these changes are:

- 1) The minimum age will be removed and Barbadians under the age of 50 and returning home will now qualify for the duty free concession.
- 2) A Barbadian national who is a citizen by birth, descent, registration or naturalization will qualify for the programme once he was continuously resident abroad for ten years immediately prior to resettlement.
- 3) The requirement that a Barbadian by descent or marriage must have resided at least 183 days in Barbados prior to emigrating in order to be eligible for the programme will also be removed
- 4) The qualifying period for annual Barbados Network Renewal Status under the programme will however be increased from 3 to 5 years, to help reduce the incidence of abuse especially in respect of the motor vehicle concessions.

Furthermore, the acting Prime Minister emphasized that there will be legislative changes relating to payment of import duties and taxes to expedite the processing time for the granting of the concessions, which has been a major irritant to those returning to the rock.

During the conference delegates and panelists shared their knowledge and expertise with key players from various government departments with strong emphasis on Invest Barbados, Barbados Tourism Authority, Ministry of Culture, legal and administrative issues, and reintegration challenges.

There were lively discussions as delegates told their stories, criticized procedures and services, and recommended solutions to recurring problems with various agencies while they listened to presentations that gave them a better insight as to what government departments are doing and intend to improve! It was clear that over the two days delegates were appreciative of the steps taken by government to have improved communication and transparency as a result of this intended biennial conference.





### Message from the President cont'd

a business commitment in Barbados that I could not reschedule, and wish to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me as president for another term. I also wish to thank Consul General Leroy McClean for presiding over the election and to thank 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Hugh Graham for conducting the AGM. We extend a hearty welcome to new board members Glyn Bancroft, Ovid Herbert and Victor Walcott and I look forward to working with the board in the New Year.

As the General Election in Barbados will be called within the next 2 ½ years, we should take time now to consider how DLP Barbados (Canada) may play a part in helping the Party retain the government. To this end I ask that you stay informed on the issues facing ordinary Barbadians in Barbados, and that you share your views and recommendations with us.

Finally, I invite you to read my report to the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at [www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com](http://www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com).

Reynold Austin  
President

### From the Membership Committee (Steve Kirton, Chair)

Dear fellow members your Membership Committee is currently making plans both to increase the size of our branch in Canada and to enhance your experience as a member. In October we plan to be in Montreal to conclude the establishment of that chapter. Also stay tuned for an exciting membership event to be held later in the fall. This will be a fun evening for members and will also provide an opportunity to invite potential new members. You will be receiving more details on this soon. In the meantime continue to enjoy the summer safely and talk to your friends and family about DLP Barbados (Canada) membership.

### 2010 Calendar of Bajan Community Events

- **September 4<sup>th</sup>: Barbados Overseas Community Canada Inc. (BOCC)** - Annual 'Bajan Night'. Contact Jessica Carrington at 905-472-1188.
- **September 18<sup>th</sup>: DLP Barbados (Canada)** – Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner. For tickets contact Marsene Maloney at 416-287-8291, Heather Barker-Roberts 1-888-605-2405, Grant Morris (905) 420-3990, Helena Thorne (905) 712-3484 or e-mail [dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca](mailto:dlpbarbados@sympatico.ca).
- **October 16<sup>th</sup>: Shared Vision (Montreal)** - Annual Performing Arts, Community Recognition Awards and Charity Evening. Contact George Griffith at 514-898-8811 or e-mail [sharedvision@ca.inter.net](mailto:sharedvision@ca.inter.net).
- **November 6<sup>th</sup>: Barbados Ex-Police (Toronto)** - Annual Dinner/Dance. Contact Eurieta Cummins at 905-890-9342.
- **November 21<sup>st</sup>**: Barbados Independence Thanksgiving Service at the Church of St. James Cathedral, 65 Church St. (King and Church) Toronto, beginning at 4:00 PM.
- **November 27<sup>th</sup>: Barbados House Canada Inc.** - Annual Dinner. Contact Basil Blackman at [basmur@sympatico.ca](mailto:basmur@sympatico.ca).



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