

Newsletter

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High Commission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana



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Message from the High Commissioner

The High Commission for Guyana in Ottawa introduces its first of what is intended to be a bi-annual newsletter, aimed at keeping the Diaspora and other stakeholders informed about initiatives the Government of Guyana has undertaken in Canada and domestically, during the year.

This year, Canada celebrated its 150th Anniversary of Confederation and in this vein, the High Commission's focus was on using accessible initiatives to assist in building recognition for Guyana in Canada.

One of the highlights for the High Commission this year, was the successful hosting of 'Guyana Day 2017' here in Ottawa on May 21, 2017 under the theme "Enhancing awareness of Guyana in Canada's Sesqui-centennial year."

The High Commission also participated in various activities where the rich history, art, culture, food and trade potential of Guyana were showcased.

This year was truly an exceptional year and I take this opportunity to thank everyone who partnered with the High Commission in 2017 in helping us to achieve our goals.

On behalf of the staff of the High Commission, please accept best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous 2018.

We look forward to your continued support in the new year.

Warm regards,

Clarissa Riehl

High Commissioner



H.E. Riehl and Staff

Guyana High Commission, Consulate and Diaspora Organisations partner for Ottawa Welcomes the world

Ottawa Welcomes the world 2017 was a series of World Class Events hosted by the City of Ottawa in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

As part of the series of events, the City of Ottawa asked all diplomatic Missions accredited in Canada to host an exhibition which showcased Tourism, Arts, Culture, Investment potential and culinary delicacies of the country they represent.

The day assigned to Guyana was the 21st May and the High Commission, Consulate and various Diaspora Organisations all pooled resources and ideas together to make the event a true

representation of Guyana.

In planning, High Commissioner Riehl held several consultative planning meetings with Diaspora Organisations from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal in an effort to ensure inclusivity.

"Guyana Day" at the Horticulture Building saw over 7000 attendees, the largest total of a one day exhibition at that time.

Attendees were treated to a cultural presentation with a headlining performance by Guyana's very own "Surama Dance Group". The event included attractions such as authentic Guyanese cuisine, locally manufactured products, Arts and Craft, El Dorado Rum Tasting, and a

Tourism and Investment booth which included four agro-processors from Guyana. The group, which consisted of primarily women, sold and displayed products they manufactured locally. The products were well received and were completely sold at the conclusion of the event.

As a result of participating in this event, the High commission was able to further promote commercial ties between Canada and Guyana, facilitate greater personal interaction among Guyanese in the Diaspora, promote Guyana as an Eco-tourism destination and enhance awareness of Guyana's culture and diversity in Canada.

See more pictures on pg.6



Volunteer, Ms. Sylvia Barrow (Right) listens intently to an attendee's questions about the displayed craft

Agro-processors explaining how their products are made and offering samples to interested persons



Guyana is Canada's largest trading partner within CARICOM



Stephen Doust, during his speech on May 21st.

At Guyana's Independence Day Celebration hosted by the High Commission for Guyana in Canada, Stephen Doust, Deputy Director of Central America and the Caribbean, Global Affairs, in his remarks, informed the gathering that Guyana has become Canada's largest trading partner among CARICOM countries.

He noted that two-way merchandise trade in 2016 was valued at \$703.7

million representing an impressive 137% increase over the previous year.

Commercial relationship between the two countries is particularly strong in the mining sector, where over thirty Canadian companies are active in Guyana.

Mr. Doust credited Canadian investment in the Aurora Gold Mine, which began commercial production in 2016, as one of the major contributors to increasing Guyana and Canada's bilateral trade and increasing economic growth and job creation.

Canada is the third major destination of exports from Guyana and is a leading foreign investor in Guyana. Canadian investors are pursuing investment in the forestry sec-

tor, construction, banking and mineral exploration.

The High Commission for Guyana in Ottawa reaffirms its commitment to the further strengthening of trade between Canada and Guyana, especially in the developing Oil and Gas Industry and support services where new opportunities for partnership lie.



H.E. Clarissa Riehl and Mr. Doust sharing a light moment.

Guyana Welcomes New Canadian High Commissioner



H.E. Lilian Chatterjee

President David Granger on September 13, 2017 accepted Letters of Credence from H.E. Lilian Chatterjee, accrediting her High Commissioner Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary of Canada to Guyana.

Her Excellency Chatterjee replaced former High Commissioner Pierre Giroux whose tour of duty ended in July.

The new Canadian High Commissioner has had a long career within Global Affairs Canada and prior to her appointment served as Director General of the Strategic Integration, Europe, Middle East and Maghreb Branch.

Before her departure to Guyana, Her Excellency Chatterjee paid a courtesy

call on Her Excellency Clarissa Riehl at her office in Ottawa. Her Excellency Riehl used the opportunity to mention some of the areas in which the Guyana High Commission in Ottawa and Canadian High Commission in Georgetown have been collaborating, most recently in the developing oil and gas sector in Guyana.

The two diplomats enjoyed a lengthy discussion where H.E. Chatterjee sought to learn more about the people and culture of Guyana.

Guyanese-Canadian Tourism Council Launched

by Frederick Halley

Department of Tourism Director-General, Donald Sinclair, through whose initiative the Guyanese-Canadian Tourism Council (GCTC) was established, was among the persons on hand to witness its official launching.

The launch, which took place at the Guyana Consulate in Toronto, also coincided with the official opening of the Consulate's spanking new location, situated in the same building it has been occupying for several years but now on the seventh floor.

Formation of the GCTC was one of the main decisions emanating from the Diaspora Business and Tourism Forum, held at the JC Banquet Hall, Scarborough, Toronto, Canada, last May, with Sinclair urging participants to accelerate its implementation.

Reflecting on what has taken place since the GCTC was established, Sinclair lauded the efforts of the body, pointing out that its existence could have far-reaching effects on thousands of Guyanese in the diaspora.

According to the Director-General, "it is one of the most significant initiatives to occur as far as Diaspora Tourism is concerned". He

also alluded to his long-term vision that when the GCTC gets going in 2018 and beyond, the council should be in a position to seek some kind of formal incorporation with the national tourism structure, whereby it could seek allocation in the national tourism budget. He pledged his full assistance in this process.

The nine-member council was formed in June and three members have since made a familiarisation tour to Guyana.

The Chairman pointed out that the mission is to further promote Guyana as an attractive tourism destination while the purpose and objectives are to plan, promote and provide educational programmes and activities; to engage the community in promoting togetherness and respect for each other; to devel-

op community knowledge of Guyana's eco-tourism and to generate funds for the implementation of the council's objectives.

Apart from the recent fam tour, other standard strategic initiatives include the launching of a website, launching of a monthly newsletter, Guyana Independence tour in May 2018 and Centennial College Guyana Hospitality tour in June 2018.

In her opening remarks, Consul General (ag), Ms. Candida Daniels disclosed that the Consulate "is very supportive of the work of the council and looks forward to collaborating and working with the body in moving Guyana's tourism in another level".

According to the Director-General, "it is one of the most significant initiatives to occur as far as Diaspora Tourism is concerned".



From left: GCTC vice-chair Lyndsay Davidson, Department of Tourism Director-General Donald Sinclair, GCTC Chair Syed Rayman and acting Consul-General Candida Daniels at the launch

GCCI signs MOU with Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association

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Left: Executive Director of NEIA, Kerian Hanley and GCCI's President Deodat Indar Sign MOU

On 17th November 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) and the Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA), continuing a culture of cooperation and information sharing relating to investment, trade and economic opportunities between Guyana and Canada.

The MOU was signed during a one-week fact-finding mission in St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador which saw the participation of a high-powered private sector delegation from Guyana. The delegation was led by President of the GCCI, Mr. Deodat Indar, who was accompanied by Mr. Nicholas Boyer, Major General (r't'd) Norman McLean, Captain Gerry Gouveia Jr., Amber Low and Anand Harrilall, Trade Commissioner at the High Commission of Canada. The MOU serves to provide a framework for understanding and

cooperation between the GCCI and the NEIA for the achievement of their common goals regarding the development of projects and trade in sectors related to clean technology, environment and the green economy.

Under the agreement, both parties have vowed to cooperate for the development of partnership opportunities with respect to business arrangements such as joint ventures, general partnerships and limited liability partnerships; collaborate to facilitate investment opportunities, trade missions and business delegations between Guyana and Canada; and work together to organize meetings, seminars and similar activities for the purpose of sharing information and expertise. The signing of this MOU between the GCCI and the NEIA is the third in a series of MOUs recently signed by the GCCI.

During the one-week fact finding mission, the Guyanese private sector delegation participated in a number of meetings, round-table discussions and networking events with entities from the private sector, government departments, industry associations and educational institutions of the Newfoundland and Labrador province.

Discussions were held with government officials from the Departments of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation and Natural Resources, and the St. John's Board of Trade.

The Guyanese delegation then engaged representatives from a number of industry associations including the Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Industry Association, Newfoundland and

Labrador Environmental Industries Association, Oceans Advance, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries.

The Mission also entailed site visits and tours of the facilities of several companies that provide supplies and services to the oil and gas industry in St. Johns, including Blue Water Group (BWG), Cougar Helicopters, PAL Aerospace and A. Harvey & Co. Ltd. The Guyanese delegation held discussions with Allswater Marine Consultants, ExxonMobil Canada, McInnes Cooper, College of the North Atlantic, and Offshore Safety and Survival Centre (OSSC) as well.

The GCCI attaches great importance to the efforts made by the Canadian government to facilitate engagement between the Canadian and Guyanese private sector, and recognizes that synergies with its Canadian counterparts are not only beneficial to its members, but also work to build the local economy through external partnerships.

Scenes from “Guyana Day”, Ottawa Welcomes the World

*It was a day of
activities to keep
both children
and adults
entertained*



Dancers from the Surama Dance group entertained the crowd of over 7000 with their rhythmic Performances



Diaspora Groups from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal made a grand entrance



Ministry of Business and Investment Booth

*PSI Atlantic
Booth featuring
locally
manufactured
products*



Tasting session at the El dorado Demerara Rum Booth”



H.E. Riehl waiting to lay the wreath on behalf of Guyana at the "National War Memorial" on Remembrance day



H.E. Riehl & Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Hon. Chrystia Freeland & Family at a Reception hosted by the Minister in honour of Canada's 150th Year of Confederation



Chief of Protocol, Dr. Norton stops to take a picture with staff of the GHC at the 9th International Food Fair and Silent Auction hosted by Global Affairs Canada



Highlight of 2017 Events

H.E. Riehl & Speaker of the House of Commons during a visit by the Women Ambassadors & High Commissioners of Canada



Left: High Commissioner for Barbados, H.E. Yvonne Walkes, Prime Minister of Barbados, the Hon. Freundel Stuart and H.E. Riehl at a Red Carpet Reception held in Honour of the Prime Minister's visit



From left: Ambassador of Philippines, Minister of Status of Women, High Commissioner for Barbados, His Worship the Mayor of Ottawa, Ambassador of Croatia, High Commissioner for Guyana at The Mayor's Brunch in honour of International Women's Day

Government of Guyana takes action to strengthen Diaspora Engagement

The available skills, knowledge, resources, philanthropic activities, investment and international advocacy on behalf of our country, are just a few of the benefits that Diaspora Engagement can produce.

The Government of Guyana has increasingly become more focused on the importance of Diaspora Engagement and as a result the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a profound interest in optimal Diaspora engagement.

The available skills, knowledge, resources, philanthropic activities, investment and international advocacy on behalf of Guyana are just a few of the benefits that Diaspora Engagement can produce.

In recognition of this, the Ministry has taken action to strengthen Diaspora engagement. In recent months the Ministry's Diaspora Unit has doubled its human resource capacity to address Diaspora Affairs. The International Organization for Migration, commencing in 2012, has continued to collaborate with the Government in its efforts, from its mapping exercise, to the launching of a website, a Remittances Workshop, the 'Go See Visits' and continuing now with the preparations for the completion of the Diaspora Engagement Strategy.

The centerpiece of this year's work plan has been the drafting and completion of the 'Diaspora Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.' The strategy, a result of collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) represents the Government of Guyana's commitment to create a lasting bond

between our self and Diaspora communities. It is a comprehensive policy document that seeks to provide a framework for building and maintaining this bond. It is a set of actions and recommendations that provide a framework for utilizing the skills and knowledge within our Diaspora for our nation's economic and social development.

The first draft having been submitted to a Cabinet sub-committee was returned and the Unit has diligently worked along with an IOM consultant to oversee the redrafting and finalization of said strategy. Following Consultative Meetings in New York and Toronto in September. The meetings were organized to allow for the diaspora to make a contribution to the finalization of the Strategy and to have their concerns and recommendations addressed by government officials. These consultations were successful in allowing stakeholders to exchange views and proffer ideas and provided the Unit with an opportunity to establish relationships with



Mr. Michael Brotherson
Head of the Diaspora Unit,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Photo by Robert Brazil)

individuals in the Diaspora.

As the new year approaches, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diaspora Unit remains committed to strengthening its relationship with the Diaspora and to enriching those bonds created.

The Unit is dedicated to overseeing the completion and subsequent implementation of the 'Diaspora Engagement Strategy and Action Plan'.



Left: Candida Daniels- Consul General ag.; Robert Natiello- IOM Regional Coordinator & Chief of Mission Guyana; Gillian Williams; Arnon Mantver- IOM Consultant on the Draft Strategy; H.E. Clarissa Riehl, & Mr. Michael Brotherson at the Consultative Meeting held in Toronto

Volunteering Helps Guyanese-Canadian Keep Ties To Guyana



Cuso Volunteer Ms. Patsy Russell

In the mid 1960s, Patsy Russell was taught by a Cuso International volunteer. Now she is one. “I went to a convent school in Georgetown, and a Cuso volunteer, Gwenne Wardle, taught us games and gymnastics.”

Fifty years later, now a volunteer herself she can see how Cuso International’s model has changed. Not placed at a school, but with Guyana’s Small Business Bureau she is overseeing the establishment of two business incubators. Her goal is to continue the work she did on her previous placement with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry which she left after a one-year placement in April.

Learn more at : <https://cusointernational.org/story/volunteering-helps-guyanese-canadian-keep-ties-guyana/>

Making work safer in Guyana

Cuso International doesn’t recruit many people with Marshall Denhoff’s skillset. During his year-long placement in Linden, Guyana, Marshall will be working as an Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Curriculum Program Advisor and Trainer at Linden Technical Institute (LTI). His position is central to a partnership with Cuso International, Guyana Goldfields, LTI and Guyana’s Ministry of Education.

Read more at: <https://cusointernational.org/story/making-work-safer-guyana/>



Share your skills to help people and organizations in the country or region of your heritage. Diaspora volunteers offer a unique richness of knowledge and depth of understanding of local society, culture and language. Cuso International has been sending diaspora volunteers globally for over a decade. Join Cuso and learn more about what you can do! Visit :

https://curawebservices.mindscope.com/CUSOINO4387_CURA/Aspx/JobSearch.aspx?lang=en&Country=1074

Consular Services and Fees

Services	Fees
Application for New Passport	\$95.00
Application for Lost or Mutilated Passport	\$195.00
Tourist Visa, Single Entry	\$65.00
Tourist Visa, Multiple Entry	\$80.00
Business Visa, Single Entry	\$100.00
Business Visa, Multiple Entry	\$125.00
Application for Birth /Marriage/Death Certificates	\$10.00
Registration of Overseas Birth	\$50.00
Police Certificate of Character/Police Clearance	\$10.00
Notarisation of Legal Document	\$30.00
Notarisation of Life Certificate	FREE

For more information on prerequisites for services provided, visit :

<http://guyanamissionottawa.org/services.html>

**Our Offices have moved: New addresses for Guyana High Commission
in Ottawa & Consulate In Toronto**

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