



ROUND UP

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS, YOUTH & GENDER AFFAIRS
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Speaker of the House of Representatives and Acting Gender Affairs Minister represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 2013 Gathering of Parliamentarians in Suriname.

House Speaker, the Hon. D. Giselle Isaac and Acting Gender Affairs Minister, Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 2013 Gathering of the Group of Women Parliamentarians which was held under the theme "Women in Power: Recent Changes in the Political Arena" in Paramaribo, Suriname during the period, May 16 - 17, 2013. The general goal set for this year's meeting was to develop strategies for increasing the political participation of women in the Americas and providing legislators with tools for passing laws that are reflective

of women's issues from the region. More than 50 male and female parliamentarians from 21 countries of North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America assembled for the meeting which included a number of working sessions in which the Hon. D. Gisele Isaac-Arrindell, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda presented during the first Session entitled: Women Presidents of National Legislatures. Other Sessions included discussions on topics such as Leadership and Political Participation of

Women of African Descent and the Effect of Women's participation in Politics. The key-note speaker was the Hon. Maureen Clarke, Minister of the Status of Women of Costa Rica. Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the House of Assembly in Suriname, the host country of the meeting, stated that "the discussions are important but when we return to our countries, we have to

translate the ideas into action plans and implement the actions we have marked as important for each of our countries." The meeting was funded by the Canadian based Parlamericas, an independent network composed of national legislatures of 35 states from North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean.



Top, L-R: House Speaker, Hon. D. Giselle Isaac, Acting Gender Affairs Minister, Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr., Bottom, L-R Hon. Susan Truppe, Canadian Member of Parliament with House Speaker, D. Giselle Isaac in Suriname



The Ministry of Education, Sports, Youths and Gender Affairs
is pleased to announce the

2012 NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS



Total Cash Prize: \$20,000.00 for the Sports Persons of the Year



2011 Sports Persons of the Year L-R: Mind Sports Person of the Year - Mr. Heraldo Richards, Dominoes, Sports Woman of the Year - Ms. Tamiko Butler, Cycling; Sports Man of the Year, Mr. Robert Marsh, Cycling

Who will be the winners this year?

June 15, 2013 - Sandals Grande Antigua Resort – 7 p.m.

All queries are to be forwarded to the Director of Sports at the Headquarters, Office of the Minister of State: Sports, Cassada Gardens: Tel # 5621682/ 5621675/ 464 1311; Email: oms.abgov@gmail.com

Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs Negotiates Cooperation Agreement with Suriname.



Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. Acting Minister of Education, Sports and Youth Affairs and the Hon. Ismanto Adna, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs exchanging the signed minutes. (Photo: Raoul Lith)

Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. and Hon. Ismanto Adna, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Republic of Suriname signed off on the Agreed Minutes of the negotiations held in Suriname during the period May 18 – 21, 2013. The minutes summarized four day period of consultations which was comprised of a number of presentations by key stakeholders in Education, Sports, Youth, Gender, Foreign and Cultural Affairs as well as visits to sports and recreational facilities and a number of special events. According to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports, Mr. Michael Watson, technicians made presentations on the range of sports played in Suriname, an initiative dubbed "How fit is Suriname" which is designed to identify young sporting talent and encourage a healthy lifestyle. The Surinamese itinerary included the minister's participation in the opening ceremony of a swimming pool, a visit to a basketball game in a multi-purpose indoor court and a visit to the Regional Sports Academy. Sen. Williams shared with his colleague Minister how impressed he was with the programme in Suriname and identified the Youth Leaders Programme including the National Youth Parliament as excellent models to replicate in other member states of CARICOM. The Acting

Minister of Youth also made a commitment to engage key stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda to consider the hosting of a Joint Youth Seminar and the establishment of a Youth Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda as well.

The Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender of Antigua and Barbuda, also visited with Ministers and technicians in the Ministries of Education, Interior and Foreign Affairs. He was received by the Vice President Human Resources Mr Earl Tokarijo. Mr. Tokarijo gave a short presentation on his government's policies in the Ministry of Interior. The Surinamese National Gender Policy was outlined by Policy Adviser Dr. Sharon Saridjan-Tjokro MPA. In response Sen. Williams who presently has responsibilities for Gender Affairs, shared that some of the key gender issues in Antigua and Barbuda concerned the challenges being faced by males as well as females, human trafficking and child prostitution. The fact that no less than four (4) women are expected to be on the slate for the 2014 General Elections in Antigua and Barbuda was also highlighted by the Minister as a positive signal. Sen. Williams gave his commitment to lead the charge in forging closer relations between both countries on gender related matters.



Top, L-R: Opening Ceremony of a Swimming Pool built by Private Sector Stakeholders; Bottom: Minister Williams with Staff Members of the Regional Sports Academy in Suriname.



Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. received a gift from Mr. Earl Tokarijo, Vice President Human Resources on behalf of the Minister of Interior Affairs in Suriname, Hon. Soewarto Moestadja. Dr. Sharon Saridjan-Tjokro Drs. Sharon Saridjan-Tjokro MPA, Policy Adviser to the Ministry of Interior stands to the right in the photo.

Antigua and Barbuda represented at the CARICOM COHSOD Joint Meeting on Education and Culture in Guyana.

The Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) on Education and Culture was held in Guyana during the period May 23 – 24, 2013 under the theme 'Fostering Innovation through Education and Culture'. The meeting of Ministers of Culture and Education was preceded by two days of meetings of Senior Technicians of Culture and Education on May 21 – 22, 2013.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Ministers Meeting, Senator the Hon, Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Training, Trinidad and Tobago, the Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Guyana, and Ambassador Colin Granderson, Assistant Secretary-General Foreign and Community Relations all spoke to the crucial role that education and culture could play in encouraging innovation, and the necessity for a new skills set for competitiveness and development. Ministers were challenged to lead the charge in their various countries to foster creativity and innovation from the earliest levels of education as a deliberate strategy for the sustainable development of the Region. Ambassador Granderson pointed out that the two-day COHSOD Meeting would revisit and review the vision of developing the ideal Caribbean Citizen to determine its relevance and the extent to which education and cultural policies, strategies and actions had been geared to addressing the achievement of that goal and offer new directions to deal with emerging challenges and imperatives.

According to the CARICOM Member States, the Ideal Caribbean citizen is

someone who, among other things: is imbued with a respect for human life since it is the foundation on which all the other desired values must rest; is emotionally secure with a high level of self-confidence and self-esteem; sees ethnic, religious and other diversity as a source of potential strength and richness; and is aware of the importance of living in harmony with the environment.

That person should also: have a strong appreciation of family and kinship values, community cohesion, and moral issues including responsibility for and accountability to self and community; an informed respect for the cultural heritage; demonstrate multiple literacies, independent and critical thinking, questions the beliefs and practices of past and present and bring this to bear on the innovative application of science and technology to problems-solving; demonstrate a positive work ethic; value and display the creative imagination in its various manifestations and nurture its development in the economic and entrepreneurial spheres in all other areas of life; develop the capacity to create and take advantage of opportunities to control, improve, maintain and promote physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being and contribute to the health and welfare of the community and country. In addition, the Ideal Caribbean Person nourishes in him/herself and in others, the fullest development of each person's potential without gender stereotyping and embraces differences and similarities between females and males as a source of mutual strength.



Antigua and Barbuda's Delegation to the 24th CARICOM COHSOD on Education and Culture, held in Guyana, for Senior Technicians May 21 – 22, 2013 and Ministers of Education and Culture, May 23 – 24, 2013, L-R: Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr., Hon. Eleston Adams, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture, Mr. Vaughn Walter, Director of Culture (File Photos)

Relations between the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs and the University of the Fraser Valley to be Formalized Shortly



2013 Champions for Health Promoting Schools from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) in Canada in Antigua and Barbuda (Photo courtesy UFV)

For the past eight years, the University of the Fraser Valley in Canada has been making a positive impact in Antigua and Barbuda through its Champions for Health Promoting Schools Initiative. The programme which is fully *student-funded* is dedicated to improving the life chances of children and their families within Antigua/Barbuda, through health and physical education initiatives that expand opportunities for students to play leadership roles at school and in the community in which they live, relate academic learning to care for self, others, and environments that support growth, integrate health education within all aspects of the curriculum, build bridges between community health projects and school projects such as safe communities, environmental protection and support the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs in the Implementation of the UNICEF Child Friendly Schools Initiative.

This year, a team of 21 persons including Programme Director/Instructor, Dr. Joanna Sheppard spent four weeks working with a number of schools, sports and recreational entities. To date the Champions for Health Promoting Schools has worked with the Principals, Teachers and Students of the Adele School as well as the, Buckleys, Five Islands, Green Bay, Golden Grove, Jennings, Mary E. Pigott and T.N. Kirnon Primary Schools.

On May 26th the final day of the tour to Antigua and Barbuda, Programme Director Dr. Sheppard paid a courtesy call on the Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. and shared that the Team were once again pleased with the warm hospitality and support

from the stakeholders in the Ministry of Education as well as all other partners with whom they had been interacting with over the past eight years. Dr. Sheppard also shared that for the first time, this year, she was able to personally assist three Antiguan and Barbudan teachers to travel to the University of Fraser Valley for a two week exchange training programme. One of the teachers who benefited from the exchange, Ms. Chetisha Jacobs described the experience as 'excellent' and stated that it provided the 3-persons team with invaluable first hand experiences on child friendly schools and peer teacher collaboration.

Sen. Williams commended the University of the Fraser Valley for its significant contribution to human development in Antigua and Barbuda over the years and singled out Dr. Sheppard for her personal sacrifice, particularly this year when she accommodated the three Antiguan and Barbudan teachers on the exchange programme held in Canada during the two week Easter Vacation. On discussing the future of the relationship between the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs and the University, the Acting Minister of Education shared his interest in formalizing the relationship in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding which would not only see the continuation of the existing programme, but an expansion to include greater collaboration on areas of sports, teacher and student exchange and collaboration on Technical and Vocational Education and Training. Sen. Williams pledged to engage local stakeholders on the Memorandum of Understanding with the expectation that the agreement will be ready for signing in time for the new academic year.



L-R: UFV Champions with the Five Islands School Students, Dr. Juliana Sheppard with Principal Gonsalves-Barriero



L-R: Members of the UFV Champions with CPTSA President Mr. Lucasa Brumant. The Team works closely with the Sports Club during their time in Antigua; Local Teachers including Chetisha Jacobs (black top) who travelled to Canada during the Easter Vacation this year as the first exchange programme to Canada.



UFV Champion getting some lessons in Cricket at the Rising Suns Cricket Grounds

Lehigh University Successfully Completes its 3rd International Community Service Tour in Antigua and Barbuda

A group of students from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, USA recently completed the 3rd Annual Lehigh International Community Service Project in Antigua and Barbuda. The team of college students, led by International Relations Director, William 'Bill' Hunter and Associate Director, International Programmes,

Katie Welsh hailed the experience as a success. The partnership between Antigua and Barbuda and Lehigh was developed years ago through the efforts of H.E Dame Deborah-Mae Lovell, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States Permanent Representative of AB to the Organization of American States. The

partnership has also received significant support from Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. who has paid several visits to the University including an occasion when he addressed students at the Global Village for Future Leaders and Industry which is hosted annually by the Iacocca Institute at the Lehigh University Campus.

In addition to paying a courtesy call on the Acting Governor General Sir Eustace Francis and receiving a warm welcome from the Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs, Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr. at the Parliament Building, the group of 10 Lehigh Students had a varied itinerary including an appearance on the Good Morning Antigua Barbuda Show.

With paint donated by the Board of Education and in preparation for the school's 50th Anniversary Celebrations, the students painted portions of the All Saints Secondary School. In other education related activities they received valuable information about Antigua and Barbuda from lectures presented by Ms. Paul at the St. Joseph's Academy on the history of Antigua and Barbuda and Ms. Ekua Richards, Sociology Lecturer, Antigua State College. The Adele and Boy's Training Schools were not to be left out. Principal Charles and her staff at the Adele School welcomed the Lehigh team for interactive sessions with the students. The boys at the Boys Training School were excited when Bill Hunter presented them with a football and basketball on behalf of the Lehigh Team. Principal expressed appreciation to the visiting delegation on behalf of the institution. Interestingly, the Lehigh Students also stayed at the Anchorage Inn where they met the students from the University of the Frazer Valley who were in Antigua on a similar mission. On a number of occasions, both groups teamed up to work with the Jennings Secondary and T.N. Kirnon Primary Schools.

The student's cultural experience was varied. They were enthralled by the performance of the St. Joseph's Academy Glee Club under the leadership of Principal Rudolph Davis, the Fire Eating Show at the Jolly Beach Resort and Spa and the Shirley Heights Sunday afternoon Calypso BBQ, Carnival Party and Caribbean Sunset provided with the compliments of proprietor, Ms. Valerie Hodge. The students not only heard the melodious sounds of the steel pan but they were also students of 41 year steel pan veteran, Mr. Stafford Joseph from the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra. Mr. Joseph explained the origin of the steel pan and taught the students to play two pan pieces including,

'Hot, Hot, Hot'. Mr. Michael Freeland also expanded their cultural experience when he led them on a tour of a number of mas camps. The students experienced the beautiful island scenery when they sailed around Antigua and toured the island by bus after a Mother's Day Moravian Church Service.

Two tertiary institutions American University of Antigua and the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology were visited by the students and Mr. Bill Hunter respectively. In the latter case, Mr. Hunter met with Mr. Eustace Hill, Head of Campus, ABIIT and explored possible opportunities for collaboration in the future.

The students also gathered at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on May 14 to plant a tree as a living memorial of the partnership between Lehigh University and Antigua and Barbuda and to bring attention to the many environmental benefits of trees. The Lehigh leadership shared that the activity is also consistent with their university's philosophy for supporting environmentally friendly initiatives demonstrated by the recent completion of a 'green', building on the campus. On hand at the Stadium were Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr., Ambassador Dame Deborah-mae Lovell and Chief Environment Officer, Ambassador Dianne Black-Layne. The environmental focus of the visit was also brought out when the Lehigh Students spent a day working with the Rotary Club of Antigua at the recycling plant at Coolidge followed by lunch, Antiguan style, at a street vendor. The National School Meals Service, under the management of Mr. Samuel Spencer also provided a number of meals for the Lehigh Team when they were out on the field.

The team leaders and students all expressed their view that the experience was a life changing one. The hard work of Ambassador Lovell was singled out for highest commendation repeatedly. One student, Won Sun Yoo described the tour as a wonderful and unforgettable time in the most beautiful island in the world. Another student, Ricky Johnson shared that witnessing the example presented by the Ambassador as well as the Antiguan lifestyle has inspired him to become a better person.

Sen. Williams, who recently returned from a visit to Lehigh University in February earlier this year, shared that the relationship is expected to develop further with cooperation agreements on sports as well as science and research development initiatives in 2014.



Lehigh University Students – Tree Planting Ceremony at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium; Bottom Left, L-R: Ambassador Dianne Black-Layne, Sen. Hon Winston Williams Jr., Ambassador Deborah-mae Lovell



QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

**“Education makes a people easy to lead,
but difficult to drive;
Easy to govern but impossible to enslave.’
Education is the vehicle to national freedom
and development.
This is the value of education!”**

Baron Henry Brougham

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