



Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs
Office of the Minister of State Sports, Local Government & Special Projects

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December 22, 2009

Honourable Justin Simon Q.C
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
Attorney General's Office & Ministry of Legal Affairs
Government Complex
Parliament Drive
St. John's

Dear Attorney General Simon:

The Office of the Minister of State: Sports, Local Government and Special Projects in the Ministry of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs recently completed its Strategic Plan for the period 2009 – 2014.

The implementation of this plan includes the identification of yachting as a national sport and the development of the Youth Sports Development Programme (YSDP) to include training for 9-17 years old youths in water-based sports, particularly swimming, sailing, canoeing /kayaking and sports fishing.

To their credit, the Antigua Yacht and Jolly Harbour Yacht Clubs have been providing assistance through the issuance of sailing scholarships to a number of young Antiguan and Barbudans to develop the art of sailing. The programme has produced national Olympians in the persons of Franklyn Brathwaite, Karl James and Eli Fuller to name a few.

On learning of our focus on yachting, the Commodores and Executive members of both yacht clubs along with other key stakeholders including the Antigua and Barbuda Marine Association and the Swallings School of Swimming, commended the action taken and have



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pledged their support for the further development of the programme through the establishment of a Charity, the Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Academy Foundation.

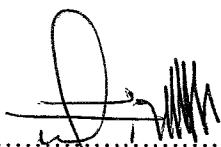
This Foundation will be run by a Board on which the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will be represented by an officer named by the Ministry with responsibility for Sports. The Foundation will have the primary responsibility for raising capital to support the establishment of a Sailing Academy which will serve as a satellite of the National Institute of Sports and Recreation (NISR). The NISR is expected to be fully established by 2012. It is anticipated that voluntary donations will be solicited from a variety of sources including visiting yachts to the marinas in the Falmouth, English and Jolly Harbours. The water-based youth sports programmes are expected to benefit from the initiative.

The Office of the Minister of State: Sports, Local Government and Special Projects fully supports the establishment of the Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Academy Foundation.

In this regard, this serves to kindly request your assistance in facilitating the principals and/or representatives of the Antigua Yacht Club as they seek to operationalize the Foundation in time for the next Yachting Season due to begin in February 2010.

Your favourable consideration of this request to expedite the processing period for the formalization of the Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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Sen. Hon. Winston Williams Jr.
**Minister of State: Sports,
Local Government & Special Projects**

cc: Honourable Jacqui Quinn Leandro – Minister of Education, Sports, Youth & Gender Affairs

Permanent Secretary (Ag.) – Mrs. Eloise Sheppard

Senator, Honourable Joanne Massiah – Minister of State with responsibility for Legal Affairs