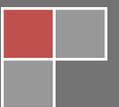


2015

Interim Diaspora Initiative Working Group

Supplementary Document: Opportunities and Concerns

Submitted by Interim Diaspora Initiative Working Group
Submitted to Ambassador Derrick James
4/6/2015



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Supplementary Document: Opportunities and Concerns

Introduction

The Interim Diaspora Initiative Working Group was established on Saturday, November 8, 2014 after a community meeting with Ambassador Derrick James which explored the creation of a meaningful Diaspora Initiative. The aim of the working group was to collaboratively make recommendations that would feed into an overall structure and initiative to coordinate the work of individuals and Grenadian Diaspora Organizations across all regions. Our primary deliverable is a work plan and guiding document to support the Office of Diaspora Affairs and the Ambassador for Humanitarian and Diaspora Affairs in efforts to strengthen relations with the Diaspora. The package submitted on Monday, April 6, 2015 provides a roadmap of key steps that should be taken to ensure smooth implementation of a Diaspora Initiative.

This accompanying document will summarize concerns and opportunities for the Canada (Toronto) Diaspora that emerged from our working group sessions.

Primary Concerns

Some primary concerns raised by some members of the Interim Diaspora Initiative Working Group were as follows:

Clear mandate for Diaspora Initiative: Members expressed concerns of the Diaspora Initiative becoming politicized. It will be important to have a clear mandate and measures in place to ensure autonomy. Some members also expressed the need to consider how the Initiative could incorporate mutual benefits for home and the diaspora.

Accountability & Transparency: guaranteeing accountability in terms of the items sent home and the financial donations received from the Diaspora is paramount. The working group wants to ensure that a catalogue is kept of all transfers and information is made publicly available as Grenada Diaspora Organizations will be pledging time, money and materials. A clear and functional communication mechanism would be important for the Diaspora Initiative. It would ensure better management of projects.

Proper Feedback Loop: ensuring that a proper feedback loop is in place is important. Individuals and Grenadian Diaspora Organizations must have access to information and be privy to key decision making points to ensure that the direction of the Diaspora Initiative is closely aligned with existing mandates. A proper feedback mechanism would ensure that information is shared with the Diaspora in a timely manner and areas for improvement and best practices are clearly captured.

Fair Distribution: ensuring that contributions from the Diaspora are equally shared and made available across all parishes is extremely important.

Sustainability of Diaspora Initiative: ensuring sustainability of the initiative was discussed at length. The working group also raised concerns around how a new government could potentially change the nature of the

Diaspora Initiative. How do we ensure that the strategic plan created and potential projects are protected even with the appointment of a new administration or Ambassador? A clear process for change and/or change management approach must be considered.

Momentum around Diaspora Initiatives: Members would like to ensure continued momentum around diaspora initiatives. There was strong support for identifying a number of tangible projects that Grenadian Diaspora Organizations in Toronto could work on while the Diaspora Initiative structure is being developed.

Opportunities for the Canada (Toronto) Diaspora

Several opportunities exist for the Canada (Toronto) Diaspora. Throughout our discussions, working group members emphasized project ideas for our region, some honing in on healthcare in Grenada. In Toronto, the Grenada Hospitals Assistance Fund (GHAF) is a federally registered charitable organization working to improve the delivery of health care options across our tri-island state. The GHAF works closely with the Ministry of Health in Grenada who assists in the disbursement of all equipment and supplies donated by the organization. The Canada (Toronto) Diaspora could support GHAF's efforts by helping to deliver ultrasound machines in every public hospital across Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique as the infrastructure and partnership is already in place.

Some members also explored the role that the Grenada Association Toronto (GAT) could play in further developing the Diaspora Initiative. As the umbrella Grenadian community association, the GAT could assist in coordinating the work of all Grenada Diaspora Organizations in Toronto.