SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS DIASPORA DIGEST

VOL: 01 INTEGRATE AND COLLABORATE ISSUE: 04



Diasporic Synergies for a Sustainable Island State

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2024



Inspiring Innovation Creating Connections Exponential Growth



DIGEST

THE CONTENTS







Profile of Ms. Avril Francis



Profile of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Circle of Care



Happy Independence 41



Celebrating a Super Centenarian





Dear Citizens in the Diaspora

Our nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis is steady on the path to becoming a Sustainable Island State. This transformation marks a new era for development in the Federation and is, without doubt, a pivotal shift that will reshape the future of our homelands.

The Ministries of Sustainable Development and Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment are leading this transition to ensure the execution of the Government's Sustainable Island State Agenda (SISA) and the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Proactivity and innovation have been the engines thrusting us forward, lending to successes in projects that enhance our capacity to manage waste; introducing and expanding our recycling programs and their resultant benefits to the circular economy; implementing a phased ban on single-use plastics; supporting a just energy transition through renewable sources; and enhancing water resilience and supply through monitoring and institutional assessment in collaboration with line Ministries

My offices have invested significant time and attention in engaging in green diplomacy and enhancing resilience through multilateral connection and compliance with international frameworks. We have, through the necessary legislative action and policy review, amplified our work to beautify our communities and substantively conserve our natural environment and its biodiversity. We have adopted regulatory practices to protect our local wildlife and marine ecosystems, control pollution, safeguard our coastlines and preserve protected areas to enhance the livelihoods and culture of our people. These efforts are made manifest through the first readings of the National Conservation and Environmental Management (NCEM) and the Community Beautification and Safety Bills.

Even with all this local action, the climate crisis continues to batter small island developing states like ours, requiring us to expand our concept of sustainability and climate resilience if we are to survive. This fact deepens my belief that we must harness the power of the collective and capitalize on the possibilities to be found in synergism. Our successes as a nation or as a people ought not to be delimited by national boundary or physical location. Which is why you all, our diaspora members, are so critical.

Our diasporic community is the connective tissue of the Federation. I envision our relationship like roots extended into foreign soils, channeling growth and enrichment back to their homeland. With that in mind, I dare say sustainable transformation is only possible with you. Your collaboration, your environmental stewardship, your partnership and volunteerism, skills, experience and expertise, your investments and contributions are the provisions that will complement our actions and help our ambitions bear even more fruit.

Together we can turn challenges into opportunities and opportunities into success stories to ensure that our twinisland Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis remains a beautiful, resilient beacon in the Caribbean for generations to come.

The Ministries of Sustainable Development and Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment invite your support noting that a sustainable future is one that we build together, today.

Best wishes.

Dr. Hon. Joyelle Clarke

Minister of Sustainable Development and Environment



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Message by the Hon. Spencer Brand, Minister of the Environment in the Nevis Island Administration

Dear Nationals in the Duaspora,

Permit me to discuss an issue that resonates deeply with all of us—our environment, particularly in our beautiful island state of Nevis. As we navigate the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, it is imperative that we take action to protect our precious ecosystem. Our initiatives focus on coastal protection, reforestation, recycling, and the removal of derelict vehicles from our landscapes.

First, let's address coastal protection. Nevis, with its stunning beaches and vibrant marine life, is vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal erosion. To safeguard our shores, we will implement natural solutions such as planting mangroves and restoring coral reefs. These ecosystems act as buffers against storm surges, while simultaneously providing habitat for marine species. By engaging local communities in these efforts, we not only protect our coastline but also foster a sense of stewardship among residents, encouraging a collective responsibility towards our environment.

Next, we turn to reforestation. Our island's lush forests are vital for biodiversity and climate regulation. However, deforestation poses a significant threat to our natural heritage. We are committed to replanting native tree species and restoring degraded areas. Through community planting days, we invite volunteers to participate in this vital work, helping to cultivate a greener future for Nevis. This initiative not only enhances our landscape but also improves air quality and supports wildlife habitats.

Recycling, particularly the recycling of plastic bottles, is another cornerstone of our environmental strategy. Plastic pollution is a global crisis, and small island states like ours are disproportionately affected. We aim to establish a robust recycling programme to encourage residents and businesses to properly dispose of plastic waste. By partnering with our Taiwanese friends and local organisations, we will continue the calibration of collection points and educational campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of recycling. Our goal is to reduce plastic pollution and promote a circular economy that benefits both our environment and our community.

Lastly, we must address the issue of derelict vehicles littering our island. These abandoned cars not only detract from our island's beauty but also pose environmental hazards. We are launching a campaign to remove these vehicles, collaborating with local authorities and volunteers to ensure a cleaner, safer environment. This initiative will not only enhance the aesthetics of our surroundings but also reclaim valuable land for community use.

The environmental work we undertake on Nevis is not just about protecting our island; it is about preserving our legacy for future generations. By investing in coastal protection, reforestation, effective recycling, and the removal of derelict vehicles, we are taking meaningful steps towards a sustainable future. Let us come together, united in our mission to protect the environment we hold dear, and inspire others to join us in this vital cause.

Hon. Spencer Brand Minister of the Environment Nevis Island Administration

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE

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RIDU In Focus



As the world grapples with the existential threats of climate change, vulnerable small island states like Saint Kitts and Nevis, have begun to pursue the solutions that include sustainability into the national consciousness.

While our leaders attend the UN Conference of the Parties each year, advocating for a show of care and concern by the industrial nations by lowering CO2 emissions, keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees within reach and increasing climate financing, it is incumbent upon small island developing states to do their part to build resilience into our systems as we preserve our environment.

Issue Four of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Digest explores the work of Ministries of Environment both at the Federal and Nevis Island levels, in an effort to engage all citizens and residents. Addresses by the honourable ministers, Federal Senator Dr. Joyelle Clarke (see page 4) and NIA Representative Mr. Spencer Brand (see page 5), set the tone for the publication. It is evident through their writings that there is strong collaboration across the Narrows in the care we give to our pristine paradise.

This issue makes a formal introduction to the Sustainable Island State Agenda that our country now pursues. We ask the reader to carefully examine the rationale for this noble agenda and seven pillars that support the work to achieving this long-term responsibility. The sustainable island state agenda does not come without challenges. The issue identifies and examines the possible difficulties that can and will be encountered (see pages 8 to 10). The work of the federal Solid Waste Management Corporation and the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority are outlined and applauded (see pages 26 and 27 and 29 and 30). These two entities lead the way in garbage collection, waste reduction and the overall cleanliness of the nation. Their work form an integral part of the environmental preservation agenda of the state.

On pages 15 and 16, the publication informs the Diaspora on the government's decision to phase out the importation and distribution of one-time-use plastic items (cups, trays, utensils) in the federation. This initiative forms part of the work to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

The publication also points to a need for the active engagement and inclusion of the Diaspora in undertaking the kind of strategic thinking, action and review that are needed to deliver this awesome outcome we call the Sustainable Island State. The expertise of our fellow nationals living abroad is equally necessary as is the buy-in of those at home. Together, we will be able to build a more vibrant economy, create a stronger society, promote a more cherished heritage and preserve a well-protected environment.

The Diaspora continues to be a effective resource pool which can broaden the scope of examining the issues of environmental preservation, care and control.

Over the period September 14 to 18, 2024, the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit (RIDU) will host the Second Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Conference. All nationals are encouraged to follow and share in our conference through our website (diaspora.gov.kn) and our Facebook page (Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora).

The Conference will shape the focus of the RIDU to create a more inclusive Diaspora Policy. Here we intend to inspire innovation and create connections for exponential growth. In doing so, our diasporic engagement will help to build resiliency into the sustainable island state agenda.

The publication also reaches out to the Diaspora in celebration of the resiliency of a Kittitian super-centenarian in the person of Ms. Bernice Sebastian. Ms. Sebastian will celebrate the enviable age of 111 years in a few weeks in Philadelphia. The Diaspora Digest Family rejoices with Ms. Sebastian and regards her as the epitome of daily rejuvenation and resilience.

This issue also commemorates the 41st anniversary of nationhood. Through the publication adverts, we encourage our readers and all Saint Kitts and Nevis nationals and their descendants, the world over, to take part in the services and all other events that will mark our achievement of 41 years as a sovereign nation.

The upcoming commemorative events, that will take place both at home and in the Diaspora, reveal that we are truly a nation bound together. Therefore, neither time nor distance will be able to distract us from our shared goals of nation building, for we stand "Together, a People, Proud and Strong [at] Independence 41" and beyond.

Happy Independence 41 one and all from the leadership and team of the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit in the Prime Minister's Office.

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SECOND SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS SE DIASPORA CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Inspiring Innovation | Creating Connections | Exponential Growth

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

Registration at St. Kitts Marriott - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Welcome Cocktail at The Belmont - 7:00 pm (hosted by Deon Daniel)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 Lunch at Carambola -11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Speaker: *Mr. Peter Kwok,* Chair of Global Diaspora Confederation

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

DAY 1: OPENING OF EXHIBITION

National Heroes Day Ceremony - 8:00 am Conference Commences - 10:00 am

SESSION 1: THE DIASPORA AND THE HEALTH AGENDA

- National Health Policy Dr. Patrick Martin
- Medical Technology Dr. Aldrin Sweeney
- National Health Insurance Mrs. Leanne Walters-Flemming
- Non-Communicable Diseases Dr. Melvin Blanchard

PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCH

SESSION 2: WEALTH BUILDING AND INVESTMENT

(Ms. Davina Tomlinson - Moderator)

- Entrepreneurship Across Borders Ms. Davina Tomlinson
- Intellectual Property Rights Mrs. Jihan Williams-Knight
- Remittances Mr. Trevor Blake
- Investment H.E. Calvin St. Juste

SESSION 3:

THE DIASPORA AND SUSTAINABLE ISLAND STATE

(Mr. Dave Browne - Moderator)

- Food Security Dr. Colin Cannonier
- Manufacturing Mr. Byron Jones
- Sustainable Tourism Dr. David Baker
- National Security Dr. Lionel Rawlins

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 DAY 2: 8:30 am

SESSION 4:

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Diaspora and Climate Action (Mr. Evered Webbo Herbert - Moderator)

- Water Security Mr. Rawlinson Isaac
- Green Energy Dr. Wayne Archibald
- Creating Sustainable Industries Ms. Hillarie Klas
- Climate Friendly Jobs Ms. Psyche Southwell

MORNING BREAK

SESSION 5: NEXT GENERATION DIASPORA

(Ms. Scoticia Hendrickson - Moderator)

- Descendants Ms. Jessica Dunrod
- Education Ms. Sandrea Maynard
- Artificial Intelligence Ms. Dawn Liburd
- Vision for the Future Dr. Cherese Godwin

PREMIER'S LUNCH

Exhibition on Nevis Tours on Nevis - 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Delegates choose one excursion)

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 DAY 3:

SESSION 6: THE DIASPORA AND OUR CULTURE

(Mr. Clement Monarch O'Garro - Moderator)

- Filming Our Heritage Ms. Sylvia Sweeney
- Sport Development Mr. Harwood Williams
- Internationalising our Food Ms. Petula Skeete
- Marketing and Music Mr. Ivan Berry

MORNING BREAK

SESSION 7: TOWARDS A MORE INCLUSIVE DIASPORA POLICY

- Returning Nationals Ms. Esther Smith
- Students Association Miss Dhakiya Liburd
- Citizens by Investment Mr. Michael Martin
- Connectivity H. E. Samuel Berridge

LUNCH

Tours on St. Kitts - 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm (Delegates choose one excursion)

Official end of Conference

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Delegates are invited to Independence Cocktail hosted by Governor General

Transforming Saint Kitts and Nevis to a Sustainable Island State



In 2022, Saint Kitts and Nevis articulated its vision of transforming our twin island federation into a Sustainable Island State. The transformation, as has been outlined, is highly dependent on a shared vision of sustainability by our citizens, both at home and in the Diaspora. Our collective hopes for continued improved standards of living will shape our shared vision of sustainability and fuel our passion to achieve this goal.

What does a sustainable island state look like?

In brief, the answer is based on the will and the work of the people. Whilst the Government has shared its aspiration for resilience and transformation, the outcome will be dependent on the vision, desires, understanding and input of the people.

At the same time, it is important for our leaders to frame the conversation of transformation around our lived realities, because, sustainability, at its root, means enjoying the highest quality of life in the present and preserving this new minimum standard for the future generations of Kittitians and Nevisians.

What is an island state?

This is a sovereign country that is primarily composed of one or more islands. Island states often face unique challenges due to their geographic location. They face issues of limited natural resources, vulnerability to natural disasters, and a high dependence on global systems. At the same time, they also possess unique advantages, such as beautiful landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and opportunities for tourism and sustainable development.

What are the challenges of an island state/Why transform?

As an island state, Saint Kitts and Nevis faces specific challenges which are common to other island states of similar geographic, climatic, economic, social and cultural characteristics. Our increasing vulnerabilities to climate related disasters such as hurricanes and flash floods, storm surges and sea level rise rank high among the challenges that island states encounter.

Owing to limitations in the supply of natural resources including freshwater, minerals, and arable land, island states face constraints in their pursuit of economic development which make them reliant on imports and susceptible to external shocks which lead to higher costs of living.

Small populations limit the size of local markets, making it difficult to achieve economies of scale and attract foreign investment. Often times the investments and development achieved perish as a result of the repeated onslaughts of climate change. The ability to island states to sustain development is tested regularly.

As the smallest nation in the Western hemisphere, size is a critical consideration for Saint Kitts and Nevis in our pursuit of growth and development, our productivity, income generation and providing for our citizens. The quest for sustainability is directly relates to our population, our resources, our productivity, and our ability to identify and adopt the systems that will continuously maximise our outcomes.

What then is the transformation to a sustainable island state?

The government and the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis will work together to determine the ways we can improve our current lived realities and maintain the same or even better standards for future

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generations of Kittitians and Nevisians, whether they are resident or non-resident.

What is national transformation based on?

Our transformation to sustainability will speak to three critical factors:

1. Climate resilience

The ability of our systems to prepare for and recover from the impacts of climate change. It encompasses the capacity to anticipate, plan, respond, and adjust to mitigate the effects of climate change.

2. Digital Transformation

Using digital technologies to create new value and improve processes. This involves embracing and integrating digital technologies into all areas of the business and socialisation, using data and analytics to inform strategic decisions, drive innovation and improve efficiency, and fostering a national culture of innovation and continuous learning.

3. Environmental Stewardship.

The responsible care and management of the natural environment. It involves protecting and conserving natural resources, minimising pollution, and promoting sustainable practices through education and awareness.

Succinctly put, every generation of Kittitians and Nevisians will be equipped with the skills, tools and assets which allow them to adapt to a changing climate, use the most innovative digital technology and protect the environment and biodiversity.

How are we to transform to a Sustainable Island State?

The transformation is based on seven pillars of sustainability:

- Water Security
- Energy Transition
- Food Security
- Sustainable Industry
- Sustainable Settlements
- Circular Economy and
- Social Protection

The Government is poised to make the strategic investments and partnerships that will bring about transformation in each area. Through active collaboration, this work will lead to a rapid and systematic transformation of every aspect of national life.

What does a sustainable St Kitts and Nevis look like?

Sustainability presents the opportunity for all citizens and residents to:

Connect to our clean "One Grid" which is driven by geothermal, solar powered and other forms of renewable energy. This can and will result in significant cost savings in utility bills for domestic and commercial users.

Enjoy reliable water supply, on demand, with water harvesting at the core.

Consume more local produce through increased local agro-production at the micro and commercial scales resulting in a 25% reduction in food imports

Be part of a robust economic climate that is built on long-term growth, job and income security, and new avenues for creativity, along with greater investment opportunities.

Live in smart climate friendly homes and newly designed urban spaces.

Participate in an economy that produces zero waste through new recycling and landfill management systems



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Receive universal healthcare in inclusive communities, with social transformation for all members of society

Can the Diaspora help Saint Kitts and Nevis become a sustainable island state?

Absolutely, the Diaspora can play a vital role in helping Saint Kitts and Nevis become a sustainable island state. There are a number of ways that the Diaspora can contribute to this national effort.

Nationals in the Diaspora can provide financial support to sustainable development projects, such as renewable energy initiatives, environmental conservation programs, and educational initiatives. They can also provide investment for sustainable businesses and industries that contribute to the country's economic development while minimising environmental impact.

The nation continues to seek after the expertise of the Diaspora for sustainable development, renewable energy, environmental conservation, and other fields where their knowledge and skills can be shared with local businesses and communities.

The Diaspora is an excellent agent for national advocacy and promotion for our country. Our citizens abroad can advocate for sustainable policies and practices at both the national and international levels in the societies where they live. They can raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage the governments to adopt sustainable policies. At the same time, Diaspora members can promote sustainable tourism in Saint Kitts and Nevis by encouraging their friends and family to visit and support our ecofriendly businesses.

Finally, the Diaspora can contribute to community development projects at home that focus on sustainability, such as contributing to solar-powered schools and community centres, planting trees or donating to the digital transformation of our communities. By leveraging its resources, networks, and expertise, the Diaspora can make a significant contribution to Saint Kitts and Nevis's transition to a sustainable island state.

When will we transform?

The transformation has begun. Every day, we take one step closer to becoming a more responsible and sustainable island state. The path to sustainability is an ongoing journey that we will take together. The government has set a long-term goal of seven years to achieve the objectives of sustainability which are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In our Sustainable Island State, every Kittitian and Nevisian will enjoy the benefits of reliable cost-effective energy and water; where we grow a significant portion of the food we consume; where healthcare is universal, communities are inclusive and diverse and protection of the most vulnerable is a priority; where growth in the economy is based on zero waste; where tourism is resilient and year-round; where creatives can thrive, and income matches the cost of living.; and here homes are smart and designed to withstand the changing climate. The Sustainable Island State will be that state of being which every generation deserves to enjoy. It delivers for the present just as it guarantees the same for the future.



DIASPORA DIGEST



ANSA-REUNION 2025 BUILDING, INVESTING, AND REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO TOMORROW

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Celebrating Independence 41: A Call to Reconnect and Rejoice



TOGETHER, A PEOPLE, PROUD AND STRONG: INDEPENDENCE 41

As the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis proudly embarks on the 41st Anniversary of Independence, we stand on the cusp of a momentous occasion a celebration that honours our rich history, unyielding spirit, and vibrant culture.

Celebrated under the theme "Together, A People, Proud and Strong: Independence 41," this year's festivities are more than just a commemoration; they are a testament to the pride, unity and resilience that have always defined us as a nation.

The government has unveiled another exciting lineup of activities that will span the length and breadth of our beautiful islands, ensuring that every citizen, both at home and abroad, has the opportunity to engage in the celebration.

From traditional events such as the National Heroes Day Wreath–laying Ceremony, Independence Day Parade, Drill Competition and the National Service of Gratitude, to new and invigorating experiences like the 'Patriotic Day Fair' and a myriad of fringe events, this year's calendar is filled with an array of opportunities to celebrate our national pride.

We extend a special invitation to our Diaspora to share in Independence 41. The strength of our nation is reflected in the bonds we maintain with our citizens abroad. Your contributions, support, and love for your homeland are invaluable, and we encourage you to not only participate in the celebrations but to also consider returning home to join in the festivities. This is a perfect opportunity to reconnect with your roots, share in the collective joy of Independence 41, and experience firsthand the warmth and hospitality of our people.

This year's celebrations are more than just events on a calendar; they are a call to togetherness, a reminder of our shared heritage, and a celebration of the bright future that lies ahead. We urge every citizen in the diaspora to proudly fly the flag, engage with the activities, and, if possible, make the journey home. Saint Kitts and Nevis is your home, and there is no better time to reconnect than during this momentous occasion. Let us come together as one people—proud and strong—to celebrate Independence 41. Your presence, whether near or far, will make this celebration truly unforgettable.







CALENDAR (ST. KITTS AND NEVIS ACTIV ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

TOGETHER, A PEOPLE, PROUD AND STRONG: INDEPENDENCE 41

SKB WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST **CONVERSATIONS:** Reflections & The Way Forward · Episode 1: "Guns Down, Independence up: Securing Saints Kitts and Nevis Future

SKN **FRIDAY 30 AUGUST**

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- National Colours Day #1 (WEAR GREEN)
- SATURDAY 31 AUGUST
- National Tree Planting Day CPL T20 – Patriots vs Knight Riders
- SKB SUNDAY 01 SEPTEMBER CPL T20 - Patriots vs Kings
- SKN MONDAY 02 SEPTEMBER **NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS**
- **TUESDAY 03 SEPTEMBER** SKB Seniors Independence Cultural Celebration
- SKB WEDNESDAY 04 SEPTEMBER **CONVERSATIONS:** Reflections & The Way Forward • Episode 2: "Healing Wounds: Exploring Reparations for Saint Kitts and Nevis" CPL T20 – Patriots vs Amazon Warriors
- SKB THURSDAY 05 SEPTEMBER Cabinet Primary School Visits (East Zone)

FRIDAY 06 SEPTEMBER

- National Colours Day #2
 - National Sneaker Day
- · CPL T20 Patriots vs Royals

SATURDAY 07 SEPTEMBER

- Creative Power Gala & Awards Show
 Caribbean Wellness Day Wellness Activity SKB NaV
 - Nevis Marathon and Running Festival by Nevis Multisports . It's A Nevis Knock Out by SKN Moves Nevis Chapter (Sept 7-8)
 - SUNDAY 08 SEPTEMBER
 - CPL T20 Patriots vs Falcons East Basseterre Festival 2024 (Sept 8th - 29th)

SKB **TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER**

 26th Prime Minister's Lecture Series 9th OECS Ministers Education and Social Development Meeting (Sept 10th-12th)

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

- CONVERSATIONS: Reflections & The Way Forward • Episode 3: "Youthquake: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders'
- Cabinet Primary School Visits (West Zone)
- NEV Patriotic Programmes and Ministerial Visits to Schools (Sept 11-18)

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

- Cabinet Primary School Visits (Basseterre Zone)
 Americas Netball Men's Championship (Sept 12-14)
 Visions of Independence: A Celebration Through SKB
- Local Art by Local Artists Collective 12132 Unsung Heroes Awards

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

 National Colours Day #3 SKN (WEAR WHITE) SKB National Youth Rally

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

- TASTE SKN (Sept 14th 21st) St. Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Conference 2024 (Sept 14th-18th)
- Men in Aprol

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- King Amongst Kings Calypso Extravaganza by Trail Life, VI & Fete Warriors Promotions
- NEV Independence Freedom Concert

SKB SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

 National Service of Gratitude & Gospel Concert Belle Pastel by Study It Ent

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

- . NATIONAL HEROES DAY
- · Heroes' Day Observances Wreath Laying & Recognition Ceremony (C. A. Paul Southwell Bust)
- Announcement of National Honours
- Community Flag Raising Ceremonies
 Rotary Club of St. Kitts Annual Fun Car
- Treasure Hunt and BBQ

SKB **TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER** Cabinet Visits to High Schools & CFBC

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

• PATRIOTIC DAY (WEAR YOUR NATIONAL COLOURS)

- **CONVERSATIONS:** Reflections & The Way Forward · Episode 4: "O Land of Beauty: Building Resilient Isle"
 - · Patriotic Day Fair
- Schools' Treat & Patriotic Programmes
- A Night with DJ Tero & EBJ Harmonics Independence Cocktail by Nevis Chapter of Chamber of Industry & Commerce NEV

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

• INDEPENDENCE DAY SKB

- Independence Ceremonial Parade

- Toast to the Nation

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

- National Colours Day #4
- (WEAR BLACK) Drill Competition

SKB SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

- Independence Street Fair
- Flowers, Food, and Flags by St. Kitts Flower Arrangers Association
 SKN Independence FLAVOURS
- by Carambola Beach Club

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

- · Pathfinder Expo by St. Kitts Seventh-day SKB
 - Adventist Pathfinder Clubs Night under the Stars by Virgil Hodge & Symphony Band
- NEV . Drag Racing by Drag Racing Unit

SKB WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

- **CONVERSATIONS:** Reflections & The Way Forward · Episode 5: "CCJ vs. Privy Council - The Battle
- for Justice'
- Creative Canvas: Celebrating Student Artistry by the Verchilds High School Industrial Art Department

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER Independence Elocution Competition

- SKB (Eliminations)
- NEV Youth Impact Awards Ceremony

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

- 5 KN National Colours Day #5 (WEAR RED)
- SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER Brimstone Hill Run for the Fit & Fearless

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

- Splendour in September Empire
- Nav
- MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER CTU ICT Week 2024 (Sept 30 - Oct 5)
- WEDNESDAY 02 OCTOBER **CONVERSATIONS:** Reflections & The Way Forward • Episode 6: "Digital Transformation: Connecting Our Digital Dots'
- THURSDAY 03 OCTOBER Independence Elocution Competition (FINAL)
- SKB SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER Night of Dance

- Governor-General's Cocktail The St. George's Mothers Union Breakfast
- Independence Parade and Awards Ceremony
- Deputy Governor-General's Cocktail

SKB SKB

- Wear Fashion Show
- Gospel Concert

SKB



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Conversation with the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora (CCCD) welcomes Prime Minister Drew and Mrs. Drew as Patrons of its Inaugural Gala

(New York, New York - August 27, 2024) Conversations with the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora (CCCD) is fast becoming the region's premier platform for driving an elevated Caribbean discourse around issues impacting civics and sustainable development. This organisation is set to have its official launch at New York's Eastwood Manor on Friday, September 27, 2024 with a gala that is intended to spark conversations for change.

Set during the UN's High-Level Week and themed to mark the end of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent, the event held under the distinguished patronage of Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Terrance Drew and Mrs. Diani Prince-Drew, will feature an address by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor of the University of West Indies as its keynote speaker.

The gala will also boast our rich Caribbean culture and provide networking opportunities. It promises to be a true Caribbean extravaganza.

Funds raised from the CCCD Inaugural Gala will contribute to the group's vision to launch a Pan-Caribbean Museum to serve as a reminder of the strength, resilience and impact of the Caribbean region to the world. CCCD also intends to unveil the annual Caribbean Impact Award



which seeks to encourage innovative and stalwart leadership across all fields of development in the region, and throughout the diaspora.

CCCD is a duly formed not-for-profit organisation in the State of New York and is registered as a tax exempt organisation in the United States of America.

The CCCD comprises dedicated public servants and leaders in their respective fields of endeavour who feel deeply about giving back to the Caribbean. In April 2022, the CCCD emerged from the inspiration of President Gwendolyn King who pitched her idea for an online forum for discussions to a diverse group of professionals of Caribbean heritage.

Mindful that migration has been a main feature of Caribbean life, conscious of Caribbean peoples' need to remain rooted, and guided by an optimism that the space will attract a critical mass of Caribbean talent from their global locations to participate, the CCCD Inc. launched its first public online conversation in June 2022. The CCCD is also committed to a collaborative pan-Caribbean project, funded by donations, to curate artifacts of cultural value - material, digital and in other forms - to reinforce the evidence of Caribbean excellence.

The monthly conversations dive into critical developmental achievements and challenges facing individual countries, the region and its dynamic diaspora by drawing on the expertise and experiences of its audience to amplify Caribbean voices.

Learn more about the CCCD Inaugural Gala and about the CCCD at www.thecccd.com or at thecccd2022@gmail.com









Under the Distinguished Patronage of

Hon. Dr. Terrance Drew Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Mrs Diani Dren

KTIE BLA

Honoree Hon Mia Amor Mottley



Keynote Speaker Sir Hilary Beckles

Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies Reparations Commission

Prime Minister of Barbados

Master of Ceremonies H.E

Jacinth Henry Martin

Ambassador to the United States of America



Time: 7:00 pm - 1:00 am Eastwood Manor 3371 East Chester Rd, Bronx NY 10469

ILAN' BAN' AND UPFRONT BAND

FEATURING ?

Ticket: \$125

Tickets can be purchased with: Zelle, PayPal, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung pay or with EventBrite.

Zelle: 404-227 1314 6 Michele: 347-578 1873 Keith: 646-326 3595

TOPIC: "The end of the decade of people of African descent: 2014-2024." THEME: CARIBBEAN CONVERSATION FOR CHANGE



thecccd2022@gmail.com

Saint Kitts and Nevis scales up recycling and phases out single use plastics

Saint Kitts and Nevis continues to partner with Taiwan through the launch of Phase Two of the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Project.

In an agreement signed on July 31, 2024, the two parties committed to achieve the project aims of reducing waste and promoting a healthy environment.

Minister for Sustainable Development and the Environment, Dr Joyelle Clarke said that the agreement "marks a significant step as we collectively continue to transition our Federation under the Sustainable Island State Agenda." She also said that this expansion is a clear signal that the Government is committed to becoming a sustainable Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The government minister pledged to intensify environment friendly efforts and strategic action in order to build on the achievements of Phase One.

Going forward, the ministry will introduce a paper recycling system, establish a standard operating procedure for garbage collection, upgrading equipment at the recycling plants on both islands and strengthen strategic planning and public awareness.

Paper recycling, in Phase Two, will be added to plastic bottles and metal cans recycling which were successfully under-



taken in Phase One. The Ministry of Environment seeks to significantly to cultivate positive environmental practices by reducing plastic, metal and now paper waste in the Federation.

Phase Two will see a significant decrease in various forms of paper waste including cardboard waste going to the landfill. Through a strengthened public awareness campaign and streamlined waste collection mechanism, government, with the assistance of the Taiwan Technical Mission, will expand recycling in Saint Kitts and Nevis over the next three years. This recycling initiative compliments the government's drive to ban single-use plastics in the federation in a phased approach.

The implementation of the ban will be structured in three phases and will affect the importation, sale, and distribution of single use plastic goods.

Under Phase One, a ban will go into effect on importation of T-shirt plastic shopping bags into the federation as of December 31, 2024. This will be followed by a ban on the sale and distribution of T -shirt plastic shopping bags as of March 31, 2025.

Under Phase Two, a ban will take effect on the importation of Styrofoam food containers and plastic straws into the federation, effective as of April 30, 2025. This will be followed by a ban on the sale and distribution of Styrofoam food containers and plastic straws as of July 31, 2025.

Under the Third (and final) Phase, a ban will take effect on the importation of single-use plastic cups, plastic plates, and plastic utensils as of August 31, 2025. This will be followed by a ban on the sale and distribution of single-use plastic cups, plastic plates, and plastic utensils as of November 30, 2025.



DIASPORA DIGEST

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ST. KITTS AND NEVIS SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN PHASES AND TIMELINES





PHASES	BANNED ITEM/S	BAN ON IMPORTATION OF ITEMS	BAN ON SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS
Phase 1	T-Shirt Shopping Bags	December 31st, 2024	March 31st, 2025
Phase 2	Styrofoam Food Containers and Plastic Straws	April 30th, 2025	July 31st, 2025
Phase 3	Single-use Plastic Utensils, Plastic Cups and Plastic Plates	August 31st, 2025	November 30th, 2025

NOTE: A 3-MONTH TIMEFRAME BETWEEN THE BAN ON IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BANNED ITEMS. THEN, A 1-MONTH TIMEFRAME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOLLOWING PHASE.



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DIASPORA PERSONALITY PROFILE: Ms. Avril Francis

Ms Avril Francis is a dynamic daughter of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis whose love for country and the Caribbean have caused her to showcase her national pride in the many facets of her life. While she has lived in the diaspora for more than 40 years, she continues to maintain the connection with her homeland. This profile of Ms. Francis shows how a young lady from rural Saint Kitts has worked her way to greatness in the New York Metropolis.

Avril was born on the island of Saint Kitts to Ms. Vera Francis (also known as Vera Mills) and Mr. Reynold Caines, both of St. Paul's Village. Her early years in the sugar belt of the island brought her faceto-face with the labours of sugarcane fields and family garden plots. This upbringing, in rural Saint Kitts, taught her the value of hard work and family.

Growing in St. Paul's made her tough. Her village seemed more isolated from Basseterre in her formative years as she has no memories of going to town as child. Her family diet was primarily from the land which made her strong. She enjoyed fresh milk every morning which was supplied by her Uncle Dougal. Each morning there would be a fresh supply of milk on the veranda. There was always a fresh supply of ground provisions, fruits and other staple foods that were the lifeline of her home and community.

Avril loved walking down to the St. Paul's bay-side with her cousins Dalilah, Al and Paulette. Spending time with these playmates were moments of adventure that brought her happy childhood memories. She remembers with dread the times she engaged in pitching marbles. Avril was never any good at pitching and so whenever she pitched, she lost. She ended up with swollen knuckles as losers were punished by being struck hard on the knuckle with a marble by each of the other players. Growing up in St. Paul's is an experience Avril wishes to relive all over again.

She attended the St. Paul's Primary School which was then located in a section of the community known as Church Ghaut. She walked to school where she was known for her boisterous nature. She



was the girl who always appeared to be in trouble but she was equally hardworking.

Her faith-life began at the St. Paul Wesleyan Holiness Church. Each week, she attended for Sunday school and church services. Avril was that girl who needed supervision as her adventurous spirit could not be contained.

By age twelve, Avril began to attend the Sandy Point High School now known as the Charles E. Mills Secondary School. Each morning, she would join the village children outside Little Tom Shop to take the school bus to Sandy Point. Her stint at Sandy Point High was very short as she soon migrated to St. Thomas to join her parents who had earlier migrated to make a better life for the family.

In St. Thomas, she was enrolled in the Wayne Aspinall Junior High School which was later renamed the Addelita Cancryn Junior High School. Some believe that her best session at school was lunch but Avril insists that she had a great love for English. She loved the way this class allowed her to freely express her thoughts while introducing her to new and exciting concepts.

Avril then moved on to the Charlotte Amalie High School. Having not successfully completed high school, she returned as a young adult to pursue continuing education courses. Her tenacity of mind and spirit did not allow her to settle for failure.

When she saw an opportunity for further exploring life beyond her comfort zone, Avril migrated to New York. Her first priority was to complete her GED, which she completed in 1984. She enrolled in Monroe College and started undergraduate studies in Business Administration. Soon she changed her focus to become a certified medical technician. She first graduated

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with a Diploma in Medical Technician Studies and then continued to gain a second Diploma in Dialysis Technician Studies, both from Monroe University.

For the last 40 years, Avril has worked in the NYC healthcare sector. She first worked as a nursing home assistant before completing her certification training as medical technician. She then took up duties at the North Central Bronx Hospital. After a few years, she found a home working within the Montefiore Health System.

Her work in the health sector brought about a level of professional focus and development which have become the Avril's legacy of service. She understood the importance of dedicated focus on patient care. Her career was built on providing patients with attention and effort that was facilitated by internal information sharing and system coordination. Eventually she held a supervisory role in the Montefiore Health System.

She has served on the Montefiore Hospital Advisory Board. In that capacity, she has helped to guide the work of the hospital as it pertains to patient care and stakeholder engagement with the Bronx Wakefield community and its environs.

In 2002, Avril's life took an unexpected turn. One day, she called in on an NYC radio programme, called the Trevor Ford Morning Show, to voice a concern. The producers loved her articulation and personality so they asked her to be an in-studio guest. She accepted the invitation and this led to another invitation until she was asked



to guest-host and co-host the show. Two years later, she was given the opportunity to host her own Monday night show. In 2024, the *Avril Show* was launched.

The Avril Show became a dynamic fixture on New York's WVIP 93.5 FM. In 2009, Bronx Net TV included the Avril Show to its programming. Over the years, the show focused on a wide array of topics including human rights, equality, immigration, education, community concerns,



and politics. Avril was able to use her love of language and care for others to become a passionate advocate for social justice and community engagement.

The show has garnered significant attention for its bold discussions and impactful contributions, particularly in the Caribbean and immigrant communities. Avril has expanded her work into charity through The Avril Show Foundation, which supports causes like cancer awareness and education.

Avril rose to be a recognised voice and face in the Big Apple. She used this opportunity to launch women's empowerment initiatives. By 2015, she launched the Avril Show Foundation with a focus on giving support to cancer patients, celebrating cancer survivors and honouring those who make a difference in the fight against the illness. For this work, Avril was recognised as impactful by the Negro Business Women of America.

Avril has used her time in spotlight to promote Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Caribbean in New York. In the early days of the Saint Kitts Music Festival, Avril used radio as an outlet to promote the destination and our cultural events, Culturama and Sugar Mas. She established a great working relationship with former minister of tourism Richard Ricky Skerritt and his team, a relationship which continues until today.

DIASPORA DIGEST





She has used her platform to promote the work of the Kittitian and Nevisian Association (KANA) in New York. She has also worked closely with the Saint Kitts and Nevis Mission in New York.

She is proud of improvements in healthcare in Saint Kitts and Nevis and seeks to assist in giving advice to patient care and medical technician assistance. She craves the opportunity to help her country more as she has done in her adopted land.

There, she has been the recipient of many awards and accolades. These include being named among the 25 Bronx Influential Women in 2016; the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Humanitarian Award in 2020; and a Citation of Merit by the President of the Borough of the Bronx in 2023.

Avril is the mother of three grown sons -Deshawn, Deondre, and Delroy, who are making their strides in the worlds of psychology, business and music. They are equally part of her proud legacy.

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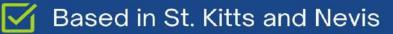
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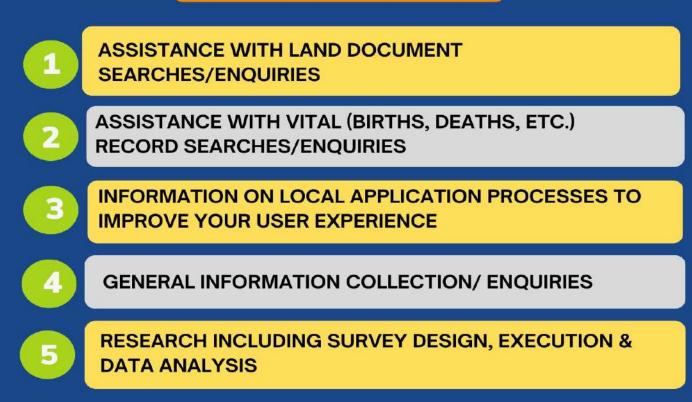
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DIASPORA ORGANISATION PROFILE: The Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care champions the elderly, the vulnerable



The Diaspora Digest happily presents the Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care as our featured Diaspora Group of the Quarter.

The Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care Organisation was founded in 2008 as a non-profit entity, which is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for seniors and other vulnerable populations in our twin-island federation. The group is well known for its philanthropic work and because of the support services and advocacy it provides, the Circle has become a beacon of hope for those in need.

The Circle of Care was founded through the shared concerns of nationals of Saint Kitts and Nevis living in Canada who recognised the growing need for specialised care for the elderly and the vulnerable at home. With a shared passion for community service and a deep understanding of the ongoing challenges faced by our at risk population, the group was organised to address their concerns.

The mission of the Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care is to promote the wellbeing of seniors and other vulnerable groups through the provision of compassionate care, support services, and representation. The group strives to create a supportive environment where the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis can age gracefully and maintain their independence.

The stated objectives of the Circle are:

To relieve conditions that are associated with the aged by conducting health workshops and seminars for seniors in Saint Kitts and Nevis;

To promote health by providing medical equipment and supplies to seniors in Saint Kitts and Nevis; and

To undertake activities, ancillary and incidental, to the attainment of the above -mentioned charitable purposes.

Led by President, Jennet Maynard, the Circle of Care's organisational structure includes a Vice-President (Mr. Charles Estridge), Treasurer (Mr. Percy Isaac), Secretary (Mrs. Stephanie Dickenson), International Liaison (Ms. Leanda Kirwan), and other leadership team members including Ms. Kathy Jones, Mr. Cecil Jeffers, Ms. Violet Weekes, Ms. Alison Prentice-Jeffers, Ms. Ornette Williams and Ms. Suzette Telo.

This management team helps to implement the group's strategic plan in their commitment to fulfilling its organisational mandate. Through the guidance of its latest three-year strategic plan, the Circle delivers on its plans to meet the needs of the seniors and indigent in the Federation. The group has intensified its efforts at organising food and clothing donation drives and medical supply collections to assist in overcoming the socio-economic



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Elderly enjoying games

and health-related challenges that continue to affect the elderly and indigent. Through its work, the Circle has been implementing strategies that have enhanced the quality of life for the recipients.

The group pledges to redouble its efforts to be a more effective partner in the social development of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Through greater enhanced support services and advocacy efforts, the group has begun to actively pursue growth in the level and frequency of its donations and to develop long-term partnerships with donors both in Canada and across North America. It will ensure that those in need in the federation are rightly identified and cared for.

Through its advocacy role, the group seeks to assist in developing best practices in Elderly Care in the Federation. The group has established working relationships with a number of elderly care homes in the federation, including the Flamboyant Elderly Home on Nevis and that Cardin Home on Saint Kitts.

The group has also redoubled its efforts to develop and maintain a sustainable food bank. This initiative was most recently tested when the Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care was to give an emergency donation to the Hurricane Beryl relief effort in Grenada in early July 2024.

The Circle works closely with government agencies, healthcare providers, and other community organisations to ensure that the support services it provides are accessible and effective. The successes of these partnerships have allowed the Circle to leverage its resources and expertise to better serve its beneficiaries.

As a result, the group and the country continue to see signs of the meaningful impact of interventions by the Circle in the federation. The organisation has helped to increase access to healthcare for seniors by providing wheelchairs, specialised beds and other furniture and equipment.

The group has provided social activities supplies which have helped to reduce social isolation among the elderly. These supplies include games and puzzles that stimulate the minds and stimulate interaction. Overall, the support services which have been offered by the Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care have helped to improve the overall quality of life for seniors and other vulnerable populations at home.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care is committed to continuing its mission of providing compassionate care and support to seniors and other vulnerable individuals. The organisation plans to expand its services and reach, and to explore new opportunities to improve the lives of its beneficiaries. There will be more fundraising dinners and food drives which the Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora in Canada is encouraged to give its love, care and support.

To learn more about the progressive work of the Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care, please log on to its informative website, https://skncoc.org.

The group can also be reach through its Facebook and Instagram media pages through the handle skn_circle_of_care.

For direct contact with the group, please email skncoc2008@gmail.com or call +1 416 737 6410.

As the population of Saint Kitts and Nevis ages, the demand for services such as those provided by the Circle is likely to increase. The organisation is well-positioned to meet this growing need and to continue to be a vital resource for our community.

The Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit applauds the Saint Kitts-Nevis Circle of Care for the remarkable work it continues to champion on behalf of the elder and vulnerable among us. We salute the amazing support you continue to provide and encourage you to always be of excellent service to God and country.

Thank you for all that you do.









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A Cleaner, More Sustainable Future with the Solid Waste Management Corporation



The Solid Waste Management Corporation (SWMC) plays a vital role in ensuring the cleanliness and sustainability of the island of Saint Kitts. The corporation started operations in 1996 but was formally established on July 1, 2009 when the Solid Waste Management Act (No. 11 of 2009) came into effect. The primary purpose of its creation was to address the growing challenges of waste management, and over the years, the corporation has implemented innovative strategies and initiatives to promote a cleaner and healthier environment.

Before the creation of the SWMC, island wide garbage collection was unheard of. Rural household waste was thrown in backyard piles to be burnt or discarded over ghautsides and in watercourses. Garbage, which was collected at the time by the Ministry of Health, was taken to one of two dumps sites (Conaree and Sandy Point) and burnt.

As the island shifted its focus to tourism services as the mainstay of its economy, the SWMC became the quintessential administrative tool in creating a pristine environment. The SWMC has displayed its commitment to sustainable waste management practices that minimise environmental impact and promote resource conservation. The corporation has adopted a holistic approach that encompasses waste reduction, recycling, composting, and proper disposal of chemical waste.

Proper Waste Disposal

The SWMC operates modern landfills that are designed to minimise environmental impact. The corporation has implemented strict regulations to ensure that waste is disposed of properly and safely. The corporation has increased and maintained its capacity to regularly and reliably collect household waste across the island. It has sustained its collection schedule that which sustains a post-2009 culture of organised garbage collection, island wide.

In addition, the SWMC has invested in waste management infrastructure, such as partnerships with private companies with collection vehicles and the introduction of transfer stations, to improve the efficiency of commercial and industrial waste collection and disposal.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

One of the key priorities of the SWMC is to reduce the amount of waste generated on the island of Saint Kitts. The corporation has implemented public education campaigns to encourage residents and businesses to adopt waste reduction practices, such as composting food scraps and reducing packaging waste.

Recycling programmes have also been established to divert recyclable materials from landfills. The SWMC has partnered with the Government of Taiwan and local organisations and businesses to set up recycling collection points throughout the islands. While there is more to be done, this initiative has significantly reduced the amount of plastic waste going to the landfill.

Composting Initiatives

With the introduction of the SWMC, composting (the process in which the organic portion of refuse is allowed to decompose under carefully controlled conditions) has become an important component of waste management strategy on Saint Kitts. The corporation has promoted composting as a sustainable way to manage organic waste and create nutrient-rich soil. Composting programmes have been established for







both residential and commercial use.

Environmental Education and Community Engagement

Very early in its work, the SWMC recognised the importance of environmental education through community engagement in promoting sustainable waste management practices. The concept of combining proper disposal awareness with the people at all ages has paid in great dividends for a cleaner and more beautiful island. The corporation developed educational programmes for schools, communities, and businesses to raise awareness about waste reduction, recycling, and proper disposal.

Through its commitment to engage with the people at all communities, the SWMC continues to positively meet the needs of residents and businesses. The corporation has established partnerships with local organisations and individuals to gather feedback and address concerns related to waste management.

Challenges and Future Plans

Despite its achievements, the SKSWMC faces several challenges in its efforts to manage waste on Saint Kitts. These challenges include limited resources, increasing population growth, and the need for further infrastructure development on the island.

To address these challenges, the SWMC continues to developed strategic plans that outline its future goals and objectives. The plan includes the expansion of recycling programmes, improve waste collection services, and invest in new technologies to enhance waste management efficiency.

Despite its successful work in education and engagement, the SWMC will have to continue to combat indiscriminate dumping which will can reverse the significant gains that have been made. Indiscriminate dumping not only spoils the landscape but also poses serious health and environmental risks.

The corporation is committed to continue to enforce environmental regulations. It has strengthened its enforcement efforts to deter illegal dumping and has increased the number of inspections and issued fines to individuals and businesses caught dumping waste illegally.

The SWMC believes that its future success in meeting its strategic challenges will be found in continued active partnerships with organisations and communities to promote clean and sustainable practices.

It will continue to air its *Talking Trash* and *Waste Matters* radio programmes with emphases on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle for a cleaner environment.

By doing all this, the SWMC will continue to play a vital role in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development on Saint Kitts. Through its efforts to reduce waste, promote recycling, and improve waste disposal practices, the corporation will make further significant contribution to the well-being of the twin -island federation and to the realisation of the sustainable island state agenda.

As the SWMC continues to implement its strategic plan, it is poised to become a global leader in sustainable waste management. The Saint Kitts and Nevins Diaspora is encouraged to learn more about the SWMC and ways that partnership and engagement with the corporation can progressively enhance it work to creating a cleaner future.



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Responsible Waste Management practices for a healthy environment on the island of Nevis



The Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is a key actor in maintaining environmental health and sanitation on the island of Nevis. With a population that is increasingly conscious of environmental concerns, effective waste management is crucial for both public health and the protection of Nevis's natural beauty, which is vital for its economy, particularly tourism. The NSWMA has developed several initiatives, strategies, and programmes that have been designed to handle waste collection, disposal, and recycling while promoting sustainable practices among residents and businesses.

Mandate and Objectives

The primary mandate of the NSWMA is to ensure that solid waste is managed in an environmentally friendly, safe, and efficient manner. This responsibility includes not just waste collection and disposal but also implementing waste reduction strategies, promoting recycling, and encouraging responsible behaviour among the island's inhabitants.

The authority's main objectives include providing reliable and efficient garbage

collection services across the island and ensuring proper disposal of waste at the designated landfill sites. The authority promotes waste minimisation and recycling to reduce the volume of waste that goes to landfills by raising public awareness about the importance of responsible waste management. NSWMA safeguards the island's natural environment and supporting public health initiatives.

Waste Collection Services

One of the core functions of the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority is waste collection. This service is crucial for maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene of public spaces as well as residential and business areas. The NSWMA operates a well-organized system for the regular collection of household and commercial waste, ensuring that communities on the island remain clean and free from the dangers of unsanitary conditions.

The authority provides weekly curb side garbage collection services to households and businesses throughout the island. Collection schedules are published (visit https:// nia.gov.kn/ministries/nevis-solid-waste/ #about) to ensure that residents know when their waste will be picked up, and they are encouraged to properly secure their waste in bins to avoid issues such as littering and animal scavenging.

Additionally, NSWMA ensures the collection of bulky items like old furniture, appliances, and other large debris that may not be suitable for regular garbage trucks. This service helps to minimise illegal dumping and ensures that the island remains clean and appealing. This work is especially important for maintaining Nevis's status as a popular tourist destination.

Landfill Management, Waste Disposal

Proper landfill management is another critical function of the NSWMA. The main disposal site for Nevis is the Long Point Landfill, where all non-recyclable waste is deposited. The authority ensures that the landfill is managed in a way that minimises environmental hazards, such as air and water pollution, and avoids the attraction of pests.

Effective landfill management involves daily covering of waste to reduce odours, the risk of fires, and the attraction of

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vermin. The NSWMA also ensures that the site is adequately protected from contamination of nearby land or water sources, including the use of liners and leachate management systems to control any liquids that may seep from the landfill.

In recent years, the NSWMA has taken steps to explore the potential for waste-to -energy technologies and alternative waste disposal solutions that could further reduce the environmental impact of landfills and contribute to sustainable energy production.

Recycling and Waste Minimisation

One of the key initiatives of the NSWMA is promoting recycling and waste minimisation as a means to reduce the overall volume of waste being sent to the landfill. Nevis, like many other small island states, faces particular challenges in terms of land availability for waste disposal, making recycling and other waste-reduction strategies even more essential.

The NSWMA has launched several campaigns to encourage recycling among both businesses

and households. These initiatives include the collection of recyclable materials such as plastics, glass, paper, and metals. The authority works in partnership with local and regional recyclers to process and export these materials, thereby diverting waste from the landfill and contributing to a more circular economy.

Public awareness campaigns are a vital part of the NSWMA's recycling efforts. Educational programmes in schools, community events, and public service announcements aim to educate citizens about the importance of recycling, composting, and other waste reduction strategies. Through these efforts, the NSWMA hopes to foster a culture of environmental stewardship and responsibility.

Environmental Health Protection

Waste management is closely tied to public health, and the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority works to mitigate the potential health risks associated with improper waste disposal. Open dumping and burning of waste can lead to air and water pollution, which can harm both human health and the environment. The NSWMA's efforts to prevent these practices, and to ensure that waste is collected and disposed of properly, help to protect public health and promote environmental sustainability.

The NSWMA also plays an important role in managing waste during emergencies, such as hurricanes. The authority has contingency plans in place to ensure that waste collection and disposal services can continue, or be quickly restored, following a natural disaster. Proper waste management is critical in such situations to prevent the spread of disease and to ensure that communities can recover as quickly as possible.

Partnerships and Regional Collaboration

Given the shared environmental challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority actively seeks partnerships and collaborations at the regional level. Such partnerships provide opportunities



³⁰ DIASPORA DIGEST



for knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and access to international funding mechanisms aimed at improving waste management infrastructure.

The NSWMA works closely with organisations like the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement best practices in waste management and to align its efforts with broader regional initiatives aimed at protecting the Caribbean's marine and terrestrial ecosystems from pollution. The Government of China on Taiwan has been an effective partner in helping the island of Nevis in its drive to be environmentally responsible.

Community Engagement

At the heart of the NSWMA's work is a strong emphasis on community engagement. The authority recognises that effective waste management is not just the responsibility of the government but requires the active participation of all citizens. As such, the NSWMA organises workshops, school visits, and community outreach programmes to educate the public about responsible waste disposal, the benefits of recycling, and the importance of reducing waste. The authority's community engagement efforts are designed to empower residents to take ownership of their role in protecting Nevis's environment, whether by reducing their use of plastic bags, participating in recycling programs, or properly disposing hazardous materials.

Into the Future

While the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority has made significant progress in improving waste management on the island, there are still several challenges that must be addressed. One of the biggest challenges is the limited financial and technical resources available for implementing advanced waste management technologies, such as waste-to-energy systems or large-scale composting facilities.

The relatively small size of the population and market in Nevis can make it difficult to achieve economies of scale in recycling and other waste processing activities. The authority must also contend with changing consumer behaviour, such as the increasing use of disposable plastics, which contributes to higher volumes of waste. Looking forward, the NSWMA plans to continue expanding its recycling and waste minimisation programmes, exploring new technologies for waste management, and increasing public engagement in environmental protection efforts. Collaboration with regional and international partners will be essential for accessing the technical expertise and funding necessary to implement these initiatives.

The NSWMA Authority will continue to play a pivotal role in maintaining environmental cleanliness, public health, and sustainable development on the island. Through its waste collection, disposal, and recycling initiatives, the NSWMA will ensure that Nevis remains a clean, healthy, and beautiful place to live and visit. While there are challenges ahead, particularly in terms of resource limitations and changing consumer habits, the authority's ongoing commitment to innovation, education, and community involvement provides a solid foundation for the future. By continuing to promote responsible waste management practices and seeking regional collaboration, the NSWMA is helping to safeguard the environmental and economic future of Nevis.



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Super-centenarian Bernice Sebastien to celebrate 111 years on September 21



Bernice Rosalind Eugenie Sebastian is the oldest national of Saint Kitts and Nevis currently living in the Diaspora. She was born on the island of Saint Kitts on September 21, 1913 to her parents, Joseph Matthew and Inez Veronica Sebastian. She is one of 12 children born to the couple.

Bernice devoted her life to being an educator. At age 15, after winning the Moravian Scholarship, she attended the Teachers' Training College in Antigua for two years. Upon her return, she taught at the Basseterre Boys School, before becoming Headmistress at the Dieppe Bay Infant School, in 1941. She remained there for 25 years before transferring to Irish Town School where she worked until her retirement in 1969.

Soon after her retirement and the death of her mother, Bernice moved to Nova Scotia, Canada where she resided for 27 years. She later moved to Queens and Barryville, New York, before moving to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2011. This is where she currently resides.

Ms. Bernice has not lost zest for life which is evident in her mastery of crafts like needlework, stained glass, and tole painting, alongside her culinary prowess. Bernice has never lost contact with her home in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Its celebrations have been her celebrations. One of the happiest of her celebrations with her country and family came in January 1996, when her brother Cuthbert Montraville Sebastian, was named as the second Governor-General of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Bernice Sebastian is a living treasure to her family and our country. Kittitians and Nevisians the world over are thrilled to celebrate another incredible milestone with this super-centenarian. She has touched countless lives with her wisdom, her grace, and her undaunting spirit. She continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Her reflections on life span a century and more, living through two world wars and two global pandemics and witnessing the effects of Great Depression to modern supply chain challenges. She has lived through the administrations of 19 US presidents, 19 Canadian Prime Ministers and 27 British Prime Ministers. Her family's legacy and her work are deeply intertwined with education and workers' rights, adding a rich layer to our Saint Kitts and Nevis legacy.

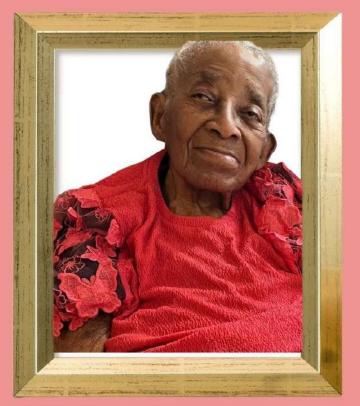
The Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Digest looks forward to rejoicing with Ms. Bernice Sebastian, a treasured daughter of the soil, on Saturday, September 21, 2024 when she celebrates 111 years of remarkable living. We applaud her for being an enduring beacon of wisdom and a living testament to the resilience of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

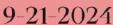


DIASPORA DIGEST



Happy 111 BIRTHDAY Bernice Rosalind Eugenie Sebastian







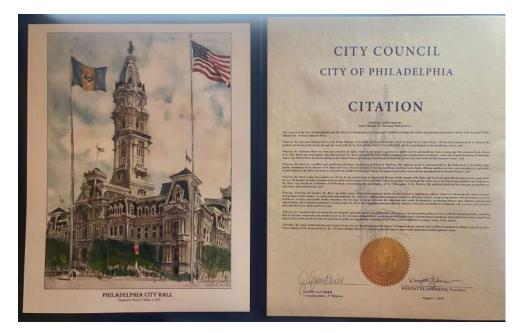
May your birthday be the start of a year filled with good luck, good health, and much happiness

Scan to get the link to her virtual celebration

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Prime Minister Drew honoured at 8th Annual Caribbean Emancipation Celebration



The 8th Annual Caribbean Emancipation Celebration brought together the Caribbean American community to commemorate Emancipation Day 2024. Hosted by the One Caribbean American Marketplace, this year's celebration was marked by powerful reflections, cultural pride, and the recognition of ongoing contributions of the Caribbean diaspora.

One of the highlights of the evening was the reflective recorded presentation by Dr. Terrance Drew, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis. His address was both poignant and inspiring, exploring the history of emancipation and the enduring impact it has had on Caribbean nations and their people, by emphasising the significance of the struggles and triumphs of our ancestors. He called for unity among Caribbean nations and their Diasporas urging for continued collaboration to overcome emerging challenges.

During the celebration, a City of Philadelphia citation was awarded to Prime Minister Drew in recognition of his leadership and dedication to advancing the interests of the Caribbean Community both at home and abroad. The citation served as a testament to Prime Minister Drew's commitment to fostering stronger ties between Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Caribbean Diaspora especially in the United States.

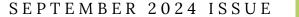
The presentation of the citation was met with applause and admiration from attendees, symbolising a shared pride in Caribbean heritage and a collective hope for continued progress.

The evening of celebration was filled with vibrant cultural displays, including traditional Caribbean music, and cuisine. It provided an opportunity for the Caribbean Diaspora in Philadelphia and beyond to come together, reflect on their shared history, and celebrate the enduring spirit of their ancestry.

The participation of the Saint Kitts and Nevis leader in this year's celebration and the recognition of his work underscore the importance of the annual Caribbean Emancipation Celebration which commemorates our heritage, honours present leadership, while it looks forward to a brighter future as one Caribbean people.

The One Caribbean American Marketplace is proud to have hosted this significant celebration and remains committed to advancing the legacy of emancipation, unity, and cultural pride within the Caribbean American community.

The 9th Annual Celebration is expected to take place on August 1, 2025.







12th SPBS Award Dinner a Resounding Success



The 12th Annual Awards Banquet of the Sandy Point Benevolent Society (SPBS) was held on August 31, 2024, at the Villa Barone Manor in Bronx, New York. Held under the theme "Our Youth, Gifted for Greatness," the evening celebration reflected on the organisation's commitment to empowering the nation's young people while recognising their outstanding contributions in their various fields. The event was held under the distinguished patronage of Her Excellency, Dame Marcella Liburd, Governor General of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The featured speaker of the night was former Sandy Point High school, now Charles E. Mills Secondary alum, lawyer Crios Freeman. His address highlighted the importance hard work in converting simple gifts into greatness.

The banquet honoured several exceptional national icons who have excelled in their youth. The awardees were Miss Jazarah Claxton, a rising local and regional cricket star; Miss Kimarah Isaac, an educator who has contributed significantly to empowering scholarship initiatives; Mr. Jason Rogers, a local track and field icon and three-time Olympian; Mrs. Michelle Amanda French -Nanton, a sports mentor and life coach, and Mrs. Gloria Esdaille-Robinson, who is known for her contributions to sport, pageantry and the calypso artform. Dame Marcella presented two awards, on behalf of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Governor-General first presented an award to Dr. Stewart Williams, founder and current president of the Sandy Point Benevolent Society, for his selfless dedication to and exceptional leadership of the organisation. The Head of State then presented the second award to the Sandy Point Benevolent Society for its more than twenty-five years of sterling voluntary service to the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis, especially our youth.

The evening of splendour was filled with entertainment, prizes and surprises. The attendees were entertained by cultural performances by Kittitians and Nevisians and the evening ended with music for dancing.

The successful hosting of the 12th Annual Awards Banquet has helped to further the practice of celebrating community leadership and achievements while raising funds to support SPBS's charitable initiatives. Through the funds raised, the Society will continue to focus on providing education, youth development, and community support.

Proceeds of the event will go towards furthering the society's mission of "giving back so others can move forward". Those in attendance were happy to give their support to the SPBS and its various projects and scholarships that assist students across the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

It was a most enjoyable evening. The *Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Digest* congratulates the SPBS on its sterling event.



DIASPORA DIGEST





Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora features in Philly Inaugural CARICOM Business Forum



Saint Kitts and Nevis featured at the Inaugural CARICOM Business Forum, hosted as part of the American Caribbean Cultural Alliance's Philadelphia CARICOM Festival on August 17. This gathering of Caribbean nationals in business was sponsored by the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. The forum brought together key stakeholders, business leaders, and diplomats to foster collaboration and explore opportunities for economic growth within the Caribbean Diaspora.

Several CARICOM diplomats, including the distinguished Ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Worrell Nero, whose insights and advocacy for stronger economic ties between the Caribbean and the United States set a dynamic tone for the forum. The ambassador emphasised the importance of leveraging the Caribbean's unique resources, vibrant culture, and strategic geographic positioning to enhance trade and investment opportunities.

Participants engaged on topics which promoted sustainable business practices, digital transformation in Caribbean economies, and the importance of creating a supportive ecosystem for Caribbean entrepreneurs in the Diaspora. Attendees networked to build relationships and share experiences.

The forum also highlighted the collective effort of the Caribbean American community in Philadelphia to uplift and support each other, while reaffirming the economic and social impacts of Caribbean integration and unity.

As a cornerstone event of the Philadelphia CARICOM Festival, the CARICOM Business Forum not only celebrated the richness of Caribbean heritage but also underscored the community's commitment to driving progress and innovation.

The One Caribbean American Marketplace is proud to support initiatives that elevate the Caribbean Community. The Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora in Philadelphia look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of the CARICOM Business Forum.

ASKaND makes timely donation to local schools

In a show of support for young scholars and athletes, the Association of Saint Kitts and Nevis Descendants (ASKaND) has donated 80 netballs for use in our schools across Saint Kitts and Nevis. The donations, when received via the Department of Sport, are expected to bring a wave of excitement and opportunity for young girls eager to leave their mark on the netball courts.

This effort is ASKaND's response to a request to support the Primary vs. Public Schools Netball competition earlier this year. Although the association was not able at the time to get the balls in time for the competition, its leaders and members took the position of serving a broader mission of developing a love for netball among young women, of all ages, throughout the islands.

Recognising the need for swift action, the ASKaND team tried to ensure that the request was met within as soon as possible. ASKaND's perseverance paid off, and now, the netballs are ready to be presented to the schools across the Federation.



In a formal statement, ASKaND expressed pride in our ability to support the vibrant youth of Saint Kitts and Nevis. "It will always be our pleasure to support our youth when and where we can," the Association's leadership affirmed. The association wants all sections of the community to have access to sport and encourage young girls and young women to not only participate in sport but to thrive in it.

ASKaND looks to a future where our young people can confidently pursue their dreams, both on and off the court.





ASKaND's Heritage Day 2024 a Tremendous Success

People from near and far descended on The Hub, Perry Barr, Birmingham, UK to experience the ASKaND's Saint Kitts and Nevis Heritage Day on August 18, 2024. The cultural explosion of food, music, dance, and games celebrated the diverse heritage we know as Saint Kitts and Nevis.

The festivities kicked off in the early afternoon Attendees visited stalls filled with gorgeous handmade items to choose from. Local Birmingham 'Creatives' were selling clothing made from gorgeous West African fabrics as well as hand-crafted jewellery and accessories. There was a plethora of food vendors selling delicious Kittitian and Nevisian delicacies, along with other Caribbean foods. Visitors indulged in black pudding, johnny cakes and souse, alongside flavourful rotis and jerk chicken, which was then washed down with sorrel or "sexy" juice.

In the Information Tent, visitors were enthusiastically searching for their families' village or region, then proudly stuck their pin in the giant maps of Saint Kitts and Nevis to highlight exactly where their families were from. Once their pins were in, patrons exchanged surnames to become familiar with each other; trying to work out whether they could be distant relatives.



Children ran through the park and jumped on the bouncy castles with wild abandon. Their laughter filled the air as they made new friends. The young one competed in the ASKaND 'Olympicks', playing simple games and races, and ate their own body weight in ice cream!

The main stage area proved to be one of the high-lights of the day providing entertainment from start to finish. Poets waxed lyrical about the beauty of the islands and the richness of our culture. The DJ played the sweetest reggae, soca, dancehall, and afro beats between activities provided pure vibes throughout the day.

The piece de resistance was the closing performance by Small Axe Band. They belted out their hits, old and new; and put a soca spin on the classic anthem "Sweet Caroline" as a nod to the community's British Caribbean identity. The Sweetest Band in the World captivated the crowd and held them in the palm of their hand as they sang while people waved their Saint Kitts and Nevis flags with pride. The people danced until the sun went down.





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please visit https://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/ blog/2024/08/23/request-for-expressions-of-interest-road-to -resilient-r2r-fisheries-project-preparation-studies/

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EOI Submission Deadline: September 13, 2024



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Suitably qualified Companies/ Firms are invited to submit proposals to provide services for the "Development and Update Coastal Ecosystem Atlas for Antigua and Barbuda" under Contract #102/2024/USAID-PACCA/CCCCC".

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For details on

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DIASPORA DIGEST



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Saint Kitts and Nevis Consular Services

Saint Kitts and Nevis Honorary Consul

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National Associations and Groups in the Diaspora

Student Associations

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