



*Ottawa stages first Jamaica50 celebration*

# Diaspora and Diplomacy illuminate Ottawa



Some 500 people were on hand at the Government Conference Centre March 22 to witness the Canadian launch of Jamaica's 50th independence anniversary celebrations. Among them were from left, Senator Marjorie LeBreton; Senator Don Meredith; Mrs. Michelle Meredith; Jamaican High Commissioner Sheila Sealy Monteith; Mr. Vivian Monteith; Mr. Seth George Ramocan; Jamaican Consul-General in Toronto; Mrs. Ramocan; and Jamaica50 Ottawa Chair Ewart Walters.

by Ewart Walters

OTTAWA — Deft diplomatic efforts by Jamaican High Commissioner Sheila Sealy Monteith sweetened by the active presence of Jamaica-born Senator Don Meredith in the Canadian Senate were the key elements of a glorious week of the launch of Jamaica's 50th anniversary celebrations here in Canada's capital, home to some 12,000 Jamaican nationals.

The week will go down in the annals of the Jamaican history in Ottawa as easily the most enthralling and uplifting. Down through the years there were Byron Lee and his Dragonaires, Jimmy Cliff, Bob Marley and the Wailers, April Parchment and a bevy of Jamaican beauties in an unforgettable fashion show, Culture and Beres Hammond, among others. Prime Ministers Hugh Shearer, Michael Manley, P.J. Patterson, and a train of ministers have visited.

But those were always one-shot events. Never had there been even two in one week.

It was a week that brought to the Government Conference Centre a rapturous Thursday evening crowd of 500, members of the Canadian parliament, diplomats, the newly minted Ottawa Police Chief, Toronto's Deputy Police Chief (himself a Jamaican), Ottawa's Deputy Mayor, Jamaican-

Canadians from eight of Canada's ten provinces, some of the best Jamaican food ever tasted in Canada, compelling dance music from the violin of teenage Jamaican medical student Jessica Yap, and a dancing Jamaican Foreign Affairs Minister in the person of Senator A.J. Nicholson. And it all was available to viewers in Jamaica and elsewhere by live-streaming on the Internet.

The week had begun four days before with the launch of Jamaica50 Ottawa's thanksgiving church service with over 500 people attending at the

Bethel Pentecostal Church where the highlights were the main address by Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, the solos of Vanessa London, and a spirited presentation by the Heritage Singers from Toronto that paraded decades of Jamaican excellence in singing and stage presence. And it had left community members breathlessly asking "when is the next event?"

Indeed, it seemed then that the celebrations had begun filling a void in the psyche of the Jamaican Diaspora in Canada for good things Jamaican. Now they wanted more.

And more they will have, for the organisers of Jamaica50 Ottawa have plans for celebrations running at least to November, with the highlights around Independence Day and a planned visit by the Jamaica Military Band in August. And the other committees across Canada are similarly engaged.

It was early 2011 that Jamaica's High Commissioner, handicapped by a severely reduced staff quotient, set her mind to gathering

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Jamaican Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Arnold J. Nicholson as he declared the celebrations launched.



Jamaican violinist par excellence put her whole body into her music and enchanted the crowd.

## Quebec students protest Planned tuition fee hike

You could call it the Quebec Spring. For the past two months, thousands of students in the province have been demonstrating in protest at proposed tuition fee hikes.

At press-time tens of thousands of students filled the streets of Montreal in a mass protest against the planned hike that they say will undermine Quebec's long-standing commitment to keeping university education accessible to people of all incomes.

The 75 per cent increase in post-secondary education tuition fees was included in the budget currently tabled by the Liberal government of Premier Jean Charest but has been anticipated for some time and had already been forecast in the 2011 budget.

The increase will see fees for Quebec residents rise by \$325 a year for five years, starting in the 2012-13 academic year and continuing until 2016-2017. The province's plan is to increase the amount students pay by \$1,625 over five years. Students are angry over the planned hike and the government refuses to back down.

In Gatineau police arrested 151 people after busloads of student protesters arrived from Montreal as part of the province-wide demonstrations. About 400 students took part in the demonstration at the University of Quebec's Outaouais campus, Gatineau police said.

One protester was led away from the scene with blood pouring down his face.

The school had sought a court injunction to remove the student protesters but they continued to return to the campus.

University rector Jean Vaillancourt said classes were cancelled to ensure the safety of staff and students. He blamed "outside protesters" from the Montreal area for escalating the conflict, not students of the school.

In downtown Montreal a day of rolling student protests started off with police declaring a blockade at the Banque Nationale illegal.

In Quebec City, a group of about 60 protesters occupied a CIBC bank branch near the national assembly. Police moved in to escort them out of the building about 20 minutes later, only to see the group cross the street and do the same thing at a Banque Nationale branch.

Student groups have organized near-daily demonstrations since they declared an unlimited boycott on classes nearly two months ago.

The province's universities and CEGEPs are now warning students they've reached the tipping point and risk losing their school year if they continue to boycott classes.

In all, 4,800 students are still on strike at Laval University.

# COMMUNITY *Pulse*



Wilson Luckman

A funeral service for Wilson “Willo” Luckman was held at the Ottawa Church of God on March 8 and was led by former pastor, Bishop R.C. Hugh Nelson and his wife Rev. Diana Nelson who came up from New York for the occasion. Willo who was in his 73<sup>rd</sup> year was very well known at Gene’s Auto Body on Rockingham Road where he was Paint Specialist and later Shop Manager. A man with a great love for jazz, steel pan and cricket, he had a deep love for life and “never wasted a minute of it arguing or fighting.” Willo is survived by his wife Agnes; children: Jemma, Calvin, Dexter, Michelle, Kendell, Wilson Jr, and Petronilla; brothers and sisters: Ancil, Heddy, Zetty, Geoffrey, Frank, Sandra, Tony, and



Dennis Humphrey

Jennifer, along with many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other family members. We offer our sincere condolences to the Luckman family.

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**Dennis Humphrey** was laid to rest on Saturday March 17 following a well-attended funeral service at the Holy Cross Church and a lively repast at the well-appointed Sergeant’s Mess Hall on Queen Elizabeth Drive. There, wonderful revelations about his many kindnesses and supportive qualities flowed like a never-ending stream and provided many with new insights. Starting his Canadian life as a finance clerk at Boyd Moving and Storage, Dennis soon entered the federal public service, and ended his days as a senior financial clerk

in quality assurance and travel services with Public Works and Government Services Canada in Gatineau. There he played a leadership role with the National Council of Visible Minorities in the Federal public service, the attempt by Visible Minorities to steer the Government into walking the talk and making the steps towards equity that the Treasury Board and the Public Service Commission had been failing to do. An avid sportsman who played both soccer and cricket, he had been a member of the Guyana soccer team and delighted in discussing sports and international politics, about both of which he had wide knowledge. Following earlier surgeries, he was diagnosed early this year with an exceptionally rare form of cancer that severely weakened him. He leaves his beloved partner, Franca; son Esrom; sisters Sylvia, Desiree (Lloyd), and Debra; nieces and nephews, as well great-nieces and nephews; and his two aunts Elsa and Stella. We join in expressing our deep sympathy to his family.

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Jeun’ Espoir is back from



Ottawa’s Jeune Espoir in Jamaica where they again assisted indigent seniors by rehabilitating their dwellings.

another fruitful experience in Jamaica. During the March break, the group of ten teenagers and seven adults built houses for two disadvantaged families, visited two homes for the aged, one home for abused and abandoned children, and two schools, and mixed with the warm-hearted Jamaican culture. A slide show of

our accomplishments was presented on Monday April 16 at Garneau High School in Orleans.

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**Upcoming Events:**

Sat, April 14, at 1:00pm, Orleans United Church, 111 Orleans Boulevard, The Rotary Club of Orleans 7040 and the Dominica Ottawa Association present **Domino Tournament.**

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Sun, April 22, 2:00 - 4:00pm - The Civil Liberties Association of the National Capital Region has invited Ontario Ombudsman André Marin to speak about his most recent report “Oversight Undermined” at the Ottawa Public Library Auditorium on. The presentation is entitled, “Effective Police

Oversight in Ontario: Myth or Reality?”

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Saturday, May 5, 8:00pm TrinbaGold celebrating T&T’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mIndependence, at the Kailash Mital Theatre, (formerly Alumni Theatre), Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Tickets are \$25 for Adults ( in advance) or \$35( at the door); TTAO members \$20 and children \$10.

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Sat June 30, 8:30pm - St. Anthony’s Banquet Hall, 523 St. Anthony Street off Preston; Ottawa’s “Original Oldies Group” stages its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Oldies Dance. Music by DJ Tee Cee (Terry Cheong) from Toronto. Dress Code is red & white.

## MONEY TALK\$



When dishing out money advice, financial advisors should not spew rhetoric. *Habit 5 of Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* stresses the importance of being understood and understanding. More often than not that is not the case – so much so that last December Dan Pallotta of the *Harvard Business Review* wrote a blog about the overuse of jargon. He postulated that – among other things – its use hides inefficiencies, confuses the listener and is pretentious. He was praised by most of his fellow bloggers for taking such a bold stance on the subject. Some blamed the overuse of jargons on laziness, a cover for ignorance or ineptitude, trying to seem smarter than others, the condensing of the language due to texting, and a host of other explanations. As advisors, our every word should have meaning because we are giving advice on people’s

## Money Talk Is Not Cheap

financial security. Not to be outdone, the scientists were called-out in *Science*, one of the world’s top academic journals, where they were urged to speak in plain language, whatever their language, as reported by Tom Spears in the *Ottawa Citizen*, Sunday February 26. In it Mr. Spears referred to an article on cancer research in the journal *Nature* where, starting with the first sentence, it was riddled with formulas, long words, lengthy sentences, and acronyms that went on for pages. Why bother since it was sure to confuse even their most brilliant colleague?

The business world is as guilty with its “business speak” such as “must be a realistic planning scenario,” “the client controls how fast they spend down their benefit pool,” and “a budget perspective.” Is there any wonder that white-collar con-men Bernie Madoff and Earl Jones operated for as long as they did? They must have sounded knowledgeable to their investors.

From the outset I was conscious of the terminologies used in my industry that could

confound even a rocket scientist and I have tried to avoid them as much as possible. Most people with a monthly obligation for their life insurance contract think of it as the amount they have to pay as opposed to a “premium.” Furthermore, nine times out of ten do we not think of premiums as either added benefits or extra charges? With “KFC” instead of Kentucky Fried Chicken we could easily forget how the poultry is prepared. London Life, for example, looks better as Freedom 55 Financial, and Manulife Financial is not just Manulife Financial but rather Manulife Financial “For Your Future” – both of which tell us nothing about their long history as well-known life insurance companies. Pity.

Although I have tried, I have followed suit without thinking. My brokerage has joined the big leagues since I no longer sell life, health or travel insurance, investments and living benefits products, but rather we present our clients with “life insurance and investment solutions.” I paid good money to a marketing consultant for that mantra, thank you. My title has evolved as well. Back in 1988 I was a rookie Life Insurance Agent. Slowly but surely, though, with the blessings of the Chambre de la Securite Financiere du Quebec and the licensing bodies in the other provinces, I have morphed into a Financial

Security Advisor since my services resemble that of a banker, stock broker, along with the traditional life insurance offerings. Ah, ha! Remember when “offerings” were placed in the collection plate at your place of worship? Don’t you just love it?

Even Mr. Pallotta is guilty of that which he criticizes. In his blog bearing the title “I don’t understand what anyone is saying anymore,” he lists his credentials as the “expert in non-profit sector innovation as well as a pioneering social entrepreneur.” I still do not know what he does. We all want to know what our doctors, dentists, advisors, and lawyers, to name a few, are saying to us. It could sometimes mean the difference between life and death...or as with Madoff’s or Jones’ clients, life-change and debt. What you cannot understand can be costly. Talk is definitely not cheap.

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*T&T nationals celebrate in Ottawa for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence*

# TrinbaGold

Trinidad & Tobago nationals and friends in Ottawa will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Independence of the twin-island state, as well as 50 years of diplomatic relations with Canada.

The Trinidad and Tobago Association of Ottawa (TTAO) has planned several celebratory events and has invited a number of "Trini-flavoured" organizations to co-host some of these activities. These groups include the Caribbean Hummingbirds, CARIVIBE, Club S.O.C.C.A., Hurricane Sports Club, Nepean Pan Harmonics Steelband and 3's Company. Working together under the name "TrinbaGold" the group plans to make the independence celebrations

an indelible memory on the minds of the participants.

The Ottawa launch of the celebrations will take place at the Kailash Mital Theatre, (formerly Alumni Theatre), Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, starting at 8:00 pm. It will feature a short official segment, followed by a cultural performance, "We Gif To Yuh" A Tribute to Trinidad and Tobago by La Petite Musicale of Toronto, a renowned folk-choir and performing theatre group, founded in 1969. Information on La Petite is available at: [www.myspace.com/lapetitemusicale](http://www.myspace.com/lapetitemusicale)

Tickets are \$25 for Adults in advance or \$35 at the door. TTAO members will pay \$20 and children \$10. For information and tickets call: 613-834-

4282, 613-834-1718, or 613-850-0870 or email: [tandtassociation@gmail.com](mailto:tandtassociation@gmail.com)

Other activities over the next few months include:

- **Indian Arrival Day**, Caribbean Hummingbirds co-hosted with TTAO, Saturday May 26, 2012 - 6p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Adult: \$25, Youth: (7-12) - \$10, Under 6 - free. Dance only 10:00 p.m.- \$10 - St. Mark Evangelist Anglican Church, 1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa.

- **Independence 50 Family Day Picnic and Soccer Game**, co-hosted with **Hurricane Sports Club**, Sunday, July 22, 2012.

- **CARIVIBE Street Parade, Saturday August 18, 2012** - TTAO intends to present a band entitled "From Slavery to

Independence".

- **TrinbaGold 50 Day** co-hosted with **Nepean Pan Harmonics** and supported by **Club S.O.C.C.A and 3's Company**. This event will offer a mini exhibition, showcasing the products and culinary delights of Trinidad & Tobago and of course, TT-centric entertainment on Saturday August 25, 2012.

- **Independence 50 Gala - Saturday September 1, 2012** at the Ottawa Convention Centre. Details will be provided as soon as they have been finalized.

You are invited to celebrate with TTAO and its partners. Keep checking the Association's website: [www.ttao.com](http://www.ttao.com) or send email to [tandtassociation@gmail.com](mailto:tandtassociation@gmail.com)

# UWI Scores Big With Heart Surgery Simulator

The cardiac surgery simulator (CSS), a device developed at the University of the West

Indies (UWI) and used to train students in doing heart surgery, has generated interest from some of the

leading hospitals in the United States.

The revelation was made by UWI Mona principal Professor Gordon Shirley who said that the CSS has the potential to change how heart disease is managed in the developing world.

According to Professor Shirley, the University of North Carolina, Johns Hopkins, the Mayo Clinic, the University of Washington, Stanford University and the University of Southern California, have all requested prototypes of the CSS, which was developed by UWI-trained surgeon Dr Paul Ramphal and computer scientist Dr Daniel Coore.

"All of a sudden, all of the top schools have asked us for a prototype," Professor Shirley said.

He explained that the CSS uses a computer to pump synthetic blood around an artificial heart. The heart

can be altered to simulate certain cardiac conditions. The CSS allows medical students to practice on artificial hearts instead of real cardiac patients.

"This is a fabulous way to get students to train and become experts before they actually do the surgery," Professor Shirley noted.

The UWI principal indicated that the CSS had the potential to train cardiac surgeons initially in North America and later all over the world.

"There are no cardiac surgeons in most of the developing world, yet the truth is that cardiac failure occurs just as frequently in the developing world as in the developed world. We think that this is going to be a very important device in ensuring that cardiovascular disease is managed just as efficiently and effectively all across the developing world," he said.

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A section of the huge crowd attending the Canadian national launch of Jamaica50 at the Government Conference Centre, Ottawa on Thursday March 18. Front row from left: Dr. Floyd Spence of the SDA Church, Ottawa; Mrs. Spence; Mrs. Norma Dadd McNamee, the first member of staff of the Jamaica High Commission who arrived in Ottawa to take up duties in 1962; Ms. Giselle Brown; and Mr. Jabulani Coke-Talbot.

## The Watoto Children's Choir

*In performance at the  
Fourth Avenue Baptist Church 7:00 pm May 25*

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has wiped out millions of people in Africa, leaving millions of orphans. The Watoto Children's Choir, comprising some of these orphans, is coming to Ottawa to perform at the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church (Fourth Avenue and Bank Street) on May 25 starting at 7.00 pm.

Accompanied by a team of adults, Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled around the world since 1994 as advocates for the estimated 50 million children like themselves in Africa. The choir presents Watoto's vision and mission through the children's stories, music and dance. They act as ambassadors to raise awareness about the plight facing them and others like them in Africa.

The children in the choir live in Watoto children's villages where they gain exposure to other cultures and broaden their worldview. The experience gives them confidence and helps them rise up out of their own sadness and despair.

The choir has come to Canada before, performing in Parliament in 2008. It has toured Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Australasia, the UK, Germany, France, the USA, South America, Hong Kong, China and Japan, among other countries. Its audiences have included princes and paupers, and it has warmed many hearts wherever it goes.

Gary Skinner is the visionary leader of Watoto Ministries including the dynamic Watoto Church which he founded together with his wife Marilyn in 1983 in the heart of Uganda's war-torn capital, Kampala.

Gary believes it is the responsibility of the local church to solve community problems. So in 1994 he and Marilyn founded Watoto Child Care Ministries, an international organization as a compassionate response to the cry of Africa's millions of children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS. Currently they are caring for over 2,500 Ugandan children in children's villages where every child is raised in a family setting rather than an institution. Their vision is that these children will be raised to become future leaders of Uganda and Africa.

The "Watoto Children's Choir" tours the world annually. "Concerts of Hope" are held in churches, community halls and schools. The choir has performed before Presidents and Royalty in the White House, Buckingham Palace and many national Parliaments. As the children sing, dance and celebrate their story of hope, they inspire audiences.

We know you will be inspired too as the children perform here in Ottawa on may 25.

## Jamaican PM Makes TIME's list

Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller has made Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Describing Simpson-Miller as the embodiment of perseverance and strength TIME says she will have a profound impact as she strives to be a transformational figure in Jamaica. TIME also notes her major accomplishment of becoming the first woman to be elected Prime Minister of Jamaica in 2006.

Simpson Miller, 66, started her career as a public servant in local government in 1974. She was elected to the Jamaican Parliament two years later.

# the Spectrum

Editor: Ewart Walters, CD, MJ  
 Managing Editor: Merle Walters  
 Phone: 226-2738 Fax: 226-6909  
 E-mail: spectrum@storm.ca

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 Communications Inc.  
 Box 16130, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3S9

## Calling a spade a Spade

Europeans and Americans are proud of their human rights standards, and pressure the rest of the world to emulate them. And yet, institutionalised racism has persisted in these so-called civilised societies and is perpetuated on racial minorities, especially Black people.

The killing of unarmed Black teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida has again raised the issue of racial profiling and racism. His confessed killer, cop wanna-be George Zimmerman, has finally been charged with murder in the second degree, as he should have been seven weeks ago.

The Courts will now have their say on this charge, but the racism is evident in the disinterest of the authorities in investigating the killing when it happened, as well as in the utterances and behaviour of the accused man.

In cases like this when Black people are killed, corrective action is scarcely taken, even when there is indisputable evidence – as in the infamous Amadou Diallo case where police fired 44 bullets into him, or that of the police beating of Rodney King which was caught on video.

The police officer who arrested Harvard University Professor Henry Louis Gates in his house because he believed he did not belong there, refused to admit that he had done anything wrong and would not apologise even after meeting with President Barack Obama. No disciplinary action was ever taken.

The British public is still recovering from the shock of the racist killing of Stephen Lawrence; the British police took almost 20 years to bring his killers to justice.

The venerable Scotland Yard is under fire because a Black man used his mobile phone to record a vicious tirade of abuse by police officers. In addition to calling the man a nigger, an officer is heard on tape recounting the physical abuse he gave the victim who was handcuffed at the time. No one has been prosecuted or disciplined.

No Black person is exempt from the possibility of abuse. The Vincentian Ambassador to the United Nations, a lawyer by training, was just recently by a New York City policeman because he entered the building that houses his diplomatic mission – an act he does every day. The officer followed him into the building, “grabbed him by the neck and shoulders, handcuffed him, and accused him of “disorderly conduct.”

President Obama himself has been subjected to unprecedented verbal abuse in and out of Congress, and by now we can dismiss the charade that this hateful abuse has nothing to do with the fact that he is Black.

Our own citizens of Ottawa still await corrective action in the Stacy Bonds case. And Chad Aiken (the Black teenager who was profiled while driving his mother’s Mercedes Benz) who won his human rights case against the Ottawa Police, has met resistance in his attempt as part of his settlement to get them to agree to a study of racial profiling.

These “civilised societies” must find a way to expunge what Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree calls “the presumption of guilt” which has its roots in racism and is all too common. We can’t wait too long.

# Obama trashes trickle-down economics

by Charles Riley

US President Obama has thoroughly denounced a budget plan favored by House Republicans, calling it “thinly veiled social Darwinism” that will only exacerbate income inequality in America.

Delivered to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the President’s address also marked the first time that he has called out Mitt Romney, his challenger, by name.

That passing reference, in which Obama linked the former governor of Massachusetts to the budget written by Rep. Paul Ryan and adopted by his House colleagues, marks an opening volley in a campaign that will stretch until November.

“Governor Romney has said that he hoped a similar version of this plan from last year would be introduced on day one of his presidency,” the President said. “He said that he’s very supportive of this new budget and he even called it marvelous,

which is a word you don’t often hear when it comes to describing a budget.”

But Romney was not the main target in the President’s speech. That distinction was reserved for Ryan, his budget, and trickle-down economics.

“For much of the last century, we have been having the same argument with folks who keep peddling some version of trickle-down economics,” President Obama said.

“They keep telling us that if we’d convert more of our investments in education and research and health care into tax cuts, especially for the wealthy, our economy will grow stronger.”

He said the theory has failed, and that “the results of their experiment are there for all to see.”

“In this country, broad-based prosperity has never trickled down from the success of a wealthy few,” President Obama said. “It has always come from the success of a strong and growing middle class.”

Conservatives would argue that Obama’s description of “trickle-

down economics” – which is often called “supply side economics” – is a simplification of their position.

And Ryan slammed the President in a statement issued shortly after he spoke.

“The President refuses to take responsibility for the economy and refuses to offer a credible plan to address the most predictable economic crisis in our history,” Ryan said. “Instead, he has chosen tired and cynical political attacks as he focuses on his own re-election.”

Obama went on to say that his guiding economic philosophy for the country, described as a place where “everyone gets a fair shot and everyone does their fair share” in the pursuit of prosperity, is superior.

### Obama attacks GOP budget proposal

Those themes of income inequality, which the President said was “the defining issue of our time,” largely echo ideas he advanced during a speech in Kansas last fall and again at the State

of the Union address in January.

But this time, he used the contrast as a springboard to attack Ryan’s budget plan, which he called a “Trojan horse disguised as a deficit reduction plan.”

“It is really an attempt to impose a radical vision on our country,” the President said. “It is thinly veiled social Darwinism. It is antithetical to our entire history as a land of opportunity and upward mobility for everybody who is willing to work for it.”

### Tax reform: Why it’s so hard

Mr. Obama criticized the Ryan budget for cutting too deeply into non-security discretionary spending, an area of the budget that funds education, research and development and most government agencies.

“You can be sure that with cuts this deep, there is no secret plan or formula that will be able to protect the investments we need to help our economy grow,” he said.

### Somalia:

## An Opportunity that Should Not Be Missed

The next six months will be crucial for Somalia. The international community is taking a renewed interest in the country; the mandate of the feeble and dysfunctional Transitional Federal Government (TFG) expires in a half-year; and emboldened troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Kenya and Ethiopia are keen to deal the weakened (though still potent) extremist Islamist movement Al-Shabaab further defeats. This confluence of factors presents the best chance in years for peace and stability in the south and centre of the country. To achieve that, however, requires regional and wider international unity of purpose and an agreement on basic principles; otherwise spoilers could undermine all peacebuilding efforts.

The crisis has been climbing steadily back up the international agenda. The one-day London Somalia Conference on 23 February will bring together senior representatives from over 40 countries, the UN, African Union (AU), European Union (EU), World Bank, Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and League of Arab States. Somalia’s Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) will participate, as well as the presidents of Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug

(regional governments) and representatives of the largest armed group, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama’a (ASWJ). It should prepare the way for desperately needed greater coordination, especially with Gulf and regional states, as well as between AMISOM and the UN.

Coordination is required because the mandate of the TFG is set to run out in August 2012. Although it has failed to achieve any of its core objectives, many officials desire another extension, such as it received a year ago. But it is unreformable – too many of its members benefit from the fully unsatisfactory status quo. It must not be extended. Instead, the London Conference should agree on a new political framework and principles for governing Somalia.

This is important, because AMISOM and regional forces have made impressive gains against Al-Shabaab and are poised to renew their offensive. Nevertheless, their greatest challenge will probably be not to drive the militants out of major cities and towns, but rather to secure peace thereafter. Al-Shabaab, though weakened, is far from a spent force; its militant jihadi ideology is radicalising young Somalis at home and abroad; veteran foreign jihadis are exerting ever-greater influence; and recently its emir pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda and

global jihad. But it is no longer the only threat to stability; the resurgence of inter-clan competition and warlordism is as serious. While there is an understandable inclination to strengthen the central state in Mogadishu (in the form of the TFIs) and its security apparatus, past and present transitional administrations have failed to bring stability, in large part because many clans do not support the reestablishment of a strong central government. A more decentralised political framework and local inter-clan reconciliation are required.

The root cause of Somalia’s many troubles – terrorism, piracy, periodic famine and constant streams of refugees – is collapse of effective governance, with resulting chronic conflict, lawlessness and poverty. The most effective and durable solution to these ills is to build gradually an inclusive, more federal government structure that most clans can support. Otherwise, Al-Shabaab (or some similar successor) and other disparate groups of would-be strongmen with guns will exploit continued dissatisfaction with Mogadishu and innate Somali hostility to “foreign occupation”.

This coming six-month period is a critical time for Somalia. To make the most of the opportunity to end more than two decades

of chronic conflict, the international community should:

- increase AMISOM’s force strength and provide more resources. To maintain momentum and consolidate gains, AMISOM should quickly assume full tactical and operational command of the AU, Ethiopian, and Kenyan missions and coordinate closely with Somali allies. Any major offensive should be accompanied by a political strategy to win the support of local clans and social groups and stabilise those areas in which they are present;

- rebuild internal cohesion among core members of the International Contact Group;

- enhance the role of Turkey and other Muslim nations in the stabilisation effort, so as to build Somali confidence in the process;

- endorse closer UN/AU cooperation and insure that the two organisations’ Special Representatives work closely together;

- endorse the formation of a truly inclusive Somali deliberative body, one that represents all clans and most regions of the country, and can establish an interim government to replace the TFG if necessary;

- create a Local Stability Fund to help local administrations that are economically viable, can

# Fighting Fire in Haiti

by Alexis Erkert

When police and the landowner commanded Michelène Pierre to vacate her tent on a Sunday afternoon so that they could light it on fire, she responded: "If you want to light me on fire along with this entire camp, go ahead. I'm not leaving." The police bypassed her tent, but continued to threaten other residents of Camp Kozbami, setting flame to six tents.

Camp Kozbami is the fifth camp to be arsoned in two months. As landowners and the government push to close camps inhabited by those displaced by the earthquake that rocked Haiti 26 months ago, a reported 94,632 people are facing forced eviction.

Residents of the 660 displacement camps scattered throughout the Port-au-Prince area are experiencing increasing levels of threats and violence. Repeated acts of arson have both killed six people and displaced hundreds. Though cramped living conditions and a lack of available water during Haiti's dry season have made camps vulnerable to accidental fires, camp organizers believe that all the recent fires have been deliberate.

Until her own tent was burned down, Arlette Célissaint lived in Camp Lycée Toussaint. At a press conference on Friday, March 23, Célissaint and four other camp residents described the horror of waking up at 2:00 in the morning to a camp engulfed in flames. "Fire took over... We were all in our tents, all asleep and suddenly it was, 'Run!' and everyone started to get up and run. There were people burned on the spot and six went to the hospital..."

That morning, 96 of approximately 120 shelters were burned and five people, including a mother and her three children, were killed. Families lost everything they had managed to salvage from the earthquake and the little they have saved since, including money and legal documents. To date, none of the relevant government authorities have launched an investigation into the crimes. Neither the government nor aid agencies have stepped up to provide these doubly-displaced—and doubly-traumatized—communities with adequate disaster assistance.

"Look out for us." Looking directly into a TV journalist's video camera, Marie Charles,

another former Camp Lycée Toussaint resident said quietly, "We ask the government to look out for us. We're people, not animals, but the conditions that we're living in are not fit for people."

Camp residents like Célissaint and Charles are raising the volume of their denunciations about the fires and about evictions in general with protests, press conferences and letters to the government. Others, like the families in Camp Mais Gate, are physically refusing to move. Though paid thugs have been harassing them for weeks, families refuse to leave until they are provided with an adequate alternative.

No such alternative yet exists. Though the government is touting a plan called "16/6" as a solution to Haiti's housing crisis, it does not address the underlying structural challenges to relocation by making land available to camp dwellers for permanent resettlement or building houses.

Instead, "16/6" targets six camps, or approximately 5% of the displaced population, providing families \$500 apiece to relocate into 16 communities. Critics say implementation of the plan has been rife with

corruption and that it has accelerated rates of violent forced evictions in other camps. Though the '16/6' model is being replicated by aid groups in a handful of additional camps, there is still a glaring absence of any comprehensive housing plan.

Human rights advocates and camp residents point to the eviction of a camp called Place Jeremie in late December as a prime example of the corruption and disregard for displaced peoples endemic in the relocation process. Though families were supposed to receive \$500 apiece to relocate, police came to the camp in the middle of the night, armed with machetes and batons, destroyed tents and violently evicted the families living there.

The Force for Reflection and Action on Housing (FRAKKA) reports that the majority of residents received \$25 in compensation.

Regardless of whether families receive \$25 or \$500, there is no evidence that they do indeed wind up in safer, more dignifying circumstances once they've relocated. Housing in Haiti is expensive and the numbers make it clear that there is not enough undamaged housing available in Port-au-

Prince to absorb displaced people, 80 percent of whom were renters before the earthquake. According to data from the International Organization for Migration, current shortages will leave more than 300,000 without housing.

With the displaced population down to 490,545 from 1.2 million just after the earthquake, Antonal Mortimé of the Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH) wonders where people who have left the camps have gone. "Have they moved to the countryside? Back into their houses? Are enough new houses being built? Are new camps springing up? Or are people returning to fissured and unsound homes? No-one knows."

Thus, an assembly of local human rights groups called the Right to Housing Collective is supporting camp dwellers in a call for a comprehensive national housing plan that includes public housing for the displaced. In the short-term, they are calling for an end to the violence plaguing camps and for a moratorium on evictions.

"We are struggling alongside the people whose rights are being trampled, to create a movement that forces the government into

taking responsibility for its citizens..." said Jackson Doliscar. Doliscar is a community organizer with FRAKKA, a coalition of 26 camp committees and grassroots organizations and a key member of the Right to Housing Collective.

"People are unaware of their specific rights, especially as displaced people. They don't think that they have the right to ask anything of their government... That's beginning to change... Many camps are ready to join hands." And indeed, the arson attacks have renewed camp dwellers and rights advocates' sense of urgency.

During a recent press conference, Mortimé reminded his government that the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement require that they make every effort to guarantee the right to life and security of all earthquake victims.

Mortimé adds, "We aren't just denouncing, we are pronouncing. We are proposing and advocating for solutions that come from displaced people themselves and we will not give up on pressuring the government to take responsibility for meeting these demands."

- truth out

## Charter's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ottawa April 17 - Liberal Leader Bob Rae made the following statement today on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

"On the steps of Parliament Hill, 30 years ago today (April 17), Pierre Elliott Trudeau's Liberal government signed the historic *Canada Act, 1982*, patriating our Constitution and making the Charter of Rights and Freedoms the supreme law of the land.

The Charter enshrines our most cherished Canadian values. It reflects our belief that Canadians have a fundamental right to live free from discrimination, to assemble peacefully and express our opinions, to vote in elections unimpeded, to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and fundamentally, that our individual rights take precedence over the rights of government.

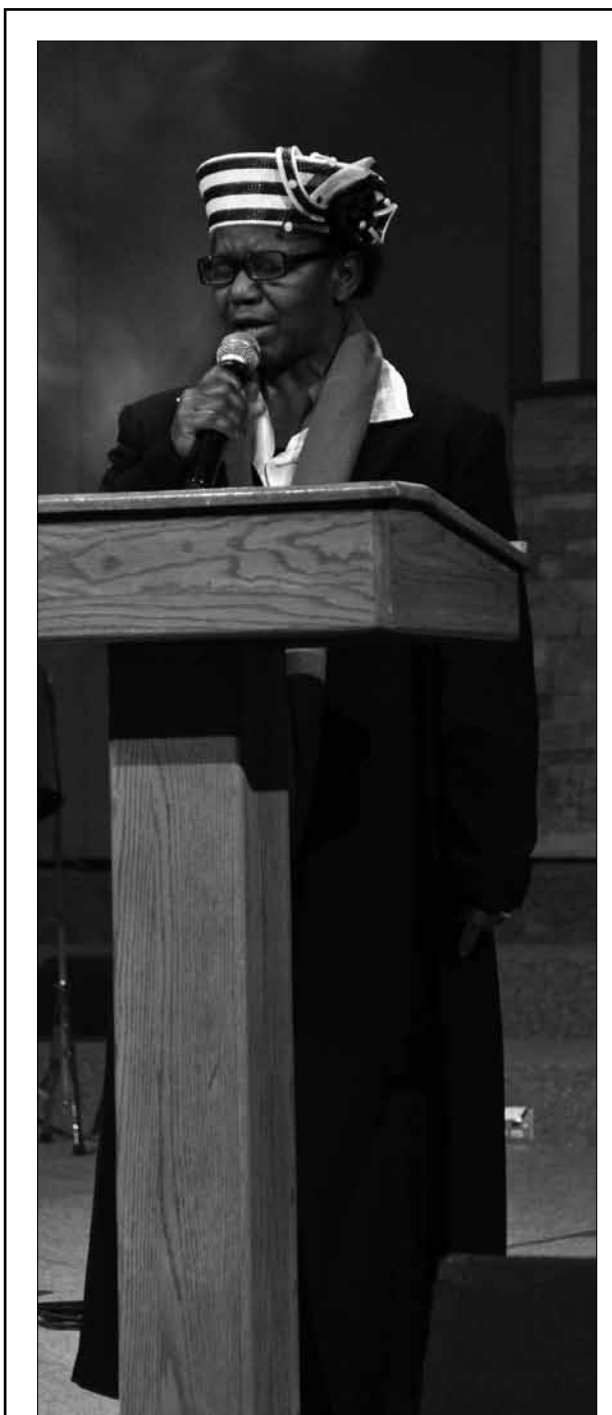
Abroad, the Charter is the constitutional document most emulated by other countries, standing as a model for new democracies who share our goals and values, and as a resource to draw from for others. Here at home, the Charter continues to evolve, with court decisions and legal reforms by Parliament and provincial legislatures opening the door to same-sex rights, minority language rights and abortion rights,

and shutting the door on capital punishment, torture and gender-based discrimination.

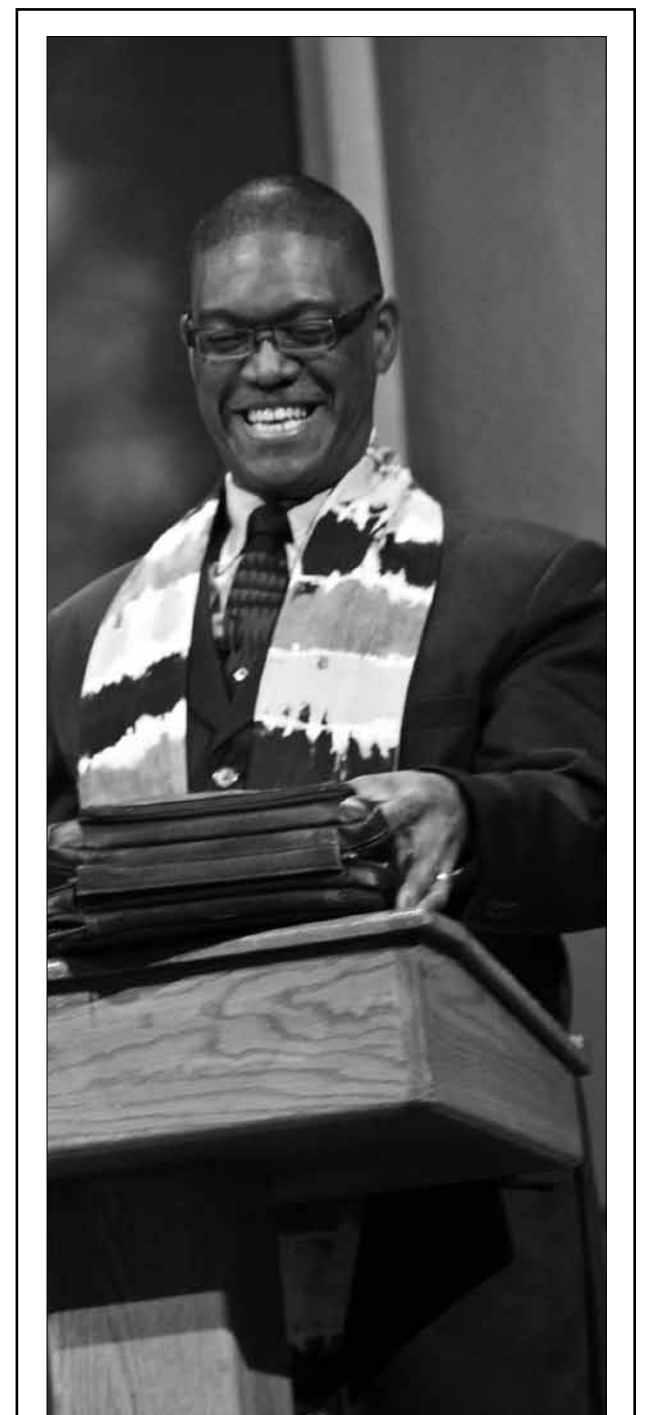
On a personal note, I was honoured to be able to speak in favour of the Charter in the House of Commons debates many years ago, and to vote for the patriation of the constitution with the Charter.

Thirty years later, the impact of the Charter on Canadian society has been significant and lasting. The Charter does not belong to one political party or one group, it belongs to all Canadians. As my colleague Liberal Justice and Human Rights critic Irwin Cotler wrote recently in the *Toronto Star*, "The Charter merits both recognition and respect from the government, reflective of the reverence it is accorded by both Parliament and the judiciary."

Tonight, Liberals will celebrate this defining moment in our country's history at a rally with former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien who, as a young Attorney General, participated in that iconic signing ceremony 30 years ago today. Together, we will salute the vision of Prime Minister Trudeau, and stand with Canadians from coast to coast to coast, in commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Charter, which continues to shape our individual and collective identities."



Pastor Carmen Hamilton praying at the Thanksgiving Service at Bethel Pentecostal Church on March 18.



Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey regaling the congregation with one of his early experiences in Jamaica as he delivered the sermon at the Thanksgiving Service.



The anti-Obama sentiment in the US has always had a heavy dose of America's failure to resolve its racist history. Here a current car-sticker says it all. Translated it says Don't Re-elect Nigger Obama In 2012.



George Zimmerman has finally been arrested and charged in the killing of Black teenager Trayvon Martin.

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**An Opportunity... - pg.4**

administer and impose law and order, are committed to peace and renounce terrorism and are willing to engage in an inclusive dialogue and give priority to cross-clan alliances that seek to establish viable administrations;

□ create a joint financial management board and consider establishing within it a governance and economic management program for the major national sources of revenue, such as Mogadishu port and airport, as well as Kismayo port, based on the kind of partnership between local government and internationals to promote transparency and

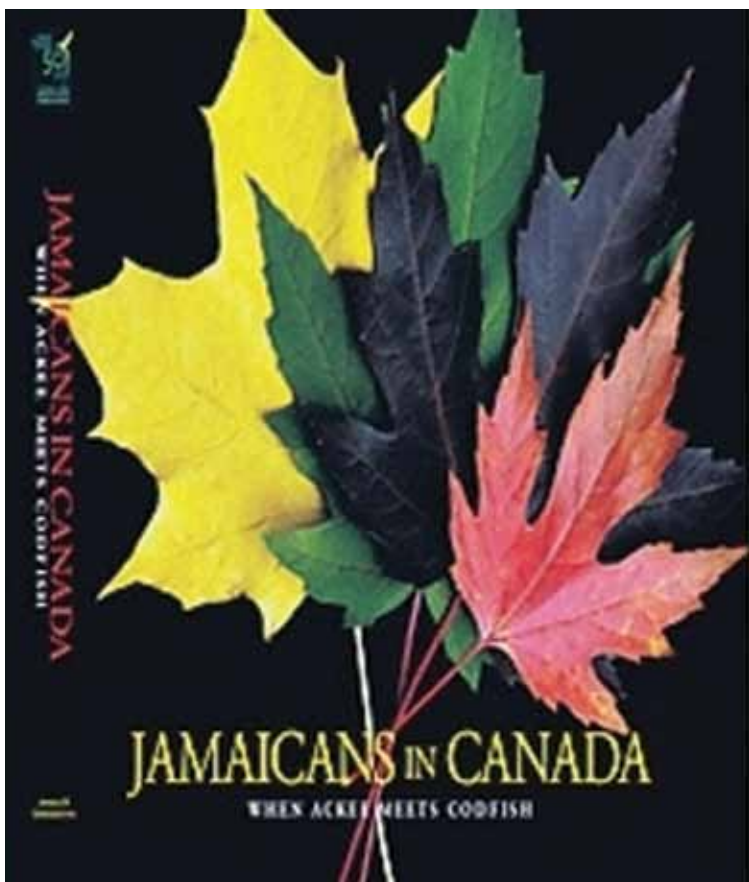
accountability that lowered corruption in post-civil war Liberia. Once funds enter the treasury, Somalis should transparently decide their use; and

□ encourage the Somali authorities to indicate continued willingness to negotiate a political accommodation with or incorporate into a national/regional security force Al-Shabaab commanders and fighters willing to renounce terrorism and work towards peace, since this would weaken the group further and could help stabilise newly recovered areas.

- International Crisis Group



Jamaica Deputy High Commissioner Laura McNeil; Mrs. Michelle Meredith; Senator Don Meredith; Jamaican High Commissioner Sheila Sealy Monteith; Mrs. Norma Dadd McNamee; and Jamaica50 Ottawa Chair Ewart Walters at the Canadian Senate for the reading of a statement on Jamaica's 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Canada by Senator Meredith.



The cover of the commemorative book on Jamaicans in Canada which was published for the occasion.



Ottawa and West Quebec Scotiabank Vice-President Dennis Jackson speaking on behalf of Scotiabank which was a main sponsor.

## Yasir Naqvi, MPP

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Pastor Jacob Afolabi

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.” (Job 3:25-26).

When we fear, we simply stir up a wind. Job said, “I feared a fear, and it came upon me.” (Job 3:26) We as human beings are so superior to other creations, that we can call into action those things which lie dormant, just by the expression of our mind power.

Patriarch Job tells us that he was always apprehensive (anxiety and fear), of some great calamity upon his family and his life. By being always fearful, Job was sowing the wind, and it raised up a storm in his life. (Hosea 8:7). At such a moment in our lives, let’s sing a song, “Be Still My Soul”

This is in accordance with our human nature. When we have calamity in one

## THE GOOD WORD

### When Your Wind Turns Into A Storm

form, we naturally fear another will follow it. But the Divine assurance is that, when we go through calamities, He will be with us. “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. (Isaiah 43:2).

Control your wind. To do this let these words that blessed the mind of Father Abraham be in you richly. “After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.” (Genesis 15:1)

Also, permit the assurance of our Lord Jesus to sink deeply in your mind, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1). The Disciples of Jesus leaned a great lesson in trust when Jesus led them through the stormy sea, “And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” (Mark 4: 39).

Also, each time we make a decision, we stir up the wind in our lives and circumstances. Remember

the story of the rich man who boaster of his fortunes, “So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’” (Luke 12:18-20).

The Counsel of God comes for our benefit, to draw us away from any storm, outside of us or inside of us. Every time we make a decision, we are disturbing the “wind.” We should be wise to decide with God on our side

There is always a wind on the inside of you which can turn into a storm when you become fearful or anxious, or when you make decisions outside of the facts of life, or when you are confronted with new challenges, such as happened to Joshua. “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you

go.” (Joshua 1:9).

A troubled and miserable life produces intense pressures on the mind – causing the wind to blow and to gather un-usual strength of worries and laments. In such times, and for as long as it may last, “Be still,” and call upon the name of the Lord. Then the Lord will visit you. (Ps.107:23-31 please read)

Reserve your wind to do battle against evils. When you whip up your mind against evil acts and evil presence, then the storm of your soul can change every situation into a peaceful end. Pray the Getzeman Prayer. “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Luke 22:44). Jesus brought out the powerful wind inside Him to deal with the gathering storms outside of Him, and in the very end, He triumphed over all the storms.

To us humankind, the wind represents the unseen “picture” of God the Spirit, mysterious, powerful, unpredictable, and yet GENTLE.

Bishop Jacob Afolabi  
bishop@christschapel.com

“Like a dictatorship” – Bolivia’s President

### Cuba splits summit

The half-century-old US quarrel with Cuba shows little sign of letting up. Backed by Canada at this month’s Summit of the Americas with some 30 Western Hemisphere leaders, the United States stood fast against demands to include Cuba in future summits.

The big two also balked at backing Argentina’s claim to the British-held Falkland Islands.

In the end the meeting ended without a joint declaration. “All the countries here in Latin American and the Caribbean want Cuba to be present. But the United States won’t accept,” President Evo Morales of Bolivia told reporters. “It’s like a dictatorship.”

Morales and other leaders have been insistent that weekend in Cartagena, will be the last regional summit under Organisation of American States auspices unless Cuba is invited in the future.

But there seemed to be a plan to meet again in 2015 in Panama.

President Obama’s peers lectured him over his unflagging opposition to Cuban participation.

The Cuba issue led Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa to boycott the summit, and Nicaragua’s President Daniel Ortega also sat out the meeting. Venezuela’s president Hugo Chavez was also absent. He has been undergoing radiation therapy in Cuba.

Even moderates such as Santos of Colombia and Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff said there should be no more America’s summits without the communist island.

The Obama administration has eased family travel and remittances to Cuba, but has not dropped the half-century US embargo against the island.

President Obama was criticised by some leaders for maintaining a drug war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and undermined governments, although he didn’t shy from listening to arguments on the other side.

President Santos of Colombia urged a reconsideration of the war on narcotics, citing the irony of Colombia’s successes: While it extradites hundreds of alleged drug traffickers for trial to the US, criminals turn to other countries where law enforcement is weaker. Central America and Mexico, in particular, are bleeding as traffickers shift to countries of lesser resistance.

The first Summit of the Americas was convened in Miami in 1994 by then-US President Bill Clinton. In subsequent summits, US attempts to create a hemispheric free-trade zone collapsed. South America’s rising independence further eroded US influence.

## Can Christians openly wear a cross to work? In Britain, apparently not

by Richard J. Brennan

In what is bound to be a controversial move, the British government is set to argue at the European Court of Human Rights that Christians do not have the right to wear a cross or crucifix openly at work.

Critics are already calling it another blow to Christianity for restricting its symbols of faith while granting special status to symbols of other religions such as the Sikh turban and *kara* (bracelet), or the Muslim hijab.

The London *Telegraph* has revealed ministers will argue that because it is not a “requirement” of the Christian faith, employers can ban the wearing of the cross and sack workers who insist on doing so.

Judges in Strasbourg will hear the test case on religious freedom in Britain later this year. It will bring together four separate cases, including that of Nadia Eweida, who works for British Airways. Her case dates from 2006 when she was suspended for refusing to take off the cross which her employers claimed breached BA’s uniform code.

In a surprise move Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, added fuel to the fire when he

said the cross for many Christians is little more than jewellery, “which religious people make and hang on to” as a substitute for true faith.

Williams, speaking at a church service in Rome where he met the Pope on the weekend, said the cross had been stripped of its meaning as part of a tendency to manufacture religion. “And the cross itself has become a religious decoration,” he said.

Eweida and others are expected to argue they were discriminated against when their employers barred them from wearing the symbols and want the European Court to rule this breached their human right to manifest their religion.

But the British government’s official response, as reported by the *Telegraph*, states that wearing the cross is not a “requirement of the faith” and therefore does not fall under the remit of Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Eweida, 61, from Twickenham, is a Coptic Christian, who argues that BA allows members of other faiths to wear religious garments and symbols. BA later changed its uniform policy but Eweida lost her challenge against an earlier employment tribunal decision at the Court of Appeal and in May 2010 was refused permission to go to the Supreme Court.

## Senator Meredith applauds strengthened Canada-Jamaica relations

Jamaican-Canadian Senator Don Meredith applauds the continued relations between Canada and his birth country, Jamaica, after the recent general election which saw a new government come to power on the island.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently spoke with new Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller. Noting the close relationship between Canada and Jamaica, including the important contribution made by the Jamaican Diaspora in Canada, both leaders expressed their desire to work together to strengthen bilateral cooperation on a range of issues including security,

defence and economic cooperation. Prime Minister Simpson-Miller thanked Canada for its long-standing support.

In response to the news, Senator Meredith said: “I am happy to learn that both Prime Ministers have spoken about strengthening bilateral relations between our countries, especially in the area of economic cooperation. Canada and Jamaica have a rich and well-documented history of friendship and commerce, especially in banking, trade and the military. More recently Jamaican-Canadians have also made significant contributions to Canadian society in media, finance, drama, and sports, and have added a little flavour and spice to the Canadian mosaic through our music, food, and culture. The discussion between our prime ministers was the next step in continuing this friendship”.

The strong relationship between the two countries will be in full display this year as cities across Canada, including Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, continue to host festivities

celebrating Jamaica’s 50th anniversary of independence.

These celebrations not only reinforce the Jamaican Diaspora’s pride in its heritage, but they also provide a timely opportunity for Jamaican people to renew their commitment to their Canadian home.

As patron of honour for the national Canadian launch of the festivities that was staged in Ottawa March 22, Senator Meredith also sees this as a learning opportunity for Canadians.

“I am very excited about the events surrounding the celebration of Jamaica’s 50th anniversary of independence. The Jamaica50 celebrations are a time of tremendous pride for Jamaicans across Canada and we celebrate the success story that is Jamaican independence. It is also an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about Jamaican culture,” Senator Meredith said.

For more information surrounding the Jamaica50 festivities please visit [www.jamaica50.ca](http://www.jamaica50.ca) and [www.jamaica50ottawa.com](http://www.jamaica50ottawa.com).

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# The persistence of racism in Canada

(First published in *The Toronto Star*)  
by **Grace Edward Galabuzi, Amy Casipullai and Avvy Go**

Today in Canada we have legal protection for victims of discrimination and a constitutional guarantee of equality rights for all. Thus some would say that the March 21 commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is redundant since every day is a racism-free day in Canada. Indeed, according to an Angus Reid poll, while a third of Canadians (32 per cent) believe that racism is a significant problem in Canada, 55 per cent are satisfied that we have overcome it.

But consider these facts from a recent *Toronto Star* series on Race and Policing. Black males living in Toronto are three times more likely to be carded by police, no matter where they live; police stop residents more frequently in neighbourhoods that are largely populated by people of colour. Not only are “Visible Minorities”

considered a greater crime threat, they also face greater surveillance.

Studies have also documented racial disparities in income, health status, services, civic participation and in the labour market. Employment and income disparities persist for Visible Minorities in Toronto and Canada, regardless of education. They are more likely to be unemployed and underemployed even though they are more willing and available to work.

Visible Minority Canadians earn an average of \$30,385 per year compared to \$37,332 for other Canadians, or 81 cents to the dollar. First generation Visible Minority male Canadians earn 68.7 per cent of what their white counterparts make, and second generation Visible Minority males make 75.6 cents for every dollar earned by white men.

Visible Minority immigrant women earn only 48.7 per cent of the employment income that non-Visible Minority immigrant men earn, while

Visible Minority women as a whole earn 56.5 per cent (\$25,204) of what white men earn (\$45,327).

The effect of these inequalities in the labour market is that Visible Minority Canadians are three times more likely to live in poverty than other Canadians (19.8 per cent compared to 6.4 per cent).

And how about the fact that one in five aboriginals live in poverty and an untold number live without basic necessities such as clean water and electricity?

The dream of a racism-free society is still rather elusive. Those who think Canada is post-racial may wish to review the recently released report from the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination looking at Canada’s compliance with the international law on racial equality. The committee acknowledges a number of positive steps taken by Canada, but also expresses these concerns: growing socio-economic gaps among ethnic groups; racial profiling, particularly of Black Canadians by police; overrepresentation

of aboriginal and Blacks in the prison population, and the discrimination they face generally in the criminal justice system. The UN report highlights violence and other issues facing aboriginal women. And it warns that changes to Canada’s refugee system will discriminate against refugees from so-called “safe countries.”

Sure, the UN report is not binding and our governments can simply ignore it. But since Visible Minority groups now make up over 25 per cent of the Ontario population and the percentage will grow to 33 per cent by 2017, one hopes that governments would heed the UN findings.

Yet, apart from the obligatory ethnic outreach during election time when some people of colour are called upon to act as props for campaign purposes, issues facing Visible Minority communities often get short thrift in political debate.

Today, there are many opportunities for the Ontario and federal governments to step up and address these racial inequities. At the provincial

level, reviews of both the human rights system and social assistance are underway. The reviewers have an opportunity to ensure that any changes they recommend will positively and substantively benefit members of Visible Minority communities.

The upcoming federal and provincial budgets give both governments a chance to introduce measures that will address the perpetual underemployment and unemployment problems facing Visible Minority communities and invest in programs that will benefit them. Ottawa could take a leadership role by developing a national poverty reduction strategy with universally applicable but targeted programs that meet the needs of the most vulnerable and excluded populations. It should also commit to investments that meet the needs of aboriginal peoples, from basic services to education, employment and economic opportunities.

They could require all provinces and territories that receive federal money to meet federal Employment Equity targets for any job opportunities created

as a result. Employment equity programs work, demonstrably so. The federal contract compliance program has been effective in improving hiring and promotion for women and Visible Minority group members among employers who do business with the federal government over the 25 years it has been in place.

Collectively we should and can lift the well being and ensure full citizenship for members of Visible Minority communities.

Let’s make racial justice our goal, not a slogan for one day a year.

**Grace Edward Galabuzi** is an associate professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University. **Amy Casipullai** is senior policy and communications coordinator at the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants. **Avvy Go** is director of the Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic.

**Editor’s Note:** We substituted the term “Visible Minorities” for the authors’ term: Racialized groups.

## Toronto Police Board to monitor ‘carding’ of young men

After years of allowing officers to stop and document a disproportionately high number of Black residents, the Toronto Police Services Board is finally taking steps to curb the practice.

Following a recent series of *Toronto Star* articles that showed Blacks were subjected to three times as many stops as whites, the civilian oversight board passed several motions that will dramatically increase monitoring of the practice known as “carding.”

A motion from chair Alok Mukherjee recommended that city Auditor General Jeff Griffiths conduct an independent review of the race-based statistics kept by police, who record skin colour — Black, Brown, White or “Other” — each time they stop and document a resident.

Other motions passed

included a request that police give a copy of the document card — with the reason for the stop — to the individual; that Police Chief Bill Blair report carding statistics to the board every three months; and that he monitor and address discriminatory practices.

“I’m very optimistic and feel very positive about the response of the board chair,” said Noa Mendelsohn Aviv, a director with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. “I would love to see the city be a leader in the terrible problem of racial profiling.”

Aviv had high praise for *Star* reporter Jim Rankin, who brought the race data to light through a series of freedom-of-information requests to police that spanned more than a decade.

“We commend the *Toronto Star* and its reporters —

Jim Rankin in particular — for their continued investigations into and reporting on the very serious issue of racial profiling of Black male youth,” Aviv said at the meeting.

But she said in an interview later that “until we see concrete recording and discipline enforced, I won’t be totally satisfied that things are going to change. Police need to do this police work. They just need to do it in a non-discriminatory manner.”

The association joined the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, Black Action Defence Committee and the African Canadian Legal Clinic in speaking out against carding.

Former mayor John Sewell spoke as a representative of the Toronto Police Accountability Coalition. Four of the motions passed were based on his recommendations.

Police have collected race-based data for decades and used it in investigations.

The review by the auditor

general would create the first benchmark that could be used to evaluate the data’s effectiveness. The *Star*’s most recent analysis, published recently in a series called Known to Police, found that fewer than one in five of the people carded between 2008 to mid-2011 had been arrested or charged in Toronto in the previous decade.

The analysis also found that police card minority youth at such high rates that the number of Black and Brown males aged 15 to 24 who had been documented was larger than the city’s actual population of young Black and brown men.


Blair said he doesn’t believe there’s ever any justification for racial profiling. “It’s an abhorrent activity. We do not in any way tolerate it in our organization.” The chief also said he didn’t dispute the *Star*’s analysis of the police carding data.

It is widely acknowledged that Blair has made the force more diverse. In fact, Mukherjee began the meeting by acknowledging a leadership award given to Blair recently by the Diversity Business Network.

Blair said he would like an opportunity to present the board with information on diversity work by the force, including reaching out to youth and work with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. “There’s been a tremendous effort over the past several years,” Blair said. But the chief has also said in the past that racial bias in a reality in policing.

— *Toronto Star*

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Join the Ottawa Walk for Water on April 22

# Kids like Andrew Need Clean Water



Andrew and his grandma Victoria. Photo by Brian Stratton

by Deborah Chapman

Andrew is a typical 10-year-old Ugandan boy. He goes to school, helps his 80-year old grandmother Victoria, and loves playing soccer when he can. Andrew lives in Wakiso District in central Uganda, close to Kampala, Uganda's

capital city. Given the richness of the land, few here go hungry when the rains are good. The future looks bright for the district's children that make up 53 percent of the close to one million people who live here.

There's just one small glitch.

Andrew walks an hour a day for water. The

mountain-fed pond that he draws his water from is used by his community for drinking, washing clothes and bathing. It's also where their farm animals drink from.

"It's our local spot. Everyone comes here," explained Andrew. They used to rely on their home's rain barrel for some of their daily needs,

but since the drought the pond is the only source of water they have. It has made him sick.

"I don't mind the walk. I just wish the water was cleaner," Andrew says.

Water is in us: we drink it, we play in it, and we can't survive without it. Water is integral to the production of everything that we use and consume on a daily basis. Yet many Canadians take access to clean water for granted. Living in Ottawa, we have access to clean drinking water day and night at the simple turn of a tap. But millions of people worldwide aren't as lucky.

WaterCan, a local charitable organization, is helping families like Andrew's get access to clean drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene education. For the past 25 years, WaterCan's programs have reached over 1.2 million children, women and men in over 30 countries. WaterCan currently focuses its efforts in Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya. It is a success story.

We can be part of this

success. For the past six years, WaterCan has partnered with Aveda Canada to celebrate Earth Day by organizing *Walk for Water* events in several Canadian cities. Every year over 2,000 Aveda staff, clients and concerned Canadians participate in the walk with proceeds going to WaterCan, Aveda's exclusive Canadian Earth Month partner. The Walks are making a difference. Over \$1.2M has been raised in support of WaterCan's small-scale, community-driven water projects.

"I'd like to invite Ottawa's community to walk with us and give the gift of clean water for life," Aveda Canada's Lisa Irvine says. For Lisa, reaching out to the community makes perfect sense. "The only way to have more impact is to have more people be aware of the cause. You could save a life."

Walkers will depart at 11 a.m. (and end) at the Cartier Square Drill Hall (2 Queen Elizabeth Drive) beside Ottawa City Hall

on Earth Day (Sunday, April 22, 2012). The walk passes through downtown Ottawa and along the scenic Rideau Canal, with a media photo-op stop on Parliament Hill. It runs approximately 6 km — the average distance that women and children in the developing world must walk to fetch their family's daily water needs. Walkers will be led by African drumming sensation Dr. Lee's Percussion and can celebrate completion of the walk with brunch treats at the Drill Hall. To register, please visit [www.iwalkforwater.ca](http://www.iwalkforwater.ca).

For Andrew and his granny, life is about to get better. The easily contaminated mountain spring that Andrew currently collects his water from is about to get capped with the help of WaterCan and expertise from the community. Water will be protected and stored in an underground storage tank easily accessible to anyone who needs it. Andrew still has to walk, but soon the water will be safe.

## Mugabe "fighting for his life" in Singapore hospital



Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is said to be 'fighting for his life' in a Singapore hospital according to *The Australian*. This comes amid reports that he had agreed to hand over power to his defence minister, Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mugabe, who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980, visited Singapore eight times last year. His spokesperson described the trips as necessitated by cataract surgery, or simply private visits, amid repeated media reports that he was suffering from cancer.

Quoting a senior official of Mugabe's Zanu-PF party, the *Zimbabwe*

*Mail* said the president was undergoing intensive treatment in Singapore and that some members of his family had joined him.

The alarm was raised when the government postponed a cabinet meeting.

Mugabe, 88, is ostensibly in Singapore to oversee enrolment in a postgraduate course at Singapore University for his daughter Bona. University registration starts in September.

A June 2008 US diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks last month said Mugabe has prostate cancer that has spread to other organs. He was urged by his physician to step down in 2008, but has stayed in the job.

## 189 years jail-time for Katrina cops

Five former New Orleans police officers who shot six unarmed civilians, two fatally, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina have been jailed. The prison terms range from six to 65 years for the shootings on the Danziger Bridge in September 2005.

Four of the officers were found guilty of firearms offences and the fifth was jailed for helping the cover-up.

The officers planted a gun and fabricated witnesses and false reports to make the shootings appear justified.

Robert Faulcon, 48, received the longest sentence of 65 years; Kenneth Bowen, 38, and Robert Gisevius, 39, received 40 years each; and Anthony Villavaso, 35, was sentenced to 38 years in prison.

Retired Sgt Arthur

Kaufman, 55, the officer who was assigned to investigate the shootings, received a six-year prison sentence for helping to co-ordinate the cover-up.

Hurricane Katrina battered New Orleans's poorly maintained levees on August 29, 2005, flooding most of the city and stranding thousands of people on rooftops.

In all, 1,833 people died, 80% of the city was flooded, and more than a million people were displaced. The power, water and sewage systems were knocked out and people began looting shops and homes.

On 4 September 2005, Faulcon, Bowen, Gisevius and Villavaso were among a dozen officers who responded to a radio call that police were being fired upon near the bridge.

They opened fire with assault rifles and a shotgun at an unarmed family walking on the bridge and at a man fleeing the scene.

A New Orleans couple, their daughter, and their nephew, were wounded and a family friend, 17-year-old James Brissette, was killed.

Ronald Madison, 40, who had mental and physical disabilities, also died on the bridge. He was shot in the back with a shotgun as he ran away.

In reports filed by the officers or on their behalf, they claimed they opened fire only after being threatened and that they had seen weapons in the victims' hands.

It took five years to establish what happened on the bridge.

Mr Madison's brother, Romell, told the BBC's World Today

programme the prison sentences had helped the family come to terms with what happened.

"I would say 75% closure. There's always the thought of them getting off on appeal, you know... we will feel closure when they've exhausted all their appeal rights and the sentence stands," he said.

Kaufman is the only officer who was not already imprisoned when the sentences were handed down. He is due to report to prison on May 23.

The courtroom was packed with relatives and friends of the victims and policemen.

The case was part of a wider effort from the Department of Justice to clean up the New Orleans Police Department.

— BBC



## Novelist's New James Bond

London — Scottish writer and James Bond fan William Boyd is going to write a new 007 novel. No details about the book were revealed, except that Boyd said it will be set in 1969.

"When the Ian Fleming estate invited me to write the new James Bond novel, I didn't hesitate. I accepted at once," he said.

The book will be published next year, the 60th anniversary of the publication of Fleming's first Bond novel, "Casino Royale."

# Senator Meredith applauds strengthened Canada-Jamaica relations

**Ottawa, March 8, 2012** – Jamaican-Canadian Senator Don Meredith applauds the continued relations between Canada and his birth country, Jamaica, after the recent general election which saw a new government come to power on the island. Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently spoke with new Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller. Noting the close relationship between Canada and Jamaica, including the important contribution made by the Jamaican Diaspora living in Canada, both leaders expressed their desire to work together to strengthen bilateral cooperation on a range of issues including security, defence and economic cooperation. Prime Minister Simpson-

Miller thanked Canada for its long-standing support. In response to the news, Senator Meredith states, “I am happy to learn that both Prime Ministers have spoken about strengthening bilateral relations between our countries, especially in the area of economic cooperation. Canada and Jamaica have a rich and well-documented history of friendship and commerce, especially in banking, trade and the military. More recently Jamaican-Canadians have also made significant contributions to Canadian society in media, finance, drama, and sports, and have added a little flavour and spice to the Canadian mosaic through our music, food, and culture. The discussion between our prime ministers was the

next step in continuing this friendship”. The strong relationship between the two countries will be in full display this month as cities across Canada, including Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, continue to host festivities celebrating Jamaica’s 50th anniversary of independence. These celebrations not only reinforce the Jamaican Diaspora’s pride in its heritage, but they also provide a timely opportunity for Jamaican people to renew their commitment to their Canadian home. As patron of honour for the national launch to be held in Ottawa, Senator Meredith also sees this as a learning opportunity for Canadians. “I am very excited about

the events surrounding the celebration of Jamaica’s 50th anniversary of independence. The Jamaica50 celebrations are a time of tremendous pride for Jamaicans across Canada and the world as we celebrate the success story that is Jamaican independence. It is also an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about Jamaican culture”, states Senator Meredith. It is expected both leaders will meet later this year to further discussions on Canada-Jamaica bilateral talks as well as to participate in Jamaica50 celebrations. For more information surrounding the Jamaica50 festivities please visit [www.jamaica50.ca](http://www.jamaica50.ca) and [www.jamaica50ottawa.com](http://www.jamaica50ottawa.com).

# Footballer ‘dead’ for 78 minutes - doctor

Fabrice Muamba was “in effect dead” for 78 minutes following his on-field collapse, the Bolton Wanderers club doctor Jonathan Tobin has revealed. Doctors say it is too early to predict whether he will play football again. But Dr Tobin said he is amazed by the 23-year-old’s recovery so far. In an emotional BBC interview, Dr Tobin said: “It was 48 minutes when he collapsed to reaching hospital and a further 30 minutes after that. He was, in effect, dead at that time.”

Muamba suffered a cardiac arrest in Wanderers’ FA Cup tie against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday March 17. Dr Tobin told BBC Sport’s Dan Roan how Bolton physio Andy Mitchell was the first to spot the player had collapsed. The doctor recalled: “He screamed, ‘Get on the pitch, get on the pitch’. It was obvious something major was happening.”

Dr Tobin said Muamba was given two defibrillator shocks on the pitch, one in the players’ tunnel and a further 12 in the ambulance on the way to hospital but none worked. The doctor said it was only when medics at London Chest Hospital took over that the situation began to sink in. Tottenham club doctor Shabaaz Mughal was among those who rushed to Muamba’s aid. He said: “He appeared to take a couple of gasps but was then unresponsive.”

The pair were further helped by Dr Andrew Deaner, Consultant Cardiologist at London Chest Hospital, who was at the game as a fan, and ran on to the pitch to lend his expertise. He said: “As soon as I saw them start CPR, something twitched in me. You always hope that, if you have a defibrillator and get there quickly, they will respond to at least two or three shocks. The longer the resuscitation, the less the chances of

survival. But this is a very fit 23-year-old and those attending him are trained in CPR. “If I was ever going to use the term miraculous it could be used here. He has made a remarkable recovery so far. “Two hours after [regaining consciousness] I whispered in his ear, ‘What’s your name?’ and he said, ‘Fabrice Muamba’. I said, ‘I hear you’re a really good footballer’ and he said, ‘I try’. I had a tear in my eye.” The consultant added: “We don’t want to get ahead of ourselves but, as things stand, his life is not in danger at this time. It is early days so it is not possible to say [if he will play again].”

Dr Sam Mohiddin, the Consultant Cardiologist now looking after Muamba, said: “Fabrice has continued to demonstrate positive signs of recovery. The critical thing was the rapid, prompt and very effective CPR at White Hart Lane and expertise from the London ambulance service. Normal life is within the spectrum of possibility.”

The Sun newspaper quoted a family friend reporting that Muamba had asked who won the match when he regained consciousness. “He was told the match was called off while the two teams were drawing 1-1,” said Aime Esalo. “Fabrice asked why they had stopped it and his father said ‘Because of you’.”

- Muamba treatment timeline**
- **1813 GMT:** Muamba collapses on the pitch due to a cardiac arrest 41 minutes into Bolton’s FA Cup quarter-final with Tottenham at White Hart Lane
  - **1819 GMT:** Medics move Muamba to an ambulance after failing to revive him on the pitch in front of a stunned crowd
  - **1901 GMT:** Muamba arrives at the London Chest hospital
  - **1931 GMT:** Muamba receives 15 defibrillator shocks in total before his heart starts beating again

# Diaspora and Diplomacy illumine Ottawa - pg. 1



Government Conference Centre

a team of volunteers in Ottawa to plan this year’s events. Then it was off to Toronto and across Canada as far west as Victoria, British Columbia, to encourage the formation of Jamaica50 committees there. Making her task easier were two things. First there was the fact that Jamaica had opened a High Commission here in Ottawa in 1962 just after Independence, which meant that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations with Canada was also to be celebrated. Second was the presence in the Canadian Senate of the elegant, charismatic, young (47) and recently appointed Senator Don Meredith, a Pentecostal minister from Toronto who has since made headlines in the *Ottawa Citizen* for his dapper dressing. A partnership emerged that paved the way to the use of the Government Conference Centre, live-streaming of the proceedings, a statement in the Senate and in the

Commons on the two country’s diplomatic relations over the 50 years, and... Senator Meredith was the patron of the star-studded celebration of Jamaican culture hosted by CBC Toronto anchor Dwight Drummond and Ottawa media personality Sarah Onyango. The event’s biggest sponsor was Scotiabank which has been operating in Jamaica longer than it has been in Toronto. Senator Nicholson officially launched Jamaica 50 Canada as part of a formal ceremony that was also addressed by Canadian Senator Marjorie LeBreton. This was followed by a cultural showcase that began with Devon Harris, one of the original Jamaican bobsledders from the 1988 Calgary Olympics and inspiration for the film “Cool Runnings” telling about his experiences. Other performers included Reggae artist Tony Anthony, a mass choir and the KashaDance troop.

The favourite though, was Jessica Yap who brought the audience to its feet in standing applause after standing applause for her fantastic playing of Jamaican classics including Monty Morris’ *Sammy Dead*, Millie Small’s *My Boy Lollipop*, and Don Drummond’s *Confucius*. “What we saw was a celebration of the ties that have bound our two countries together for hundreds of years” High Commissioner Sealy Monteith said. “This is the start of something great.” At a working breakfast with the Jamaica50 committee leaders from across Canada at the High Commissioner’s residence the next morning, Senator Nicholson put an asterisk on that observation. “If what I saw last night – the planning and the execution – Jamaica would be a better place if it had been following this path. I was so impressed,” said the Minister who was making his first official trip to Canada since his appointment.

Truth is, the week was one of long-awaited healing for the Jamaican community here. The Jamaican Diaspora in Canada was so torn by the combination of the Jamaican civil war of the late 1970s and the debilitating negative depiction by the foreign press that even a virtual absence of stories on Jamaica, especially since 1989 had left it uncertain of the worth of Jamaica on the international stage. Interestingly, the high incidences of homicides in the past decade or so, which make a joke of the smaller numbers of the seventies, have not attracted the Canadian media. Besides, with the preponderance of Jamaican nationals living in Toronto (an estimated 250,000), the other parts of the Diaspora in Canada are not well immersed in Jamaican culture of which Toronto is the Canadian home, complete with a special room downtown to honour Louise Miss Lou Bennett-Coverley. But the objective of the Jamaica50 Ottawa organisers has been to lift Jamaica in the eyes of Jamaicans and Canadians so that the Diaspora can begin to play the influential role here that it does not yet know it is capable of. The events of the penultimate week of March 2012 have taken a big step towards that objective. Jamaica50 events in Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Regina, Vancouver and Victoria will follow throughout the year and will highlight Independence Day on August 6.

# Cuba offers miracle cancer drug

Cuban officials say a drug which is being hailed as a miracle treatment for cancer, is now available there. Officials say the drug, the VIDATOX 30CH, is a natural substance made from scorpions, some of which are found in Cuba only. Dr Mariala Garcia, who is part of a group of specialists promoting the drug in the Caribbean, says it will be available for EC\$380 or US\$102 for a two-month supply. According to Dr Garcia,

the recommended dosage is five drops under the tongue twice per day. She says the drug carries no known side effects and the trials have yielded great results and many success stories. Cuban health officials say that the product does not require a prescription. It is already on sale in South and Central America, Europe and Asia and will soon be available for purchase at several locations across the Caribbean.

# Portia Makes TIME's top 100



Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller (shown as she took her oath of office) has been named one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world.

## Caribbean Runnins

Compiled by Karen Scantlebury

**Guyana** - Guyana's mining and quarrying sector is booming, recording growth of 19.2 percent in 2011 with a 17.7 percent increase in raw gold declarations, according to a government report. This marks the highest level of production since 2004, when Guyana's Omai Gold mines were still in operation. According to Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh, "The gold sector maintained its position as the largest contributor to total mineral output and returned a record year in 2011. Going forward, orderly growth and development and capacity building will be the government's focus."

**Jamaica** - The Government has slashed the \$2.5 billion slated for the 50<sup>th</sup> Independence anniversary celebrations by the previous JLP administration, and will spend only \$688 million. Jamaica's 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations start mid April right up to the main celebratory period of August 1 to 6. The celebration will go under the banner "Jamaica 50 - A Nation on a Mission." The celebration includes a series of concerts, cultural exhibits and a major 24-hour event which will be aired on local and international television.

**Barbados** - Prime Minister Freundel Stuart is expected to discuss the state of the Barbados economy when he meets with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington this month. A key session will be a town hall meeting on April 22 at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Washington. Scores of Barbadians are expected to attend this meeting to hear Stuart's address and question the prime minister on the state of the economy.

Redjet boss Ian Burns is expecting the low-cost carrier to be flying again soon. Still not speaking to the media about the grounded airline's current state of affairs or its future, Burns has written to employees, informing them that a solution appears to be on the horizon.

**Grenada** -The chairman of Grenada's ruling party is stepping down from the post as authorities investigate forgery allegations against him. National Democratic Congress spokesman Arley Gill announced that Kenrick Fullerton is stepping aside as the party's chairman as he "concentrates on defending himself against the charges." Fullerton was charged with forgery following a probe by the island's Financial Intelligence Unit. Allegations are that a senior official's signature was forged while Gill was working as advisor to the sports minister.

**Cuba**- Good Friday, April 06, was celebrated as a public holiday in Cuba for the first time since the early days of the 1959 Cuban Revolution when Fidel Castro abolished religious holidays in that country. This follows President Raul Castro's granting of a request by Pope Benedict XVI during the pontiff's three-day visit to Cuba. The government said in a communiqué that the decision was made in view of the success of Benedict's "transcendental visit", adding that the Council of Ministers, Cuba's supreme governing body, will later determine whether to make Good Friday a permanent holiday.

**Anguilla** - The rapid escalation in the cost of electricity has prompted the government to craft a renewable energy project in the hope of providing reliable, environmentally sustainable electricity at low cost. Speaking in parliament, Minister of Utilities Evan Gumbs said, "Our exclusive reliance on conventional energy sources, i.e. diesel fuel, is the primary reason for the high prices we pay for electricity. There is a proposal to construct a wind farm to provide Anguilla with clean, renewable power.

*Say it for the Month:* "When puss belly full im seh rat batty bitter"



Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessor greeting Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena.

EWART WALTERS

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