

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Theme for 2024: **JUST DO IT**

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ABOUT US

The Association was founded in November 1962, shortly after Jamaica's Independence in August 1962. Our seal of Incorporation was granted in 1970. Since its inception, the Association has grown strong in attracting members.

It is recognized as the official organization representing Jamaicans in Montreal at Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. We have accompanied delegations and presented briefs to all levels of government. Given our commitment to community development, the Jamaica Association developed our Mission Statement as follows:

**“To assist in improving and enhancing the quality of life for the Jamaican Community”**

In fulfilling this Mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the development of the community through economical, educational, cultural and social activities.



Mark Henry, President  
Jamaica Association of Montreal

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

The splatter and frost of winter is seemingly gone and we are enjoying the fresh breeze of spring while we await the heat of summer. We have spent the last few months making necessary changes that will allow us to adapt to the constantly changing environment and prepare the organization to function at a high level for a very long time.

Our membership has been increasingly active with our events and meetings, which I take as an approval of the directions we are managing the organization. Our partners continue to support our initiatives and events extremely well. I would like to extend my extreme appreciation to members, friends, and partners for this continued support.

We await with our excitement our annual Presidential Brunch on Sunday April 14th, a celebration with leaders in Montreal's diasporic community. These leaders make the commitment to hours of volunteer work to manage various organization through often challenging times.

I salute the Board members of all organizations for their passion and care for community and its development. We have also been preparing for our upcoming signature event of the summer, Jamaica Day 2024, which is to be held on July 27th, through bi-weekly meetings and acquisition of the required resources to have a successful event. We hope that you will mark this date on your calendars along with all the events by the entire community organizations of Montreal.

Your support is a critical part of the success of community organizations that are generally nonprofits and needs support to continue to thrive. The Jamaica Association is a member of the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal. We are pleased to announce that body is authorized to create Montreal Carnival which is now renamed the **Montreal Carimas Festival** in 2024. The Coalition has committed to providing a vibrant celebration of the Caribbean and other communities and creating a structure that can thrive for years to come.

Lastly, on behalf of the Jamaica Association of Montreal and our Board of Directors, I would like to extend our deep condolences to the family of **Mr. Dan Philip** who recently passed away. Mr. Philip was a tireless community worker and activist who valiantly fought for members our, and other communities. I have heard references to Dan Philip as the “Martin Luther King” of Montreal, an honour which is earned. May God bless our Members, our Community and Community Organizations

*“I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.” - Ecclesiastes 9.11 (KJV)*

FOCUS: DIASPORA CONFERENCE JUNE 2024

**JOIN US !**  
There will be a contingent of the Jamaica Association of Montreal attending the conference. We look forward to you joining us in **Montego Bay, Jamaica.**

**DATES:**  
**JUNE 16 – 19, 2024**  
Conference Days

**JUNE 20, 2024**  
Diaspora Day  
Day Trip to Black River & the High School

**CONFERENCE INFO AND REGISTRATION**

Eventbrite link:  
<https://shorturl.at/cfavo>

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:**  
\$75 - \$160

Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 \* Phone: (514) 737-8229

Email: [info@jam-montreal.com](mailto:info@jam-montreal.com) \* Website: <http://jam-montreal.com> \* Facebook: <http://facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>

Instagram: @jamaicaassociationmontreal \* YouTube: Jamaica Association of Montreal

## FEATURE: MEMBERSHIP AND THE COMMITTEE

### MEMBERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT, AND INVOLVEMENT

Getting involved in an organization that matches your values is important for it bolsters teamwork and your own want to give back. At the Association, we value the time and commitment by all those who positively give back in their own unique ways to build the Association and to see it grow for today and for tomorrow.

Getting involved is a multi-step process that involves a **designated path**. These are the 3 steps established by our Membership Committee over a 3-year period:

**STEP 1 – becoming a member** of the organization to better understand what the organization is all about, what it does or does not do (**1<sup>st</sup> year**);

**STEP 2 – engagement in volunteering** perhaps for a project or an event, for this allows you to know the organization and how you can contribute. This in turn allows you to discover strengths and those in the leadership role to understand you. **Establishing, building trust, respect and teamwork** is essential to our Association. By volunteering on a project, **or committee** allows for everyone to know each other better and to work cohesively throughout various projects (**2<sup>nd</sup> year**);

**STEP 3 –** At the minimum, in the **3<sup>rd</sup> year** of engagement, is the time that individuals can be considered, by our membership, to join the **Board**. Being a member on the Board is an important role that requires, knowledge and the ability to take on the important responsibilities. If this is for you, then we certainly welcome your enthusiasm!

*Sophia, Sharon, Keisha, Rosemarie, and Marlene*

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS



SOPHIA HEATH,  
CHAIR



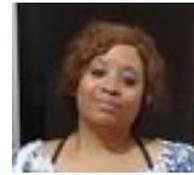
SHARON NELSON, CO-  
CHAIR



KEISHA WILSON



ROSEMARIE  
LEWIS



MARLENE ROPER

Reach out to our Chair, Sophia Heath via email:

[JAMMEMBERSHIP1962@gmail.com](mailto:JAMMEMBERSHIP1962@gmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Preferred pricing on certain events
2. An updated membership card\*
3. Voting rights at the Annual General meetings
4. Contributing to the growth of our Association

### RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Sign the registry at all member's meetings
2. Update your contact information
3. **Pay your membership dues for the 2023-24 year** (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30)
4. Respect the rules of membership

### DUES & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Family **\$50** (2 children (under 17 yrs old) & 2 adults),  
Adult **\$30** (18 - 59 yrs) \* Students **\$10** (12 -17 yrs) & Seniors **\$10** (60+ yrs)

### Membership Dues

Methods: 1) cash, 2) e-transfer to [info@jam-montreal.com](mailto:info@jam-montreal.com), 3) cheque

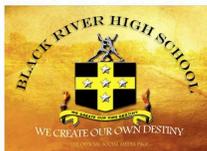
Last day for payment of dues for the 2023-24 year is **September 30, 2024**.

Qualified candidates will be eligible to be nominated to the board and all candidates will be able to vote at the AGM on **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

## BLACK RIVER INITIATIVE FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$10K



Under the patronage of the  
**Honourary Consul of Jamaica at Montreal**  
the **Jamaica Association of Montreal**  
is collecting funds to  
**refurbish the bathrooms for**



During the **10th Biennial Diaspora Conference** in Jamaica  
June 2024

**GOAL:**  
**\$10,000 CDN**

Cash, cheques, e-transfer and  
donations on Zeffy are all  
accepted.

Cheque made to: **Jamaica Association of Montreal**  
e-transfer: [info@jam-montreal.com](mailto:info@jam-montreal.com)  
Zeffy Platform



We thank our Honourary Consul for Jamaica at Montreal to bringing this project forward.

We are committed to raising funds for the children at Black River High School to improve their lavatory facilities. Additionally, we will be involving the **Jamaica Association Arts Centre** in this project which will leave JAM's footprint in Black River!

We look forward to your support as you have so graciously done in 2019 for Denham Town Primary!  
Thanking you in advance.

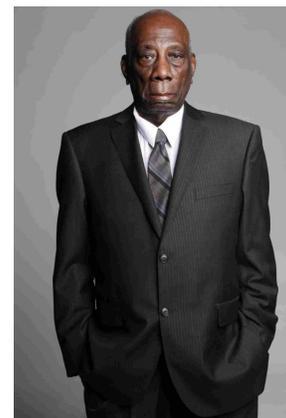
Ways to donate:

1. Cheque made in trust to the **Jamaica Association of Montreal**
2. On our Zeffy platform: <https://shorturl.at/afquw>
3. Etransfer: [info@jam-montreal.com](mailto:info@jam-montreal.com)

Works will be started in late April and completed in June 2024.

Join us – check out our [Membership Page](#)

Thank you [Kane & Fetterly](#) for your continued support for all that you do for us and our membership. Such as making our membership cards and more. Our new agreement will be very beneficial too!



**THANK YOU  
MR. DAN PHILIP!**  
**Former President of  
the Black Coalition of  
Quebec.**

Your love for equal rights and justice was evident in every action you took. Most importantly you had the resolve to make them heard and felt in society, which precipitated important shifts and changes.

**Viewing: Saturday, April 20, 2024**, from 12 to 2 pm Urgel Bourgie Funeral Home, 3955 Chemin de la Côte-de-Liesse, Saint Laurent, Qc H4N 2N6.

**Date and Place of Funeral:**

**Funeral services: Monday, April 22, 2024**, at 11:00 a.m., at Holy Family Church, located at 7355 Rue Lajeunesse, Montréal Qc H2R 2H6.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Address:** 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 \* **Phone:** (514) 737-8229 \* **Email:** [info@jam-montreal.com](mailto:info@jam-montreal.com)

**Website:** <http://jam-montreal.com> \* **Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>

**Instagram:** @jamaicaassociationmontreal \* **YouTube:** Jamaica Association of Montreal

## THE CARIBBEAN COALITION NETWORK OF MONTREAL

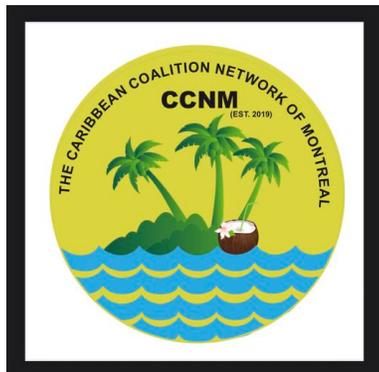
The Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal (CCNM) has been meeting since July 2020. Today, we represent 7 Caribbean organizations whose purpose is to strengthen bonds among English speaking community groups and to present a stronger, united voice in and for our community.

We have adopted the CARICOM model in that only island associations can be affiliated. Furthermore, it has a focus on bringing together the English-speaking islands initially.

The present members of the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal include:

1. Antigua & Barbuda Association of Montreal
2. Barbados House Montreal Association
3. Dominica Island Cultural Association of Montreal
4. Grenada Nationals Association of Montreal
5. Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal
6. Jamaica Association of Montreal
7. St. Vincent & Grenadines Association of Montreal

**Mission Statement:** *The Caribbean Coalition Network of Montréal, comprising Barbados House Montreal, Jamaica Association of Montreal, Guyana Cultural Association, Dominica Island Cultural Association, Antigua and Barbuda Association, Grenada Nationals Association, and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association, is committed to fostering collaboration, empowerment, and cultural preservation among Caribbean communities in Montréal. Our mission is to strengthen the bonds and amplify the collective voice of Caribbean organizations in the region, promoting unity, cultural awareness, and social progress. Through joint initiatives, advocacy, and community engagement, we strive to celebrate and preserve the rich heritage of the Caribbean, while empowering individuals, advancing social equity, and building a strong network for the betterment of our community.*



## CONTACTS on COMMITTEES

- 1 **Ad Hoc Committee:** *Members, as needed to help with events*
- 2 **Building Fund Committee:** Molly Young (Chair), Mark Henry, Claudette Scott, Melrose Christopher, Peter Barrett, Doreen Jones
- 3 **Events Committee:** Linkcon Demetrius,
- 4 **Finance Committee:** Mark Henry (Chair), Ingrid Barrett, Sharon Nelson, Keisha Wilson, Alex Townsend
- 5 **Health and Safety:** Althea Robinson (Chair), Sophia Heath, Rosemarie Lewis
- 6 **Human Resources:** Omar Ramus, ([jamhumanresources1962@gmail.com](mailto:jamhumanresources1962@gmail.com)), Althea Robinson
- 7 **Jamaica Association Business Owners & Professionals (JABOP):** Sharon Nelson, Chair
- 8 **Membership Committee:** Sophia Heath (Chair), Sharon Nelson (co-Chair), Rosemarie Lewis, Marlene Roper & Keisha Wilson
- 9 **Nominations & Elections Committee:** Molly Young, Chair
- 10 **Senior Committee:** Chris Thompson, ([jamsenior1962@gmail.com](mailto:jamsenior1962@gmail.com)), John Foster
- 11 **Social Committee:** Alexander Townsend, Uton Lynch, Clyde Williams, DJs, Lisa Morris, Reta Campbell, Keisha Wilson, Conroy Barnes, Karima Raiss, Jody-Ann Allen,
- 12 **Women's Auxiliary (WA):** Sharon Nelson, Chair & 20 women in the Association
- 13 **Youth Committee:** Omaire Morgan

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**Website:** <http://jam-montreal.com> \* **Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>  
**instagram:** @jamaicaassociationmontreal \* **Youtube:** Jamaica Association of Montreal

## MONTREAL CARIMAS FESTIVAL

The Festival serves as a platform to showcase the vibrant traditions, music, dance, food, and artistry of the Caribbean community. By organizing Carimas, CCNM aims to create opportunities for cultural exchange, foster community pride and unity, empower youth, and celebrate the rich diversity that enriches Montreal's cultural landscape. Additionally, Carimas provides a space for people from all backgrounds to come together, learn from one another, and celebrate the shared heritage and contributions of the Caribbean diaspora to Montreal's multicultural fabric.

Montreal Carimas Festival is comprised of 4 different aspects that include:

- 1) **two pageants** for pre-teens, teenage girls and young adults,
- 2) **a kiddie's/junior carnival** (Petit Carimas),
- 3) **the street parade** (Carimas) and
- 4) **the cool down and show in the park** (Carimas Sizzle). All events will happen over a one-month period beginning with the pageant in June and ending with the Sizzle.

### DATES:

- 1 - PAGEANTS & QUEEN SHOW :**SUN. JUNE 9 & SAT. JUNE 22, 2024**
- 2 - PETIT CARIMAS (TBA)
- 3 - CARIMAS (PARADE): **SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024**
- 4 - CARIMAS SIZZLE: **SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024**



MONTREAL CARIMAS FESTIVAL CONTACT INFO:  
SPOKESPERSON: KRIS BENNETT

EMAIL: [CARIMASMONTREAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CARIMASMONTREAL@GMAIL.COM)

PHONE NUMBER: **438-488-2808**

CONTRIBUTE  
[Building Fund](#)  
or  
[Food Bank](#)  
or  
Programs



[Check out our videos !](#)

## OUR 6 PROGRAMS

- Au Futur Program (Young Mothers)**  
A program for young single Black Mothers. Cost: **FREE. (Federally Funded by Health Canada)** Contact: **Au Futur Program**, Program Coordinator Cell: **438-499-8229**
- Footsteps Program**  
A program for children primarily between the ages of 0 to 5 years and 6 to 12 years. We hold Saturday sessions online and the Collective Kitchen every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday with Maison Mosaik, Mlniblioplus (Fraser Hickson Library). Contact [jamfootstepsprogram@gmail.com](mailto:jamfootstepsprogram@gmail.com), 514-737-8229
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs**  
A series of classes for adults offered during fall, winter and spring. Contact **Kim Payton**, Coordinator of Programs and Services [jamprogramservices@jam-montreal.com](mailto:jamprogramservices@jam-montreal.com) to register for classes, Cost \$15
- Brilliant Minds Tutoring & Vocational Training** for elementary, high school and adult learners. This free service, in collaboration with United for Literacy, provides help with schoolwork and career planning. Online sessions. There is also paid tutoring at \$25 for one to one private Math tutoring. Contact **Kim Payton**
- Food Bank** in collaboration with Moisson Montréal. The Food Bank is open **Thursdays (10 am to 5 pm) & Fridays (2 pm to 5 pm)**. Cost: **\$5.00** per person, standard fee.
- Tax Preparation**  
The **Tax Clinic** is held in collaboration with Canada Revenue Agency and Revenu Québec is for low to modest income earners. The Tax Clinic runs from mid-March and until mid-May.

Contact: [jamgovernmentservices@gmail.com](mailto:jamgovernmentservices@gmail.com)  
Call **514-737-8229** for more info  
or visit: [jam-montreal.com](http://jam-montreal.com)

## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM FOR THEIR DEDICATION**

 <b>Diane Boyd</b> , Executive Assistant to the President / Managing Director / Compliance	 <b>Kim Payton</b> , Coordinator, Programs and Services
<b>Au Futur Program:</b> <b>Diane Boyd</b>	 <b>Markayla Black-Johnson</b> Coordinator, Footsteps Program
<b>Food Bank:</b> Hazel Williams, Kenneth Warren, Kerry-Ann Simpson, Ray Lee <b>Volunteers:</b> Agnes Faustin, Christopher Thomas	<b>Bar staff:</b> Reta Campbell, Lisa Morris, Karima Raiss

## ONGOING EVENTS

- Collective Kitchen** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday
- Financial Saturdays with Mark Henry & Team**, 11 am to 3 pm, 514-238-2659
- Food Bank** Thurs. (10 am – 5 pm) & Fri. (2 pm to 5 pm ), \$5.00
- Overproof Fridays** every Friday night
- Versatile Saturdays** most Saturdays, when there is no special event or hall rental – check our [website](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL, MAY & JUNE

- Games Night** Fri. April 19, 9 pm
- Members' Meeting** Sat. Apr. 20 7 pm, hybrid
- Cabane a Sucre** Sat. Apr. 27
- Senior's Program** schedule to be release soon for Association and with McGill University
- Mental Health** with the Jewish General Hospital TBA
- POWER Hub** with Dr. Judy Luu TBA
- Members' Meeting** May date TBA
- Mother's Day with the Caribbean Coalition** May 12, 3 pm
- Bus Trip to Ottawa with StarCan** June 1, 2024 (overnight trip)

## SIMPLE CHIC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Members of the Social Committee have an offering for you! If you want to celebrate your birthday at the Association on a Friday as part of Overproof Friday, you certainly can. All you need to do is **bring your sweet table but no cooked food** as Ian "Warrior" Nelson is already in the restaurant. This is a win-win for you and us, where patrons get the opportunity to come in without a hall booking and for us where we nonetheless get to host your celebration ! 😊



**Office Hours: Mon – Fri.: 10 am to 6 pm \* (514) 737-8229**

- Documents** – Passports, Permanent Resident Card, Commissioner of Oaths (forms can be mailed to you)
- Space rental** for your small gatherings. Special events (birthdays, private parties, baby showers, shows, etc... - includes tables & chairs (table & chair coverings extra)).
- Community Service Program** – for persons needing to complete mandated community hours.
- Licensed Restaurant** – Cool Runnings – Open Tuesdays to Saturday as of 12 pm every day. See our [menu and find out more](#)
- Fully Licensed Bar** – Open Fridays and Saturdays as of 9 pm. On Saturdays, the Noel Alexander Banquet Hall is also available for rental for special events.

OVERPROOF FRIDAYS AND LOUNGE SATURDAYS HOURS	
Fridays	<b>9 pm to 3 am:</b> Last call 2:15 am, Bar closes at 2:45 am
Saturdays	<b>9 pm to 3 am:</b> Last call 2:15 am, Bar closes at 2:45 am

- A fun & secure place to come together** to enjoy each other's company and friendships.

Sharon Nelson, Editor, next issue July 2024

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