



COMMUNITY NEWS

Launching Carifika "I can do something"



Published 1 year ago on November 13, 2019

By **Simone Smith**





BY SIMONE J. SMITH



"If you want to move fast, go alone, if you want to move further, do it together." ~ African Proverb



A majority of the black Canadians (not all) that you find living in Canada would say that it is better here than it is for our brothers and sisters living in the United States of America. Although there are some differences in terms of demographic patterns and patterns of migration, you would be surprised to know that black Canadians face similar issues that are experienced across the border.

Black Canadians face the same difficulties obtaining employment in key markets, housing opportunities for home ownership, ability to live in neighbourhoods with good public services, and fairness when it comes to policing and justice. Some black Canadians are just happy with the fact that we do not face racism to the extent that our American neighbours do, but at the same time, there are clusters of people who have decided that enough is enough, and have taken action to change the narrative that has been written for blacks, indigenous, and people of colour.

One such cluster of individuals is the group that makes up Carifika Canada Inc., a national non-profit organization who has made it their mission to create a unified social and economic system for African and Caribbean people to strengthen, maintain and rebuild wealth through education, health, and spiritual development. Their focus is to bring visibility to African and Caribbean people living in Canada by creating a network where our community can: 1) share and access resources relating to African and Caribbean culture.

The Toronto Caribbean Newspaper was personally invited to the launch of Carifika Canada Inc. by Founder and CEO Yuri Hutchinson, a dynamic man who has not only witnessed the challenges we face in the Afro-Caribbean community; what makes him extraordinary is that he, like many trailblazers in our past, has decided to face these challenges head on in a proactive, and prolific way.

"We have to find solutions for the challenges and be ready to pick up the challenge."
Hutchinson

Upon our arrival at the Carifika Canada Inc. launch, I instantaneously recognized how well thought out the organization is. I had seen their logo on the invitation sent to me, but when I was there, I truly took in its power. One of the first aspects of the logo that I noticed

they used a gold colour as their base. The psychology of this colour implies affluence, wealth and extravagance. Gold is the colour of success, achievement and triumph. It is that is associated with abundance and prosperity, luxury and quality, prestige and sophistication, value and elegance.



Embedded in the logo are the flags representing the islands in the Caribbean, and right in the middle is the continent of Africa. They opted to use the letter “K” when spelling Carifika because history shows us that Africa was originally spelt with a K. To complete their logo, at the very bottom is a picture of the Goddess Ma’at. Ma’at represents truth, right, justice, order, stability, and continuity. During the time of Ancient Kemet (now recognized as Egypt), Ma’at represented harmony and unending cycles. There are also seven cardinal principles/virtues that are connected to Ma’at, they include: Truth, Justice, Balance, Compassion, Harmony, and Reciprocity. Their use of symbolism demonstrates their attention to detail, and really allowed me to see what we as a community have in store for us with Carifika Canada Inc.

Before the afternoon events began, they ensured that everyone was well fed and hydrated. The launch was hosted by the beautiful Andrea Desilva, and it started with opening remarks by the CEO Yuri Hutchinson and followed up with libation facilitated by Kuwassi Hutchings (Spiritual Committee Member). I appreciated the idea of calling on our ancestors before we went into the breast of the launch; it is an aspect that I do not see at many events, and it is a welcome change.

During his opening speech, Yuri shared with the community his reasons for wanting to launch Carifika, and the journey that led him to that point. He thanked his wife Karen, who had been his number one support in this venture, and he referred to her as the future matriarch of Carifika. The couple is expecting, and as the saying goes, “When a woman gives birth she births a nation.”

We were then introduced to some of the Carifika Canada Inc. board members, and had the opportunity to learn who they are, their expertise, and what they would be offering to the community. The board members of Carifika Canada Inc. who were present at the launch

- **Founder and CEO:** Yuri Hutchinson
President of Carifika Canada: Hayden Jason Jones
Vice-President: Kelly Skeete
Executive Assistant: Zenobia Francois
Chief Financial Officer: Stuart Salvara
Director of Education of Carifika Canada: Karen Alleyne
Community Member Curriculum (Education): Dela Dorkenoo
Youth Deputy Director: Jerome Lawrence
Director of Sales: Leslie Stoute
Creative Director: Maragrette Leandre

Closer to the end of the event, the community had the pleasure of taking in the guest Ryan Knight from the Afro Caribbean Business Network, as well as being part of the discussion hosted by: Andria Barrett (Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce), Dewit (Black Voter Base), Takiya Sobin (Natural Kids Movement), and Kelly Skeete (Ample Vice-President). Recognized partnerships included: Nzuri Books, Natural Kids Mover Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada continues to make headway when it comes to preserving and building community systems for present and future generations, and to learn more about Carifika Canada Inc. and how you can get involved, visit them at <https://www.carifikacanada.org/>

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Simone Smith



We, as humans are guaranteed certain things in life: stressors, taxes, bills and death are the first thought to mind. It is not uncommon that many people find a hard time dealing with these daily life stressors, and will find themselves losing control over their lives. Simone Jennifer Smith's great passion is using the gift been given to her, to help educate her clients on how to live meaningful lives. The Hear to Help Team consists of powerfully motivated individuals, who like Simone, see that there is a need in this world; a need for real change. As the founder and Director of Hear 2 Help, Simone leads a team that goes out into the community day t

servicing families with their educational, legal and mental health needs. Her dedication shows in her Toronto Caribbean newspaper articles, and in her role as a host on the TCN TV Network.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

PRESSING RESET – The initiation of total world control dictated by a central government



Published 24 hours ago on December 9, 2020

By **Simone Smith** 



BY SIMONE J. SMITH

“If no one power can enforce order, our world will suffer from a global deficit” Klaus Schwab

I get it!

Some of you reading the paper right now could care less about the political nature of this pandemic. All you want is for things to go back to normal. I am sure that you are sick and tired of going on social media, and seeing something new about this COVID-19 pandemic. It is enough to drive you mad and make you want to bury your head in the sand.

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What challenges are we currently facing in school systems? Racial Equity in Education forum



Published 1 day ago on December 9, 2020

By TOCaribNews



BY PAUL JUNOR

On November 23rd, 2020 between 6pm and 8pm, the Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators (ONABSE) hosted the Racial Equity in Education virtual forum geared to the black community.

ONABSE was formed in 2013 and its purpose is to:

- Promote and facilitate the education of all students (African Canadian students in particular
- To establish a coalition of African Canadian educators and others directly or indirectly involv

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Strike at Tropicana following years of wage freeze



Published 1 day ago on December 9, 2020
By TOCaribNews



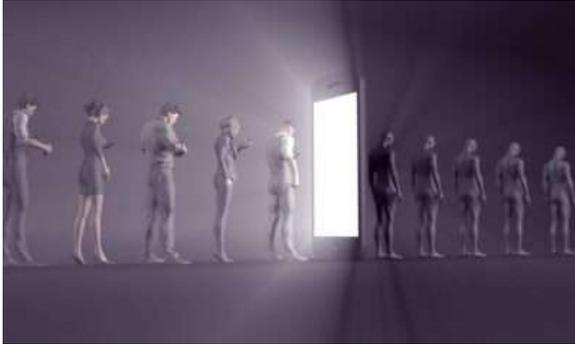
BY PAUL JUNOR

Tropicana Community Services (TCS) has served the African-Canadian community well ever since it was founded in 1980 as a non-profit community organization. In 1984, it became the first black community organization to become a United Way member agency.

Its location at 1385 Huntingwood Drive is ideal to serve the wider community. It is truly unfortunate that the fifty unionized workers who are part of Local 2 of the Services Emplo

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