



CANADA GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Newsletter

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

MAY 2024

BE PART OF OUR DISCUSSION AT THE

CANADA • GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

& NETWORKING COCKTAIL SESSION

Wednesday, June 5th, 2024

2 PM Guyana Time

Agenda:

1. Keynote Address
2. To receive & consider the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce Accounts & the Reports of the Directors & the Auditors for the year ended December 31st, 2023.
3. To ratify the appointment-appointment of the CGCC Directors
4. To appoint the incumbent Auditors, & authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration for the year 2024.
5. To receive the Chairwoman's Remarks on the Activities of the CGCC.
6. Networking Cocktail Session

Scan the Code to RSVP  
by June 3rd, 2024



Contact us via:  
Email: [info@cgcc.gy](mailto:info@cgcc.gy)  
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CANADA • GUYANA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ESTEEMED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Robert M. Persaud, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana & Guyana's High Representative for the United Nations Security Council



Venue: GBTI Recreational Centre  
30 Kaeleteur Road, Bel Air Park  
Georgetown Guyana



Or Join us Virtually via Zoom:  
Meeting ID: 841 6393 7245  
Passcode: 073074

## IN THIS EDITION

This edition highlights President Ali's Independence Day address, CGCC's recent & upcoming events, Canada's biodiversity funding, EQUAL SRHR Project extension, significant oil and gas developments, Guyana's new Criminal Procedure Bill, skills training for Venezuelan migrants, agritourism initiatives, non-oil economic growth, and so much more!





## CELEBRATING GUYANA'S PROGRESS ON ITS 58TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

Celebrated on May 26th, this day marks Guyana's liberation from colonial rule in 1966, symbolizing freedom, democracy, and national pride. Independence Day honors the sacrifices of our ancestors and underscores our commitment to democracy, equality, and social justice. Let us embrace our diverse heritage, uniting under the motto: "One People, One Nation, One Destiny." Happy Independence, Guyana!

On the momentous occasion of Guyana's 58th Independence Anniversary, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered an inspiring address, highlighting the nation's progress and

reaffirming the government's commitment to building a prosperous and united Guyana.

The President began his speech with a somber remembrance of the brave patriots and educators who recently passed away, urging all to reflect and honor their contributions with a moment of silence. He then expressed deep appreciation for the tireless efforts of the men and women in uniform and public service, underscoring their vital role in the nation's development.

President Ali painted a vivid picture of a modern and ambitious Guyana, vastly different from its early days of independence. He emphasized the government's vision of "One Guyana," focused on creating opportunities, fostering unity, and ensuring prosperity for every family. This vision includes significant investments in healthcare, education, infrastructure, and housing, aimed at improving the quality of life for all citizens.

Highlighting healthcare achievements, he noted the increase in life expectancy, reduced child and maternal mortality rates, and the expansion of specialized medical services. These strides are attributed to the government's dedication to healthcare modernization and training programs, which have significantly enhanced the sector's capacity.

In education, the President shared the transformative plans to establish the first digital school, ensuring every child has access to quality education. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to increase investments in education and teacher training, ensuring that all students receive a top-tier education.

The President also addressed the booming housing sector, where the government has allocated substantial resources to make homeownership more accessible. This includes reducing interest rates and providing subsidies on building materials, which collectively empower citizens and strengthen communities.

Economic growth and job creation were focal points of President Ali's speech. He detailed ongoing and future investments in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and infrastructure, aimed at positioning Guyana as a regional leader in food production and logistics. He also highlighted Region 10's pivotal role in these developments, promising transformative investments that will make the region a hub of economic activity.

Concluding his speech, President Ali celebrated the rich athletic and cultural heritage of Region 10, recognizing its contributions to national pride and identity. He assured that the government's investments in sports and recreational facilities would continue to honor and build upon this legacy.

As Guyana marks its 58th Independence Anniversary, President Ali's address serves as a powerful reminder of the nation's journey and its bright future. His vision of a unified, prosperous, and resilient Guyana reflects the aspirations of its people and the government's unwavering commitment to achieving them.



## PANEL DISCUSSION ON BUSINESS FINANCING IN GUYANA: A RECAP

**2024**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**'BUSINESS FINANCING IN GUYANA'**  
**& EXCLUSIVE NETWORKING SESSION**

Join us for an exclusive & insightful discussion featuring esteemed CGCC Member Panelists including a Q & A Session

**16 May 2024**  
**5 pm**

**ESTEEMED PANELISTS REPRESENTING:**

- Scotiabank**  
CGCC Founding Member
- GBTI**  
CGCC Founding Member
- GuyAmericas**  
GBTI Subsidiary
- Republic Bank**  
Latest CGCC Member
- ActionINVEST**  
CGCC Founding Member, Managing Party of IDB Fund

**Key Discussions & Insights**

- Starting a Business in Guyana
- Foreign Currency
- Financing Facilities
- Ongoing/Upcoming Projects

**Hosted at High Commissioner Mark Berman's Residence: 39 Bel Air Gardens, Georgetown Guyana**  
**NO WEAPONS ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES**

**DON'T MISS OUT RSVP TODAY!**

More information  
☎ +592 693 5137  
✉ info@cgcc.gy

**ESTEEMED MODERATOR:**  
H.E. MARK BERMAN, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA TO GUYANA & SURINAME

On May 16th, the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce (CGCC) hosted a Panel Discussion on 'Business Financing in Guyana' followed by a Networking Session, at the Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Mark Berman's residence. The event featured insightful discussions and networking opportunities, highlighting the importance of business financing for Guyana's growth and prosperity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency Mark Berman, High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana and Suriname, for his invaluable, continuous support and gracious hospitality. Special thanks to Senior Trade Commissioner and Counsellor Jake Thomas and the Trade team for their hard work in organizing this event. We also thank our esteemed panel members for their valuable insights:

- Dr. Vishnu Doerga, CGCC Board Secretary, Chairman of ActionINVEST Caribbean Inc. – Managing Party of the IDB Bankability Fund For Women, and Chairman of the Suriname-Guyana Chamber.

- Stephen Grell, Managing Director of Republic Bank Guyana Ltd. and Chairman of the Guyana Association of Bankers.
- Richard Isava, Managing Director of the Guyana Americas Merchant Bank (a GBTI Subsidiary).
- Rawattie Mohandeo, Chief Commercial Officer of GBTI.
- Seugobin Ravi Sugrim, Senior Manager, Team Lead of the Corporate and Commercial Banking Center, Scotiabank.

The discussion covered key topics in business financing, addressing the challenges and opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in securing affordable financing. Panelists highlighted the need for a robust financial infrastructure to support entrepreneurship and foster economic growth. They also emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and collaboration between financial institutions and businesses. Key points included the differentiation between merchant banks and commercial banks, the role of financial institutions in various market segments, and the importance of the business planning and documentation process, in order to secure business financing. The panel also discussed the significance of maintaining up-to-date financial information, the necessity of collateral, and the importance of financial literacy and education for entrepreneurs. Additionally, the discussion touched on innovative financing solutions, such as the Bankability Fund for Women, which aims to provide equity financing to women-owned businesses. The panelists stressed the importance of digital transformation in the banking sector and the acknowledged need for improved customer service and follow-up.

We thank all attendees for their participation, both in person and virtually, and for contributing to the success of this event. We hope you found the evening insightful and inspiring as we continue to foster strong business relationships and drive economic growth in Guyana.

- **View the event album here:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/i9RwZNSkMkasgXga9>
- **Missed the event? Watch the Zoom recording here:** <https://drive.google.com/.../1uLBakRfPII.../view...>



# PANEL DISCUSSION ON BUSINESS FINANCING IN GUYANA: A RECAP



## DR. VISHNU DOERGA

CGCC BOARD SECRETARY  
CHAIRMAN OF ACTION INVEST  
CARIBBEAN INC.  
CHAIRMAN OF SURINAME-GUYANA  
CHAMBER

As a past and current Board Member of many Business Support Organizations including the CGCC and the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, Vishnu has over 20 years of private sector development service. Coming from a Mechanical Engineering background, he is now a certified coach, mentor, trainer and speaker. Also, a MBA lecturer, he holds a Doctorate in Management specializing in Entrepreneurship.

The Bankability Fund is a financing mechanism developed by ActionINVEST Caribbean Inc. (ACI) in collaboration with the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women (CBFW) and the Inter-American Development Bank - IDB Lab.



## STEPHEN GRELL

MANAGING DIRECTOR, REPUBLIC  
BANK (GUYANA) LIMITED  
CHAIRMAN – GUYANA ASSOCIAT  
BANKERS INC. (GABI)

Stephen Grell is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in the Caribbean, North and South America and the UK. Formerly Vice President Citibank, he specialized in banking, markets, and advisory services, part in the public sector and financial institutions. Stephen is dedicated to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters and believes in the pivotal role financial institutions play in addressing these issues. He holds a BA in Economics and an MSc in Finance from Florida International University.



## RAWATTIE MOHANDEO

CHIEF COMMERCIALS OFFICER

Rawattie Mohandeo, who serves as the Chief Commercial Officer at GBTI, boasts over two decades of experience in the banking sector. With expertise in Branch Management, she currently oversees GBTI's sales strategy, actively driving revenue growth and facilitating customer acquisition. Demonstrating a deep commitment to engaging with clients, Rawattie offers invaluable financial guidance and assistance, helping them achieve their aspirations through GBTI's financing options. Moreover, she remains steadfastly devoted to her own personal and professional development, actively contributing to GBTI's transformation, and fostering client-centric solutions.



## RICHARD ISAVA

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE  
GUYAM BANK

Richard graduated with a BSc. in Economics/Finance from Barry University (Miami, Florida) in 1990 and earned his MBA from the University of the West Indies in 2008. In 2013 Richard was appointed the Managing Director of the Guyana Americas Merchant Bank Inc. (GuyAm Bank). In January 2018, he was appointed Executive Director of The Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Limited having full operational responsibility for GBTI. He held this position until September 2020. He is the former Chairman of the Guyana Association of Bankers (GABI) and currently sits as a Director on GABI's Board. He is also a Director on the Board of GBTI Ltd.



## SEUGOBIN (RAVI) SUGRIM

SENIOR MANAGER TEAM LEAD,  
CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL  
BANKING CENTRE, SCOTIABANK  
GUYANA

Seugobin Sugrim, known as Ravi, joined Scotiabank in 2016 as a Relationship Manager in Corporate & Commercial Banking. With a strong background in banking and compliance, he quickly advanced to Senior Manager Team Lead in May 2018. In this role, Ravi oversees the growth and profitability of Scotiabank's corporate and commercial portfolio in Guyana, consistently delivering results for clients. He holds a Diploma in Banking and Finance from the University of Guyana (2007) and an MBA in Finance from Edinburgh Napier University.







## GUYANA GOVERNMENT ENGAGES IN OIL BLOCK NEGOTIATIONS

The Government of Guyana has approved a bid from its first oil blocks auction, awarding Block S4 to TotalEnergies EP Guyana B.V. in consortium with Qatar Energy International E&P LLC and Petronas E&P Overseas SDN BHD. Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo announced that while other bids are still under discussion in alignment with the Production Sharing Agreement, the fiscal terms of the new oil contract are non-negotiable. The Guyana Government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, continues negotiation processes with companies approved for oil blocks. Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat emphasized the need for proper procedures before awards are made, ensuring a transparent and beneficial process for both investors and the nation's interests.

## EXXONMOBIL ACHIEVES RECORD OIL PRODUCTION, EXPANDS OPERATIONS



ExxonMobil, along with partners, has reached peak production of 252,000 barrels per day from the Liza Unity FPSO, positioning Guyana as a significant oil producer in Latin America. This milestone underscores the success of Exxon's operations in the Stabroek Block. New wells, including Redmouth and Trumpetfish, are set to further explore oil reserves, while the Uaru project progresses with the construction of a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel. With the Whiptail project sanctioned, Exxon anticipates total output capacity to reach 1.3 million barrels per day by 2027.



## GUYANA'S OIL REVENUE SOARS

Guyana's earnings from oil sales in Q1 2024 amounted to \$126 billion, reinforcing its position as a burgeoning oil economy. Meanwhile, the government is actively pursuing natural gas exploration, engaging ExxonMobil and other firms for potential projects. Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo highlighted the importance of efficiently monitoring oil and gas activities, ensuring environmental compliance and maximizing economic benefits. With increasing production and revenue, Guyana

navigates its oil and gas sector with strategic foresight and environmental stewardship.

## GUYANA'S NON-OIL ECONOMY POISED FOR SUCCESS

President Dr. Irfaan Ali shared his vision for a robust non-oil economy for Guyana, emphasizing agriculture as the cornerstone of future prosperity. Speaking at the Private Sector Commission's 32nd Annual General Meeting, he urged dynamic private sector participation and alignment with national goals. With a focus on manufacturing, agro-processing, and tourism, Guyana aims for a vibrant economic landscape beyond oil. President Ali highlights agriculture's pivotal role, citing substantial investments and a 14.7% FDI increase. President Ali embraces Guyana's transformative journey driven by collaboration, innovation, and a resilient private sector.







## **BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY: GUYANA'S GROWTH TRAJECTORY**

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that Guyana is set to save over US\$150 million on crop imports by the end of 2025, marking a significant milestone in the country's agricultural development. Speaking at the Private Sector Commission's 32nd Annual General Meeting, Dr. Ali emphasized the transformative impact of agricultural investments, foreseeing a future of self-sufficiency and economic resilience. Acknowledging the sector's remarkable growth, Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha highlighted the rice industry's projected yield exceeding 710,000 tonnes by year-end, attributing this success to increased cultivation and adoption of high-yield varieties. The government's multifaceted approach extends to promoting fruit and vegetable production, with investments in livestock, crop diversification, and infrastructure.

Moreover, initiatives like expanding citrus production in Daag Point, integrating shade houses into the hot meal program, and training individuals in honey production underscore Guyana's commitment to agricultural prosperity. With concerted efforts and strategic investments, Guyana charts a course towards food security, economic vitality, and sustainable development.

## **PRESIDENT ALI FORESEES GUYANA AS REGIONAL LEADER IN WORKFORCE SKILLS**

President Dr. Irfaan Ali envisions Guyana leading the Caribbean with a highly skilled and qualified workforce, as he pledges to expand job opportunities and improve livelihoods. In his Labour Day address, President Ali highlighted the government's investment in revitalizing key sectors like bauxite, sugar, forestry, and mining, resulting in the creation of numerous jobs. Emphasizing the importance of education, President Ali announced the hiring of 6,000 new teachers and the implementation of benefits to enhance their well-being. Despite challenges, including the pandemic, the government remains committed to fulfilling promises and ensuring prosperity for all citizens.



## **LETHEM IS POISED FOR REMARKABLE GROWTH**

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo envisions Lethem as a significant commercial centre with proposed investments set to transform the region. Plans include the construction of a full-fledged international runway to accommodate larger aircraft, alongside a food processing facility to facilitate direct shipment of goods to CARICOM. With new hotels already in progress, these developments are poised to propel Lethem into a major growth pole, fostering economic prosperity for the entire region.

## **CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY: LAUNCH OF 'WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE IN THE RUPUNUNI' BOOK**

On the International Day for Biological Diversity, (May 22nd, 2024), the captivating book, 'Wildlife and People in the Rupununi – A Comprehensive Assessment based on Science and Local Knowledge,' is now available online. Funded by the European Union, this publication highlights the vital work of the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme in Guyana's Region 9. With contributions from local communities and organizations, it showcases initiatives for wildlife conservation and sustainable use. This insightful document serves as a beacon for biodiversity preservation and community empowerment in Guyana's 'Land of Giants.'

To access this book online, visit: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/9c8b6ece-a78c-44e5-8de0-966b5a115d61>







## CANADA AND UNFPA EXTEND EQUAL SRHR PROJECT

Canada and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have extended the "Enhancing Quality, Access and Logistics of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" (EQUAL SRHR) project in Guyana. This two-year extension, signed by His Excellency Mark Berman, High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana and Suriname, and UNFPA's Deputy Director for the Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, Jenny Karlsen, demonstrates a commitment to supporting women and girls. The project addresses sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and aims to reduce adolescent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. With an additional CAD\$2.25 million investment, the project will now run until December 2026, expanding its coverage to previously unserved regions. This initiative aligns with Canada's commitment to gender equality and humanitarian assistance.

## CANADA FUNDS BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Canada pledges \$15 million over three years to Birds Canada for the Conserva Aves initiative, aiding biodiversity and ecosystem health in eight Latin American and Caribbean countries. This commitment aligns with Canada's International Biodiversity Program, addressing threats to biodiversity and migratory bird populations. Minister Hussen emphasizes Canada's dedication to global environmental conservation, stating, "Our partnership will protect biodiversity in Latin America and safeguard approximately 50 migratory bird species." Minister Guilbeault highlights the importance of international collaboration in ensuring a nature-positive future for bird populations worldwide.



## ABC EU DIPLOMATS AND GUYANA CELEBRATE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

In solidarity with World Press Freedom Day, the ABCEU Diplomats in Guyana—representing the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the European Union—highlighted the crucial role of journalism in addressing the global environmental crisis. Recognizing the challenges posed by climate change, they emphasized the need for accurate and reliable information to inform public discourse and decision-making. Amidst Guyana's vulnerability to environmental threats like flooding and rising sea levels, the diplomats stressed the importance of journalists in providing essential information to the public. They advocated for journalists to have increased access to data, science, and experts, enabling them to report accurately on environmental issues and government responses. Encouraging transparency and accountability from all stakeholders, including governments and the media, the diplomats emphasized the vital role of journalism in upholding democratic processes and human rights. They called for respect for journalists' work and advocated for continued training and dialogue to strengthen media freedom and integrity. On World Press Freedom Day, we reaffirmed our commitment to a free, fair, and informed press, essential for building resilient and prosperous societies.

*Full statement issued by the ABCEU Diplomats in Guyana on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day - Source: Newsroom Gy. <https://newsroom.gy/2024/05/03/maintain-integrity-in-work-continue-to-be-curious-and-enquire-abceu-diplomats-to-local-press-corps/>*





## GUYANA SET TO HOST INAUGURAL REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM CONFERENCE

Guyana will make history by hosting the first-ever 'Legal Conference on Criminal Justice Reform- Advancing the Needham's Point Declaration' from July 10-11, 2024. Organized by the Attorney General's Chambers & Ministry of Legal Affairs, this landmark event aims to modernize the legal system, aligning it with evolving global standards.

With distinguished experts leading discussions on critical topics like plea bargaining and restorative justice, the conference promises to redefine criminal law practice.

Stakeholders from across the Caribbean are invited to participate, ensuring a collaborative effort to advance the Needham's Point Declaration and shape the future of criminal justice.

## CANADA TO HOST 54TH CDB ANNUAL MEETING

Canada will welcome global delegates from June 17-20 for the 54th Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank in Ottawa. As a key CDB member, Canada aims to strengthen Caribbean ties, fostering resilient partnerships for prosperity. With a theme of "Partnerships for Resilient Prosperity," the event promises fruitful discussions on regional development and collaboration.



## CANADA STRENGTHENS GLOBAL TIES AT OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING

Maninder Sidhu, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade, and Economic Development, emphasized Canada's commitment to inclusive economic growth at the OECD Ministerial Meeting in Paris. Sidhu highlighted Canada's support for the OECD's partnership with Africa and engagement in the Indo-Pacific, reflecting Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy. Discussions also focused on reinforcing the rules-based trading system and enhancing economic resilience. Sidhu reaffirmed Canada's dedication to collaboration for sustainable and inclusive global prosperity. This engagement underscores Canada's pivotal role in shaping international economic policies and fostering cooperation among nations.

## CANADA CELEBRATES RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICES



Minister Mary Ng expressed gratitude to Sheri Meyerhoffer, the inaugural Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE), for her five years of dedicated service. Meyerhoffer's leadership laid a strong foundation for

Canadian companies' responsible conduct abroad, promoting human rights and ethical business practices. As Meyerhoffer completes her term, Masud Husain steps in as interim CORE, bringing decades of foreign service experience and a commitment to advancing responsible trade and investment globally.



## **MINISTER NG ENGAGES IN APEC TALKS, BOLSTERING CANADIAN TRADE PRIORITIES**

Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade, and Economic Development, showcased Canada's trade commitments at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Peru. Highlighting Canada's dedication to inclusive growth and resilient supply chains, she emphasized the importance of the rules-based trading system, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. Minister Ng's bilateral discussions with key counterparts further solidified Canada's commitment to advancing trade interests globally. Amidst ongoing global challenges, Canada's participation underscores its role as a champion of free, fair, and open trade, benefiting Canadian workers and businesses nationwide.

## **NEW CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND BORDER STUDIES LAUNCHED IN GUYANA**

Georgetown welcomed the inauguration of the Centre for International and Border Studies (CIBS) on May 13, 2024, at Herdmanston Lodge. Comprising experts from diverse backgrounds, CIBS pledges to tackle global challenges through evidence-based research - Dr. Mark Kirton, former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Guyana, leads as Director.



## **FLIGHT PS752 SCHOLARSHIP HONORS VICTIMS' LEGACIES**

The Flight PS752 Commemorative Scholarship's second edition is now open for applications. Established to honor the lives lost in the incident, the program will grant 176 scholarships over five years. Eligible students in Canada pursuing fields related to victims' backgrounds or air disaster prevention can apply. Last year, 32 recipients, including Canadian and international students, were awarded scholarships. Minister Mélanie Joly expressed hope that these scholarships would honor victims' legacies and raise awareness of air disasters. Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year are now being accepted.

## **GUYANA'S LEGAL SYSTEM ADVANCING WITH NEW CRIMINAL PROCEDURE BILL**

Guyana's legal landscape is evolving with the passage of the Criminal Procedure (Plea Discussion, Plea Agreement, and Assistance) Bill of 2024. This modern legislation, championed by Attorney General Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, aims to streamline criminal proceedings, drawing from international best practices. The bill introduces plea bargaining mechanisms, aligning Guyana's legal system with global standards. Not only does this enhance efficiency and reduce backlog, but it also upholds principles of justice and fairness. By prioritizing transparency and protecting individual rights, Guyana reaffirms its commitment to modernizing legal frameworks and ensuring a just society for all.







## SKILLS TRAINING INITIATIVE FOR VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS IN GUYANA

Labour Minister Joseph Hamilton announced plans to provide skills training and certification for Venezuelan migrants in Guyana. Engaging with international partners like the IOM, UNHCR, and ILO, the government aims to compile data on migrants to tailor training through the BIT. With a focus on addressing local labour shortages, this initiative seeks to empower migrants to contribute meaningfully to Guyana's economy. A preliminary report is expected by the end of the third quarter.

## PRESIDENT ALI CHAMPIONS AGRITOURISM FOR DEMERARA RIVER COMMUNITIES

President Dr. Irfaan Ali is spearheading agritourism initiatives to boost income-generating activities in Demerara River communities. During his visit to the region, he engaged residents, highlighting the potential for eco-agritourism—which offers a unique opportunity to showcase rural life, culture, and gastronomy, fostering sustainable tourism and supporting local agriculture. President Ali envisions leveraging Guyana's scenic landscapes and agricultural richness to create niche tourism experiences along the Demerara River. The government pledged support for agritourism ventures and expanded food production, emphasizing community collaboration for economic viability.



## PRESIDENT ALI EMPOWERED GOAL GRADUATES

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressed over 1,700 graduates from the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) with a message of humility and perseverance. He emphasized that academic achievements should be coupled with wisdom and a commitment to serve society. Acknowledging the rising number, President Ali urged graduates to embrace continuous learning. He cautioned against the misconception that higher education guarantees success, highlighting the importance of hard work. Encouraging lifelong learning, His Excellency assured government support for higher education. The ceremony,

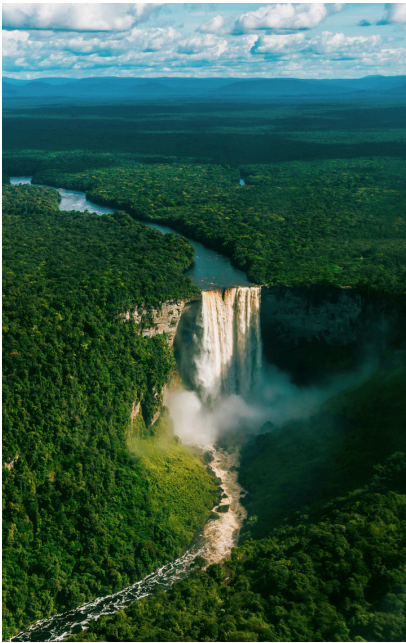
tended by government officials and diplomats, celebrated the graduates' achievements and emphasized their role in Guyana's development.

*Learn more about the GOAL program, which offers free tertiary education, and equips Guyanese with diverse job opportunities by visiting: <https://goal.edu.gy>*

## GUYANA SEES SURGE IN FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Guyana's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has skyrocketed to approximately US\$7 billion, a significant leap from the previous year's US\$4 billion. Minister Oneidge Walrond attributed this growth to favourable government policies and a stable economic climate, enticing investors. President Irfaan Ali urged further private-sector investment and called on financial institutions to facilitate entrepreneurship. With a focus on low-risk investments and supportive lending, Guyana aims to foster an environment conducive to sustained economic development and prosperity for all.





## **GUYANA ACHIEVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**

The Ministry of Natural Resources proudly announced the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification's (PEFC) recognition of the Guyana National Forest Certification System (GNFCS). This endorsement confirms that Guyanese timber meets global sustainable forest management standards. All GNFCS-certified timber products will now bear PEFC labels, assuring local and international buyers of their legal and sustainable sourcing. The GNFCS, developed with extensive stakeholder collaboration, aligns with global environmental, social, and economic criteria. This milestone underscores Guyana's commitment to sustainable forestry practices, supported by a robust national wood tracking system. The Ministry extended its appreciation to all forestry stakeholders, the local PEFC working group, and the Guyana Forestry Commission for their dedicated efforts in achieving this recognition.

## **CANADA ADVOCATES FOR 2SLGBTQI+ RIGHTS GLOBALLY**

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Mary Ng, and Ahmed Hussen issued a statement on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, reaffirming Canada's commitment to 2SLGBTQI+ rights. Canada's focus includes a \$30 million international assistance program over five years and ongoing support for initiatives such as USAID's Multi-Donor LGBTI Global Human Rights Initiative. Anita Vandenbeld announced \$1.7 million in funding for 2SLGBTQI+ projects worldwide, including support for Rainbow Railroad's International Network on 2SLGBTQI+ Forced Displacement and USAID's efforts to protect vulnerable communities.



## **CANADA LAUNCHES CONSULTATIONS ON ALUMINIUM IMPORT TRANSPARENCY**

Minister Mary Ng announced public consultations starting May 21, 2024, on the potential collection of the country of smelt and cast (CSC) data for aluminium imports. Aligning with the Steel Import Monitoring Program, this move aims to enhance transparency in the aluminium supply chain. Stakeholders, including industry players and associations, are invited to participate until June 28, 2024. Minister Ng emphasized the importance of industry feedback to ensure data transparency while meeting industry needs. Canada's aluminium sector, contributing significantly to the economy, employs around 11,000 workers and adds \$3.4 billion to the GDP.

## **NEW MINING JOBS FOR REGION SEVEN GUYANA**

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali revealed plans for two new, large-scale mining ventures to commence in Region Seven, providing employment for 1,500 residents. Each site anticipates hiring 700 workers after comprehensive training. Additionally, discussions are underway for a call centre and agricultural development initiatives, including large-scale honey and citrus production.







## CGCC MEMBER BEHARRY RESTAURANT HOLDINGS INC.: KFC ELITE LEAGUE

Ahead of the highly anticipated Round Two of the KFC Elite League Season Six, officials from participating clubs engaged in comprehensive review sessions conducted by the Guyana Football Federation (GFF). The sessions, which included representatives from ten elite clubs and key GFF officials, addressed concerns and enhanced the league's organization. GFF President Wayne Forde expressed satisfaction with the collaborative effort, emphasizing the shared goal of advancing football in Guyana. With Round Two kicked off on May 25, football enthusiasts celebrated another round of high-intensity matches at the Guyana Football Federation National Training Centre in Providence. Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/kfceliteleague/>

## CGCC MEMBER: REPUBLIC BANK, CELEBRATES YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION

Republic Bank (Guyana) Limited commemorated the achievements of sixteen graduates from its Youth Link Apprenticeship Programme. Held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, the ceremony marked a significant milestone for these talented individuals. Equipped with a Caribbean Vocational Qualification Banking Operations Level 1 Certificate, they are poised for success in the CARICOM Region. The programme, blending classroom instruction, on-the-job training, and personal development, underscores Republic Bank's commitment to nurturing future leaders.

Learn more by visiting:

<https://www.republicguyana.com/news/youth-link-programme>



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 **Or Join us Virtually via Zoom:**  
Meeting ID: 841 6393 7245  
Passcode: 073074

**ATTENTION ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF THE CANADA GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**BE SURE TO RSVP FOR THE CGCC AGM 2024**





2024

# THE EVOLVE SEMINAR

Evolving: Amplifying Growth and Development Through the Narratives that Shape Us



Hosted by  
Michelle S. Moseley,  
MSM Coaching Practice, CEO

REGISTRATION:  
[www.MichelleSMoseley.ca/events](http://www.MichelleSMoseley.ca/events)



**DR. WILLIAM ANDREW BOYLE**

**Keynote Speaker**  
Entrepreneur, Director,  
Author & Philanthropist

**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 24, 2024**

HERDMANSTON LODGE  
65 PETER ROSE ST., GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

### Speakers



**RICHARD ISAVA**  
Managing Director,  
GuyAm Bank



**JENELLE PRIMO**  
Educator, Community  
Advocate, Mentor



**QUAISON MOSELEY**  
Entrepreneur, Mindset  
Coach & Business Owner



**ARMINA SEETRAM**  
Real Estate Area Manager  
& Mentor



**RITA SOOKRIT**  
Learning and Development  
Leader



**ROBERTA NICOLLS**  
Business Development  
Manager & Artist

### Event Team



**KEERAN GRAY**  
Event Moderator



**GRACE CASTILLO**  
Marketing Administrator



**CANDICIA PLASS**  
Business Adviser



**JAMILA HUNTLEY**  
Event Photographer



**KRISHANA JOHNSON**  
Communications Manager



Presented by MSM Coaching Practice

## Evolve Seminar

Evolving: Amplifying Growth and Development Through the Narratives that Shape Us

**Saturday, August 24, 2024**

9:30 am - 4 pm

Herdmanston Lodge  
65 Peter Rose St.,  
Georgetown, Guyana

**Early Bird Price** (until July 25, 2024): \$8000 GYD  
**Regular Price** (after July 25, 2024): \$10,000 GYD

Maximum 50 guests. Ticket sales close August 10, 2024.  
Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be served.

**To register:** [www.MichelleSMoseley.ca/events](http://www.MichelleSMoseley.ca/events)



CGCC ANNUAL

# Gala

2024



THE CANADA GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WOULD BE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE AT OUR

## ANNUAL GALA 2024

Saturday, Oct. 19th, 2024 | 6 PM | Business Suit Attire  
At the Woodbine Convention Center  
30 Vice Regent Blvd., Etobicoke, Toronto, ON., M9W 7A4

Join us for an extraordinary night of celebration &  
networking at our most anticipated event of the year!  
An evening to remember!

CGCC MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS: \$125 CAD PER TICKET

EARLY BIRD TICKETS: \$125 CAD PER PERSON (RSVP BY AUGUST 31ST)  
EARLY BIRD TABLES: \$1,250 CAD PER TABLE OF 10 PERSONS (RSVP BY AUGUST 31ST)

REGULAR TICKETS: \$150 CAD PER PERSON (AFTER AUGUST 31ST)

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:  
CALL: (416) 732-0604/ (905) 409-2265 | WHATSAPP: (592) 693-5137  
EMAIL: INFO@CGCC.GY



# FOUNDING MEMBERS



**CANADA • GUYANA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

152 WATERLOO STREET, NORTH CUMMINGSBURG,  
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

TEL: (592) 693 5137  
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