



CANADA-GUYANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CGCC)



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The Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce

Quarterly Newsletter, October 2021

Greetings from the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce!! We are pleased to share our first quarterly newsletter with you. In each edition, we will feature information about the CGCC and its members, details of planned and past activities, and introduce two members, one Canadian and one Guyanese in each publication to our readership.

Vision-Mission-Purpose-Values

Our Vision

Our Vision is to achieve the shared goal of enhancing the economic prosperity for Canada and Guyana by enabling people and businesses to prosper and evolve.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to facilitate sustainable relationships and thriving communities through strategic initiatives that will improve overall trade and investment opportunities in Canada and Guyana.

Our Purpose and Values

We help build the businesses that support our families and our communities. Our purpose is to provide value to our members and to strengthen trade and investment opportunities between Canada and Guyana. The CGCC is committed to providing insight and intelligence; access; and services to its members by being transparent, fiscally responsible, inclusive, collaborative and respectful.

Our Mandate

Our objective is to strengthen, promote and foster bilateral trade, investment and economic relations between Guyana and Canada and other countries, as well as to represent, support and promote our Members' business interests.

We facilitate businesses looking for opportunities to increase trade and investment, particularly in sectors that offer attractive returns and complement their own business strategies such as, the Energy Sector (including Alternative Energy), Infrastructure Development, ICT, Mining, Finance, Education and Housing as well as a myriad of services to support the evolving Guyanese economy.

The Chamber also identifies concrete linkages for close cooperation and technical assistance to support public administration initiatives with innovative private sector projects.



The Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce - Its Beginning

Interest in the development of the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce arose as a consequence of the increasing Canadian presence in Guyana, their developing interests within the oil and gas industry, and the oil reserves discovery off the coast of Guyana.

At the Canada Day Celebration (2019) held at the Marriott Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana, it was announced a Canadian Chamber of Commerce would be formed in Guyana. The High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana enlisted the services of key business leaders from Canada and Guyana with a vision to lead this Canadian -Guyanese collaboration. These “Founder Members” demonstrated their confidence and support of Canada-Guyana relations by making legacy donations for the formation of the CGCC. During weekly pre-COVID breakfast meetings and post-COVID virtual meetings, they also crafted the objectives and governance structure of the CGCC.

With the current Board’s guidance, support, and oversight the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce was officially launched on December 4, 2021, at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre in Georgetown, Guyana.

The Grand Launch was live-streamed to several thousand viewers on the CGCC Website, High Commission of Canada to Guyana’s website, Facebook, Youtube, and broadcast nationally on the National Communications Network (NCN) in Guyana.

Most notable attendees included His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, and H.E. Lilian Chatterjee, the Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana

His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana delivered the keynote address with featured speakers H.E. Lilian Chatterjee, the Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana, and CGCC Chairperson, Mr. Anand Beharry.

Messages commemorating the Launch were received from Mr. John F.G. Hanaford, Deputy Minister of International Trade at Global Affairs Canada, the Honorable Andrew Parsons, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Honourable Perrin Beatty, President & CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Irfaan Ali in his address hailed the private sector as the true engine of growth and said that the Guyana Government was strongly committed to creating an enabling environment for the development of businesses and would continue to strongly support investment. “The Government of Guyana will not resist, but assist foreign investors,” Dr. Ali clarified.

“There is no point in saying we are part of a global environment, of understanding we’re competing in a global environment, of understanding that we



are part of a global network, but at the same time do not recognize that we are also part of global competition.”

Minister Parsons in his remarks highlighted that three of the CGCC Founder Members were involved in joint ventures with Guyanese Businesses and said that he viewed the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s membership in the CGCC as an important step in solidifying the relationship between the two jurisdictions.

Deputy Minister Hannaford emphasised the importance of organisations

such as the CGCC in enhancing people-to-people links and promised to continue to support commercial relationships with Guyana and provide capacity building.

The Hon. Perrin Beatty noted that the CGCC was well placed to help the two countries build on their shared history and increase two-way trade.

The speakers all noted that the creation of the CGCC was an important step in increasing trade and investment between the two countries. President Ali assured the Members that the Guyana

Government was aligned with the mission of the CGCC and that the Chamber’s leadership would have their support including at a Ministerial Level.



Current Board of Directors



Mr. Anand Beharry
CHAIRPERSON



Mr. Winston Kassim C.M., MBA, IC.D.D
CO-CHAIR



Ms. Patricia Bacchus
SECRETARY



Mr. Suraj Mattai
TREASURER



Mr. Fareed Amin
DIRECTOR



Dr. Vishnu Doerga
DIRECTOR



Ms. Caron Hawco
DIRECTOR



Mr. Shabir Hussein
DIRECTOR



Mr. Andrew Mendes
DIRECTOR



Mr. Scott Young
DIRECTOR



H.E. Mark Kevin Berman
HONORARY MEMBER



Mr. Jake Thomas
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Mr. Anand Beharry, Chairperson
Mr. Winston Kassim, Co-Chair
Ms. Patricia Bacchus, Secretary
Mr. Suraj Mattai, Treasurer
Mr. Fareed Amin, Director
Dr. Vishnu Doerga, Director
Mr. Shabir Hussein, Director
Ms. Caron Hawco, Director
Mr. Andrew Mendes, Director

H.E. Mark Berman, Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana, Honorary Member

Mr. Jake Thomas, Senior Trade Commissioner of the Canadian High Commission to Guyana, Ex Officio Member
Treina Fiona Butts, Chief Executive Officer



Treina Fiona Butts
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A Heartfelt Thank You !!

The CGCC wishes to thank the following persons for their contributions to the Inaugural Board.
H.E. Lilian Chatterjee, former Canadian High Commissioner to Guyana

Ms Natalia Seepersaud, the inaugural CEO who agreed to lead with the CGCC's launch
Dr. Suresh Narine
Mr. Anthony Whyte
Ms. Liz Wyatt
The Late Mr Richard Whyte who assisted with the launch of CGCC

Membership

The CGCC launched with 28 Founder Members, in addition to the High Commission of Canada to Guyana.

FOUNDER MEMBERS



Banks DIH Ltd.

Food and Beverage

<https://www.banksdih.com/>



Caribbean Surgery Inc.

Medical Services

<https://caribbeansurgery.com/>



Cataleya Energy Inc.

Oil & Gas Exploration

<http://www.cataleyaenergy.com/>



CGX Energy Inc.

Oil & Gas Exploration

<https://cgxenergy.com/>



**Edward Beharry &
Company Limited**

<https://beharrygroup.com/>



**Empire Plus
Renovating Service**
Residential Services

empirepluscontracting@gmail.com



Gafsons Industries Ltd
Services/Hardware Retailer

[https://www.facebook.com/
Gafsons-Industries-Limit-
ed-151897954886137](https://www.facebook.com/Gafsons-Industries-Limited-151897954886137)



**Gaico Construction and
General Services Inc.**

Construction
<https://gaicogy.com/>



Go Logistics Inc.

Logistics

<https://www.gologistics.net/>



Gold Source Mines Inc.

Mining

<https://www.goldsourcemines.com/>



Gold X Mines Corp.

Mining

<https://goldxmining.com/>



**Government of
Newfoundland
and Labrador**

Oil & Gas Services
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/>



**Guyana Bank for Trade
and Industry Limited**
Banking & Finance

<https://www.gbtibank.com/>



Guyana Goldfields Inc.

Mining

[https://www.facebook.com/
guyanagoldfields/photos](https://www.facebook.com/guyanagoldfields/photos)



Guysons Oil and Gas
Oil & Gas Services

<https://guysonsoilandgas.com/>



**International Development
and Relief Foundation**

International Charitable
Organisation

<https://idrf.ca/>

Membership

FOUNDER MEMBERS



JHI Associates, Inc.

Oil & Gas Exploration

<https://www.jhiassociates.com/>

Mr. Dean Hassan
Mining/Hospitality

infotesouroresources@gmail.com



N&S Mattai & Company

Food and Beverage Retail

<http://mattaithefoodmarket.com/>



NALICO/NAFICO

Insurance
<https://naficonalico.com/>



NSBOmega Guyana Inc.

Human Resource Supply and Management

<https://nsbomega.gy/>



Panthera Solutions Inc.
Oil & Gas Services

<https://www.facebook.com/panthera-solutions/>



Precision Truck Lines
Logistics/Agro Processing

<http://www.precisiontrucklines.com/>



Royal Bank of Canada

Banking & Finance

<https://www.rbcroyalbank.com/personal.html>



Scotiabank Guyana Inc

Banking & Finance

<https://gy.scotiabank.com/personal.html>



Sterling Products Limited

Food and Beverage
/Manufacturing

<https://sterlingguyana.com/>



**Tamesh Jagmohan t/a
El Dorado Trading**

Gold Dealer

<https://www.facebook.com/eldoradotradingguy/>



**U-Mobile Cellular
(Digicel Group)**

Telecommunications Provider offering business solutions, Mobile, ICT, and

Digital Advertising
<https://www.digicelgroup.com/gy/en.html>

Membership

PLATINUM MEMBERS



Comfort Sleep

Wholesaler and exporter
of mattresses

<http://www.comfortsleep.gy/>



Falcon Logistics Inc.

Logistics

<https://www.falconguyana.com/>



Mr. Mark Itwaru

Consultancy/ICT

<https://riavera.com/>



Warehouse Transport Group

Transportation and Customs
Provider

<https://www.warehousetransport.ca/>

CLASSIC PREMIUM MEMBERS



BrainStreet Group Inc.

ICT

[lance.hinds@brainstreet-
group.com](mailto:lance.hinds@brainstreet-group.com)



Caribbean Container Inc.

Manufacturer of
Corrugated Packaging

<https://ccigy.com/>



Caron Hawco Group

Consultancy focused on business
development, communication,
commercialization and interna-
tional trade

<http://www.caronhawco.com/>



CIC Insurance Brokers Guyana Limited

Insurance

<https://www.cic.co.gy/>



Convergent Technologies Ltd.

ICT

<https://www.convergent.com/>



e-Magic Inc.

ICT

<https://e-magic.ca/>



HLB, R. Seebarran & Co

Financial Services

<https://www.hlbsandco.com/>



I-Net Communications Inc.

IT Services

<https://inet.gy/>

Membership

CLASSIC PREMIUM MEMBERS



NS Algoo Custom Brokerage Inc.
Custom Brokers
<https://nsalgoobrokerage.com/>



Seed Consulting
Consultant engineering,
green energy
<https://seedconsulting.ca/>



Sol Guyana Inc.
Oil & Gas Services
<https://solpetroleum.com/>



Team Savante Group Inc.
Risk Management
Consultant
<https://teamsavante.com/>



Uniglob Falcon Enterprises
Logistics
<https://www.uniglobfalcon.com/>



Williams Offices Inc.
t/a Regus
Serviced Office Space
<https://www.regus.com/en-gb>



Membership

CLASSIC MEMBERS



**Ashwini (Amit)
Persaud**

Value added wood/
landscaping
<https://amazonplanx.com/>

Mr. Fareed Amin
Consultancy
fareed.amin@gmail.com

NANDLAL

Mr. Heralall Nandlall
Chartered Accountant
<http://www.nandlal.ca/>

**3-2-1
GoCheck**

Mr. Nurup Naimji
ICT

<https://www.321gocheck.com/>



**Mr. Parmanand
(Omkaar) Sharma**

Agro Processing ((locally
sourced pasteurised milk)
<https://amayamilk.co/>



Ram & McCrae

Accounting and Corporate
Legal Services
<https://ramandmcræ.com/>



CANADA • GUYANA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CGCC Board Committees



In May 2021, the CGCC's Inaugural Board established three (3) Board Committees including. These Board Committees serve to address key areas of the CGCC Strategic Development Plan for the growth of the organisation and the delivery of services to our members.

1. The CGCC Governance Committee
2. The CGCC Policy and Planning Committee
3. CGCC Fundraising Committee

The CGCC Governance Committee is a standing committee established to counsel the Board on items related to corporate governance and financial administration. The Committee also provides advice to the Board on agenda items for the Monthly Board Meetings.

The CGCC Policy and Planning Committee is established to guide the Board regarding leveraging of the resources, experiences, and influence of the CGCC Members.

The CGCC Fundraising Committee advises the Board on the diversification and establishment of alternative revenue streams and to increase overall revenues through the planning, coordination, and implementation of fundraising activities in support of the projects and activities of the Chamber.

External Representation

The CGCC plays a pivotal role in developing capacity and supporting youth and people development. Our partnerships within the Canada and Guyana Network enable the organisation to define opportunities and gaps for engagement.

Steering Committee Representations:

- Steering Committee for the Guyana Diaspora Virtual Conference 2022
- Steering Committee: "Youth Project – Enabling and Engaging Diaspora Youth in the Development of Guyana".



CGCC Plans for 2022: What's next??

With pandemic protocols being observed, the Chamber's Members can look forward to 2022 increased networking opportunities, seminars, and webinars in hybrid/ virtual engagements as we cater to our demographic in Canada and Guyana.

- Breakfast Seminars with featured speakers
- CGCC Gala Dinner Guyana and Canada 2022

- Monthly Webinars
- Seminar Doing Business 101 for Guyana
- Seminar Doing Business in Canada
- Quarterly eNewsletter
- Sponsored Virtual Training
- Networking, Trade Missions and Engagement

Advocacy & Engagement Local Content Policy Engagement

In March 2021, the CGCC completed submissions to the Government of Guyana on the Draft LCP. These recommendations included considerations concerning strategic partnerships, access to finance, ways to reduce the national brain drain, and migration of workers from non-oil and gas sectors to the oil and gas sector were highlighted.

We look forward to the next iteration of the LCP and will continue to engage on matters of concern, albeit the LCP or any other policies and legislation impacting members' businesses where ever and whenever necessary with the relevant authorities.

Other Milestones

1. The Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce acquired office space at 157 Waterloo Street, North Cummingsburg, Guyana. The office was established in April 2021.
2. 2021 Audited Financials for the GCGG Guyana were completed and published to members
3. Weekly updates to members on opportunities in Guyana and Facebook and LinkedIn updates on current business developments in Guyana and Canada



Virtual Events

Since its launch the CGCC has hosted several virtual events and contributed to the success of many others; most notably

- **Roundtable with Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh, Minister of Finance**

With the presentation and approval of Budget 2021, along with the clear vision of Guyana's short and medium-term plans, presented therein, the CGCC was enthusiastic about attracting capital, skills, and experience to Guyana and letting the international business community know about the immense opportunities in Guyana. The CGCC invited the Honourable Dr. Ashni Singh Senior Minister with Responsibility for Finance to participate in a Virtual Roundtable with its Members. Minister Singh addressed matters concerning currency and inflation, infrastructure development, ease and pace of doing business, cleantech, oil and gas services, and security.

Mr. G. Mark Collett, ICD.D, SCMP, Chief Operating Officer of the Canadian Crosbie Group of Companies which in January 2021 entered into a partnership with the Guyanese company Farfan and Mendes gave an informative presentation on how Crosbie and Farfan and Mendes strategically partnered in the formation of a new company, Farfan and Mendes Limited, a Crosbie Member Company under which all businesses previously functioning as Farfan and Mendes Limited and Mines Services Limited were transferred into the new company. Mr. Collett's presentation touched on best practices, lessons learned, and suggestions for improvement.

Mr. Anthony Whyte, Chief Executive Officer of GO Logistics, one of Canada's fastest-growing companies according to both Canadian Business magazine (Macleans), and Report on Business Magazine (Globe and Mail). Mr. Whyte spoke about Guyana's emerging economy and the opportunities he saw as a member of the Diaspora familiar with both the Canadian and Guyanese economic and business landscape.

Ms. Caron Hawco, ABC, PMP, ICD.D, President of the Caron Hawco Group, a consultancy specializing in business strategy, international business development, communications, negotiations, and facilitation. Ms. Hawco gave remarks on Canadian expertise and ability to help fill capacity gaps in Guyana not only as it related to the oil and gas supply chain but also for new technologies and energy transition projects.

The Roundtable was well received by viewers and Minister Singh expressed his willingness to participate in future events hosted by the CGCC.

Other important virtual engagements held include:

- Fireside Chat on the Guyana Outlook for the Canadian Council for The Americas, Alberta (CCA) held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.
- Pre-budget and post-budget interviews on NCN when The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, presented the Guyana 2021 National Budget on 12 February 2021.



- Featured Guest on Que Pasa in Latin America Weekly Virtual Chat on Guyana as one of the economic growth engines of the post-pandemic world and how the CCGC addresses the increasing flow of commerce between Canada and Guyana, February 23, 2021.

- Presentation on Benefits of Membership in the CGCC

Virtual Events

and Guyana's Economic Outlook during NOIA's virtual mission with the CLBD on Tuesday, Feb 16th, 2021.

- The CGCC was a Supporting Partner of the Guyana Basins Summit: Driving Investment, Growth & Prosperity across the Guyana-Suriname Basin March 17-22, 2021.
- Panelist for Discussion on Industrialisation, Economic Diversification, and Job Creation Day 3 of Guyana Basins Summit.

Canada-Guyana Chamber Roundtable

with Guyana's Senior Minister with Responsibility for Finance
 Wednesday April 7 2021
 4:00PM (EDT), 5:30PM (NT), 2:00PM (MT), 1:00PM (PT)
 The Roundtable will be live streamed on [Facebook @canadaguyanacc](https://www.facebook.com/canadaguyanacc) | [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) | www.cgcc.gy

Panelists



Dr. Ashni K. Singh
 Senior Minister with
 responsibility for Finance



Mr. Anthony Whyte
 Chief Executive Officer,
 GO Logistics



Ms. Caron Hawco, ABC, PMP, ICC.D
 President,
 Caron Hawco Group

Moderator:



Mr. G. Mark Collett, i.c.d.d., SCMP
 Chief Operating Officer,
 Crosbie Group



Ms. Natalia Seepersaud
 Chief Executive Officer,
 Canada-Guyana Chamber of
 Commerce

- Hosted Roundtable Discussion with Guyana's Senior Minister Responsible for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh April 7, 2021, featuring CGCC panelists Mark Collette, Anthony Whyte, and Caron Hawco.

- Presented on the CGCC and fielded questions relating to areas for investment in Guyana during the Guyana Relocation Forum, April 8, 2021
- Guyana Diaspora Virtual Conference 2022: Panel on Youth Engagement Attraction Skills and Remigration May 22, 2021
- Co-hosted Barbados-Guyana Investment Seminar with the Barbados International Business Association, July 27, 2021, with presentations from CGCC Members, Goldsource Mines, Ram & McRae, and representatives from Edward Beharry & Company Limited.
- Introduction to the Centre for Local Business Development and the Canadian High Commission to Guyana Trade Commissioner Service.

The Barbados-Guyana Investment Seminar is an exploratory session hosted by The Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce, The Barbados International Business Association (BIBA) and Invest Barbados.

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Welcome Remarks		Remarks	
THE SEMINAR WILL LOOK AT:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appreciation of Guyana's emerging sectors An understanding of what Barbados brings to the table 	NATALIA SEEPERSAUD Chief Executive Officer Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce	DERRICK CUMINS Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Bank & Trust & President, BISA	H.E. MARK BERMAN High Commissioner of Canada to Guyana
	H.E. LILIAN CHATTERJEE High Commissioner of Canada to Barbados		
PANEL DISCUSSION #1: Examining the Legal and Tax Landscape	Overview - Investing in Guyana	Overview of what Barbados brings to the table	
Tax Solutions for Corporations, network of double taxation treaties including with Caribbean and using the advantages of taxation and legislation friendly to business			
	ALEKS MONIZE Senior Director of Investment Guyana Office for Investment	RENATA MOHAMMED Director Investment & Marketing Invest Barbados www.investbarbados.org	
CHRISTOPHER RAM Chartered Accountant and Attorney-at-Law Partner, Ram and McRae			
LIZA A. HARJIVALL SOODA Principal, Attorney-at-Law Harjivall Sooda & Associates	MODERATOR All sessions are moderated by		
PANEL DISCUSSION #2: Banking, Finance & Risk Management Solutions			
What Guyana has to offer	CHARMAINE ODELEY Assistant Director Bank Supervision Department Bank of Guyana	RICHARD DAVIS Managing Director Guyana American Merchant Bank	ROCKY HANDMAN Manager, Investment Banking Guyana American Merchant Bank
		JUSTIN COLE Vice President DOB Financial Group	
JUSTIN COLE Vice President DOB Financial Group	BENATOR ALPHEA WODINE, JP Prime Minister of Barbados Special Envoy to Suriname Former Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom		
PANEL DISCUSSION #3: Extractive Industries - Oil, Gas & Mining	FREE REGISTRATION		
Appreciation for the industries and how non-Guyanese enterprises can become involved. Skills gaps, areas that are open to investment	Register in advance for this webinar: https://bit.ly/3sE018g		
JOANNA SIMONS Senior Legal Coordinator Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana	GOPNATH BOBBY GOSSAL, JR. Senior Petroleum Geoscientist Ministry of Natural Resources Guyana	YANNIS TSIFOS President and Director Goldsource Mines Inc.	
<p>Operating a mining exploration company in Guyana - Challenges and Opportunities</p>			
<p>After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar on July 27, 2021.</p>			

For more information, contact

Biba
 #19 Pine Road, Belleville, St. Michael, Barbados
 E: info@bibb.bb T: 246 - 537-2422

Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce
 157 Waterloo Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana
 E: info@cgcc.gy T: +011 592-633-5137

Supporting our Community CGCC Flood Relief Efforts



On Friday, June 11, 2021, the CGCC handed over a quantity of food and sanitation items as well as monetary donations from Members to the Guyana Civil Defence Commission (CDC).

The CGCC extends its appreciation to the following businesses and Members who made the donation possible: Cataleya Energy Limited., Caribbean Container Inc., Comfort Sleep Inc., Mr. Dean Hassan, Edward Beharry & Co., ETK Inc., Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, Wine Cellar, North American Fire Insurance Co. Ltd., North American Life Insurance Co. Ltd., and Sterling Products Limited.



Member Testimonials



Becoming a member and joining the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce, has been an invaluable resource for us at Regus Guyana.

The ability to tap into their well-established local presence to form key connections for networking and business development has been second to none.

Regus looks forward to serving the business community in Guyana and continuing to work closely with the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce.

Stuart May Operations Director (Caribbean) / Regus Guyana



I was not sure how helpful the CGCC was going to be as it was still a very new organization, however I was very quickly impressed with the depth of knowledge of the CEO and Team.

We encountered several bureaucratic challenges during the initial stages of our project and the CGCC was always able to offer solid advice, connect us to the relevant officials and help us to navigate the sometimes archaic bureaucracy.

They are also an excellent resource for networking with other businesses and business leaders. Thanks to the CGCC, we are now in talks with several major retailers who are interested in carrying our product.

Mr. Omkaar Sharma, Founder and CEO / Amaya Milk Company



Thank you Natalia and Team @ Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce! Trying to launch a new business in a new market is difficult enough.

Your help with getting me and my business traction in Guyana went well beyond my expectations.

Great engagement, proper follow-ups, handy advice and your reassuring elbow bumps were a massive help to 3-2-1-GoCheck

Mr. Nurup Naimji, CEO and Co-Founder / www.321GoCheck.com

