

DLP Barbados (Canada)
Report to 55th Annual Conference
Democratic Labour Party

"Kennington", George Street, Belleville

St. Michael, Barbados

August 20 – 22, 2010

Mr. Chairman I bring greetings to you and all members of the Party present at this 55th Annual Conference from the Board and members of DLP Barbados (Canada). We regret that the Honourable David Thompson, leader of this great party and prime minister of our beloved country is unable to be with us at this conference and we pray for his speedy and lasting recovery.

I am pleased to attend this conference on behalf of DLP Barbados (Canada) and to report that our membership continues its steady growth, thanks to the efforts of membership Chairman Steve Kirton and his committee. He is about to fulfill his promise to double the membership by the end of the year to approximately 184 members. Membership is currently 124. Last October five members of our board travelled to Montreal where we held discussions with DLP supporters and members residing in Montreal on establishing a chapter there. We were encouraged by the enthusiastic response and will be returning in the October to conclude the establishment of this chapter. We gained fifteen new members as a result of this meeting.

In June of this year another five members of the Board attended an event in Hamilton, Ontario organized by the Barbados Canadian & Friends (Hamilton) Association and had the opportunity to address approximately sixty Barbadians about our branch and to solicit members. We left that evening with five applications for membership and are expecting more from several persons who expressed interest. The membership committee is working on other initiatives to increase and retain members.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 24th and all board positions were filled. The election was supervised by Dr. Leroy McClean, Consul General at Toronto and was well attended.

Titled The Annual Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner, our annual fundraising dinner will be held on September 18th at the Delta Toronto East Hotel. We are pleased that Minister of Health, the Honourable Donville Inniss has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker and we are expecting another sold-out event. DLP Barbados (Canada) members and other Barbadians in Toronto maintain a keen interest in what's happening at home in Barbados and this event provides those attending the

event with an opportunity to hear from the Minister on the Government's achievements in healthcare to date; while enjoying dinner, entertainment and the company of fellow Barbadians.

One of our branch's objects is to promote and support social service, disaster relief, education and other community endeavours in aid of Barbadians in Canada and Barbados; and during the year we contributed some \$6,000 to cover the cost of shipping 47 beds to Barbados. These beds were donated by a Montreal hospital through the efforts of High Commissioner Greaves and are being used in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and district hospitals.

In addition we assisted Opal Rawlins, one of our party members from Barbados, in securing the services of doctors in Toronto, who performed the life-saving surgery she underwent. We also covered the cost of her hospitalization. Now back in Barbados Opal is well on her way to full recovery and to being able to enjoy good health. Dr. Hill and Dr. El-Takli provided their services to Opal at no cost and we will thank them publicly for their generosity at the upcoming Errol Barrow Memorial Dinner. We are also happy that we are able to contribute to this annual conference by providing the conference bags.

We are in the 3rd issue of our newsletter, produced by Hugh Graham, 1st Vice President and Chair Communications. The newsletter serves to keep members informed of the organization's activities and to facilitate information sharing. We would be pleased to include any information the Party may wish to share with our members from time to time and you may contact Hugh to do so. Hugh also designed, completed and maintains our website which I invite you to visit at www.dlpbarbadoscanada.com. I am sure that you will all be impressed by the content. We would welcome your feedback.

In closing, on behalf of the members of DLP Barbados (Canada) I wish to congratulate Prime Minister Thompson and his cabinet for the great job they are doing in managing the affairs of the state and ensuring that Barbadians continue to enjoy an enviable quality of life in this period of global economic recession. DLP Barbados (Canada) stands ready to assist however we can and to make our contribution towards ensuring that the Democratic Labour Party continues to be the governing party for many years to come. As always we wish for a successful and harmonious conference. Thank you!

Reynold Austin
President