



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



August 24 – 25, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

I'm very pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone taking part in the 8th Annual Afro-Carib Fest.

I want to thank the hardworking team at the Heritage Skills Development Centre for the time, energy and talents they've invested in organizing this year's festival. I'd also like to thank all those who helped to make it a success, including the sponsors and volunteers.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many facets of African and Caribbean cultures — from music and the arts to dance and cuisine.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with gratitude, the many ways in which Ontario's African and Caribbean communities have made our province a better place to live.

And to everyone attending this terrific event, I hope you have an enjoyable festival.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Ford". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug Ford Premier



Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending Afro-Carib Fest 2019 hosted by Heritage Skills Development Centre.

I extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this two-day event. As one of the fastest growing festivals in our city, Afro-Carib promotes and celebrates diversity, fosters civic pride and bridges cultural and economic divides through music, dance, food and arts.

Toronto is one of the world's most multicultural cities and home to people from all over the world. The valued contributions of multicultural communities strengthen our society and contribute to our city's motto "*Diversity Our Strength*".

Events like these celebrate the rich cultures and traditions that make our city so unique, and are essential to a prosperous, vital and livable Toronto.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Yours truly,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto



Salma Zahid
Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre
Députée de Scarborough-Centre

August 24th, 2019

RE: 8th Afro-Carib Fest (ACF)

It is my pleasure to extend my warmest personal greetings to everyone attending the 8th Afro-Carib Fest (AFC) by Heritage Skills Development Centre.

This fantastic event would celebrate and showcase Canada's rich diversity of cultures through music, local artists from our diverse communities, games, ethnic cuisine and dance performances and completions. The community festival now sees its 8th year and is one of Scarborough Center's highlights as it gives residents in our community a chance to experience Scarborough's melting pot of cultures and diversity at its best.

With such an outstanding event we celebrate the people of Scarborough, the places they come from and the cultures they bring with them. It has never been more important to celebrate our vibrant multiculturalism than during the month of July which marks Canada Day. We thank all Canadians for being a part of the inclusion and integration that continues to make our country better.

Thank you to the organizers and all the volunteers that have made this event possible in promoting social cohesion and building a stronger community. I wish you a successful community festival, and many more great years celebrating our diversity.

Sincerely,

Salma Zahid, MP

Ottawa

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August 24, 2019

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Pickering and its Members of Council, I am pleased to send greetings to the organizers and guests of Heritage Skills Development Centre (HSDC) 8th annual Afro-Carib Fest.

The Afro-Carib Fest will showcase the exciting and dynamic cultural diversity of our province and nation. I commend the HSDC for organizing this wonderful event, which will bring our community together through a vibrant celebration of arts, music, dance, and food.

Established in 1993, HSDC has played an integral role in our community by serving at-risk, low- income children and youth, seniors, and marginalized groups. By organizing this significant event, HSDC is helping to strengthen the fabric of our community.

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues on Council best wishes for a successful event.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Ryan
Mayor, City of Pickering



**Town of Whitby Office
of the Mayor**

575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
www.whitby.ca



Don Mitchell
Mayor

August 24, 2019

Greetings:

On behalf of the Members of Council and the residents of the Town of Whitby, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the 8th Annual Afro-Carib Fest.

I congratulate the organizers, sponsors, vendors and participants of this positive event that promotes an inclusive experience of the richness and diversity in the community through music, arts, food and culture. My thanks to the Heritage Skills Development Centre for arranging this celebration. May you have continued success.

To all attendees and participants, my best wishes for your enjoyment of this special event.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Mitchell".

Don Mitchell, Mayor
905.430.4300 x2203
mayor@whitby.ca



VIJAY THANIGASALAM

MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park

August 24th and 25th, 2019

A Personal Message from MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

I am pleased to have been invited to celebrate the 8th annual Afro Carib Fest 2019.

Events like this are important as they highlight, showcase, promote and celebrate the diversity of the African and Caribbean cultures as well as other groups that make up the fabric of Canada through arts, music, food and culture.

Thank you to the organizers for making today possible, and to all who could be here today to help recognize the contributions made by these committed individuals.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful weekend.

On behalf of the residents of Scarborough–Rouge Park, and the Government of Ontario I would like to again thank the organizers for their hard work and dedication celebrating multiculturalism and diversity in Scarborough.

All the best from,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Vijay'.

Vijay Thanigasalam
Member of Provincial Parliament
Scarborough–Rouge Park



CITY COUNCILLOR

Shelley Carroll 高雪莉
WARD 17 DON VALLEY NORTH



Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite A3
Toronto, Ontario
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August 24, 2019

Greetings from Shelley Carroll
City Councillor for Ward 17 – Don Valley
North

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 8th annual Scarborough Afro-Carib Festival. Year after year, this popular festival offers a unique platform for people of all backgrounds to celebrate African and Caribbean culture.

As City Councillor for Don Valley North, I have the privilege of serving one of the most diverse communities in Toronto. The Afro-Carib Festival is an excellent example of how each and every community plays an important part in enhancing Toronto's social and cultural landscape.

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Heritage Skills Development Centre and the incredible volunteers and performers for making this event possible. You all play an integral role in making Toronto a vibrant city where everyone is welcome.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and successful event.

Sincerely,

Shelley Carroll
City Councillor for Ward 17 – Don Valley North



August 2, 2019

A Personal Greeting

from

Member of Provincial Parliament, Logan Kanapathi

On behalf of the Legislature of Ontario I would like to congratulate the Heritage Skills Development Centre on the occasion of Afro Carib Fest 2019.

Your mission to promote and celebrate the African and Caribbean arts, culture and heritage, is greatly appreciated. It not only showcases local talent but encourages a greater understanding and appreciation of the value of multiculturalism. I commend you for diligently working to implement meaningful projects to promote cross-cultural relationships within the city.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the volunteers, members and sponsors who took part in making this vision come alive. I look forward to closely watching the development of this wonderful organization and wish you the best of luck for many more years to come.

Kind regards,

Logan Kanapathi, MPP
Markham-Thornhill



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



Majid Jowhari
Member of Parliament
Richmond Hill

August 24, 2019

Greetings from Majid Jowhari, MP

As the Member of Parliament for Richmond Hill, I am honoured to extend my warmest greetings to all of those attending the 8th annual Afro Carib Fest hosted by the Heritage Skills Development Centre.

Today, we are gathered here at the Albert Campbell Square to celebrate the diversity and multiculturalism of the African and Caribbean cultures. I would like to welcome all those who are performing and exhibiting today. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about African and Caribbean cultures and promotes social cohesion and building strong foundations for new immigrants.

I commend the organizers and the performers for your tireless efforts in organizing this event. I extend my sincerest thanks and best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable day.

Sincerely,

Majid Jowhari, MP Richmond Hill

Constituency Office

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Greetings from Vincent Ke

Member of Provincial Parliament, Don Valley North

August 24 & 25, 2019

I am pleased to extend my greetings and best wishes to all the guests and attendees at **the 8th Annual Afro Carib Fest** hosted by the Heritage Skills Development Centre in the City of Toronto.

Established in 2012 by the HSDC, *Afro Carib Fest* is an annual celebration that aims to promote and celebrate the diversity of African and Caribbean cultures across our nation with music, dance and food along with supporting local businesses and encouraging community outreach and engagement. I commend the HSDC for organizing events like these which exemplify core Canadian values of multiculturalism and a celebration of our diversity

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Don Valley North, it is my honour and pleasure to congratulate the community, volunteers and staff for organizing this weekend's **8th Annual Afro Carib Fest**. I wish you all a very successful event.

Sincerely,

Vincent Ke, M.P.P.
Don Valley North





Robert Oliphant

M.P. for Don Valley West
Député de Don Valley-Ouest



August 24 - 25, 2019

8th Annual Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest

As the Member of Parliament for Don Valley West, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone who is attending the 2019 Annual Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest.

The Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest is a unique opportunity to celebrate our diverse and multicultural city and country. Canada is defined by its diversity; we are strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them. Our country has been built by immigration over the last 152 years. Each person has brought unique cultures and perspectives and made distinctive contributions to Canadian society.

I would like to congratulate the organizers, performers and exhibitors for their hard work to make the 2019 Annual Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest come to life.

Yours truly,

Robert Oliphant,
M.P. Don Valley
West

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councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca

August 2, 2019

Dear friends,

It is both an honour and a pleasure to declare my support for the 8th Annual Afro-Carib Festival. This occasion presents a wonderful time to promote and celebrate diversity as well as the contributions and achievements of the African and Caribbean cultures in our beautiful city.

There is great multiplicity of ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity within the African Canadian population – which simply adds to a rich cultural fabric. The African Canadian community has made great contributions to our economy, arts and culture.

As the Councillor for York Centre, I see many newcomers who are seeking new opportunities in life. I would like to acknowledge Heritage Skills Development Centre for bridging newcomers with support resources.

May this event bring us all a little closer together through music, arts, dance and cuisine.

Sincerely,



James Pasternak
Toronto City
Councillor Ward 6,
York Centre
Chair, Infrastructure and Environment
Committee Chair, North York Community
Council



Greetings from Jean Yip Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt

On behalf of the Government of Canada and the people of Scarborough-Agincourt, I am delighted to extend my sincerest greetings to everyone in attendance at the 8th Annual Afro Carib Fest.

The Afro Carib Fest has become an important annual event on the Scarborough calendar, and its popularity has steadily increased in recent years. The Heritage Skills Development Centre's commitment over the years to honouring and showcasing the diversity of the African and Caribbean culture within our multicultural landscape is unsurpassed.

This celebration showcases many live musical performances, great food and exiting entertainment from diverse and award-winning artist. This event brings sounds and tastes of Africa and Caribbean to Scarborough. Our society benefits from the many diverse heritages and cultures reflected within it, and they serve to enhance and enrich the knowledge and appreciation of these traditions for all Canadians.

I would like to thank the Heritage Skills Development Centre, and the many volunteers who have come together to host this annual event which provides a truly wonderful multicultural experience.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Yip'.

Jean Yip, MP Scarborough-
Agincourt

August 24, 2019



Toronto Police Service

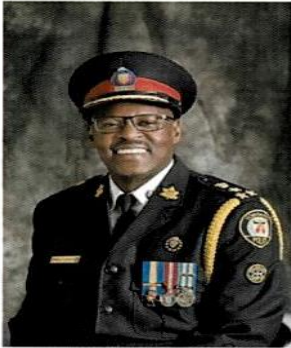
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Mark Saunders
Chief of Police

File Number:

Message from the Chief of Police



On behalf of the Toronto Police Service, I am pleased to extend greetings to everyone attending the 8th Annual Scarborough Afro-Carib Fest.

Celebrating cultural diversity through music and food is the foundation of Afro-Caribbean hospitality. This award winning event is a weekend festival showcasing and celebrating the diversity of African and Caribbean cultures and the incredible contributions that the Afro-Caribbean Canadian community make to the City of Toronto and all of

Canada.

I would like to congratulate the Heritage Skills Development Centre and the Organizing Committee for once again creating such a celebratory event. Thank you to everyone for their attendance and support, and best wishes to all for a fantastic festival!

Sincerely,

Mark Saunders

Mark Saunders, O.O.M.
Chief of Police



Suze Morrison

MPP TORONTO CENTRE

July 19th, 2019.

I am thrilled to extend greetings and well-wishes to the organizers, performers, and attendees of the 8th annual Afro Carib Fest! I am sure that everyone will enjoy a fun-filled weekend of celebrating Afro Caribbean culture and enjoying the food, music, workshops, and activities that this festival has to offer.

It is so wonderful that festivals such as this exist to allow people of Afro Caribbean heritage to celebrate their identities and for others to learn about this rich and diverse culture. Celebrating cultures makes us a stronger, happier, more connected province where people of diverse backgrounds and experiences can feel that they belong, both within their cultural group and the wider community.

Thank you Afro Carib Fest for being a community builder and planning such an exiting festival!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suze Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suze Morrison
Member of Provincial Parliament
Toronto Centre



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Michael Levitt

Member of Parliament /
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August 24th, 2019

It is my pleasure, as Member of Parliament for York Centre, to offer my congratulations and greetings to The Heritage Skills Development Centre on the 8th annual Afro-Carib Fest benefit event.

This festival is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the African and Caribbean cultures as well as other groups central to Canada's multicultural community. Events such as this are integral to developing future leaders in arts and culture.

Heritage Skills Development Centre's services in support of new immigrants and marginalized groups are essential, easing their stress and suffering, and offering support and stability. The work done by The Heritage Skills Development Centre has a tremendous positive impact in our community.

I am proud to add my voice to those congratulating Heritage Skills Development Centre for its incredible contributions.

With my sincerest support and congratulations,

Michael Levitt, M.P.
York Centre