



2023 Q1

NABC NEWS

Read about the latest news and updates from NABC!

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NABC logo - created by Melissa Wilkinson

NABC News

NABC News is the official newsletter for the National Association of Bahamians in Canada (NABC). If you are a Bahamian living in Canada or if you're concerned about Bahamian issues, this is the place to stay informed.

NABC News is a newsletter intended to keep you informed about the activities of the NABC and issues affecting the Bahamian community in Canada, from a local perspective. We hope this newsletter will serve as an informative and valuable resource for our readers.

In this issue, we introduce you to our new Board of Directors, elected October 2022 and discuss upcoming events, ways you can get involved with NABC and some helpful tax and holiday information. Read on and enjoy!

For more information on any of these topics or to get in touch with us, send us an email to info@nabcandfriends.com.

New Year, New Board

Meet the newest members of The National Association of Bahamians in Canada Executive Board.

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, NABC held its Annual General Meeting and elected a new Board of Directors. Since being elected, the Board members have been hard at work planning the renewal and revamping of the NABC, brainstorming ideas for building awareness and engagement, fundraising and events, as well as how to better serve the Bahamian diaspora in Canada. You'll learn more about some of our ideas as you read the pages of this newsletter and future issues of the newsletter.

The new board would like to extend thanks to the outgoing board members and a number of advisors who have been instrumental in helping to keep the NABC running over the last several years, through Hurricane Dorian and the global Covid-19 pandemic. We would like to say thank you especially to the outgoing president Montez Knowles, outgoing Director of Memberships Prescott Davis and outgoing Director of Finance Michael Reckley. In addition, several others worked with the board in an advisory capacity, including Zhorrah Grant and Barry Hall. Lastly, we'd like to extend a very special thank you to Devonnia Miller, who has put in significant effort in the background to prepare our publications - flyers, announcements and even this newsletter! Thank you for all your efforts over the past several years and we look forward to continuing to work with you and the larger Bahamian community to grow and expand the NABC.



President - Jasmin W. Dorsett

Jasmin is a proud Bahamian who grew up in Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas prior to moving to Canada, where she has lived for the past 20 years. She attended St Anne's Primary and High Schools (Nassau), followed by Lester B Pearson College of the Pacific (Pedder Bay, BC), and later attended McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario).

She currently lives in Hamilton, Ontario and works at a software company, based in Mississauga, Ontario. Jasmin is a designated Chartered Professional Accountant with experience in external audit, Financial Planning, Reporting, Software Implementation and Product Marketing.

In her personal and professional lives, Jasmin is passionate about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), gender equity, and increasing black representation in STEM. These passions prompted her to run for President of the NABC after being approached by fellow Bahamians who encouraged her to run.



Director of Memberships - Joshua Moss

Josh is a Bahamian-Canadian who was born in Canada, but spent much of his childhood in Nassau. Since moving back to Canada in his teens, he has sought to find ways to connect the Bahamas and Canada.

Now, as a realtor in the Greater Toronto Area, Josh seeks to help Bahamians establish a sense of community and find ways to maintain and share their culture in Canada.

Secretary - Nikisha Evans

Nikisha is a Bahamian-Canadian inspirational speaker, author, podcast host, entrepreneur and licensed Paralegal who currently lives in London, Ontario. In addition to being Secretary of the NABC, Nikisha is the Interim President of the Congress of Black Women of Canada, London Chapter. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Professional Management, as well as graduate diplomas in Human Resource Management and Paralegal studies.

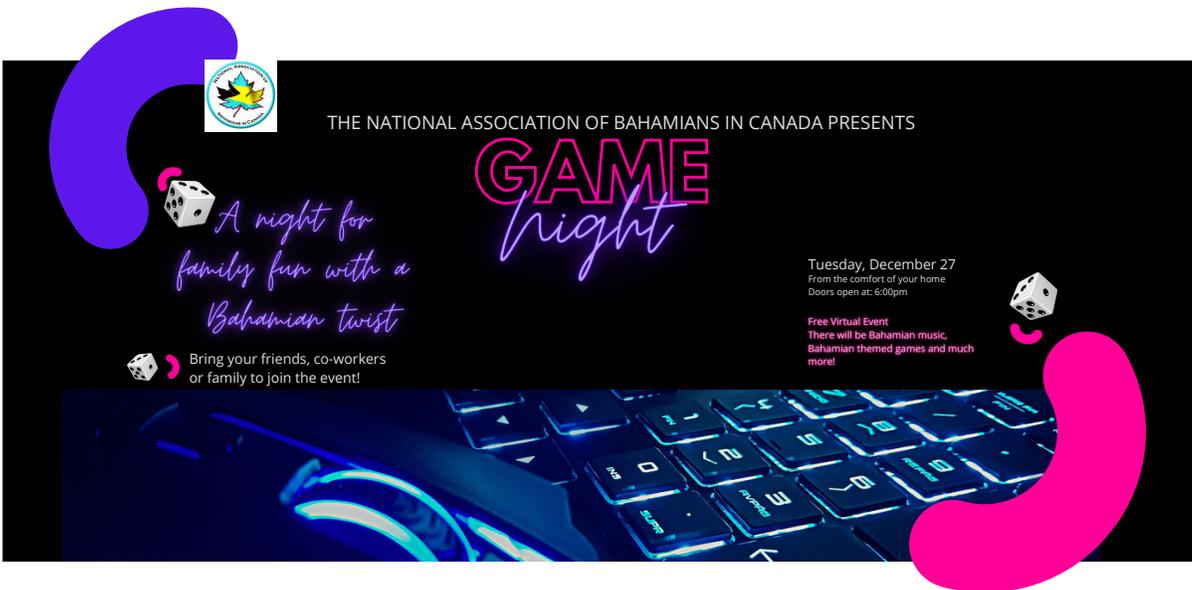


Our Events

Past Events

Our first event of the year was a virtual games night that was held on Friday, January 27th. We had over 20 persons in attendance, with representatives from at least three provinces and a number of different cities. It was a ton of fun! We played an online, Bahamianized version of a popular board game called Codenames and there was a big rivalry between the two teams and we got to educate some of the game participants on some elements of Bahamian folk culture. Do you know what a chickcharney is?

The chickcharney is a legendary creature in the folklore of Andros Island in the Bahama Islands. It is said to live in the forests, is furry or feathered, and about 3 feet (0.91 metres) tall, with an ugly appearance resembling an owl. In common legend, if a traveler meets a chickcharney and treats it well, they will be rewarded with good luck, while treating a chickcharney badly will result in bad luck and hard times.



50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of Bahamian independence, so we will of course be having a few independence-themed events. These are still in the planning stages and you'll start hearing about them in our upcoming communications.

Forward Upward Onward Together Webinar Series

We have several events planned over the next few months, including a series of informational/service based webinars to help you, your kids and family members better adapt to life in Canada while learning useful tips and practices, so that we can move forward, upward and onward together as a Bahamian community. Our goal is to have these webinars on at least a quarterly basis and to cover a variety of topics that are important to the Bahamian diaspora in Canada.

The first webinar in the series will be coming up on **March 19, 2023** and will focus on the topic of **Immigration for Bahamians living in Canada**. You can find more information on this event on the next page and [click here to register](#). To attend this webinar free of charge, [first register for membership](#) with NABC and then email us at info@nabcandfriends.com with your name and membership number to ask for your unique member only discount code.

The second webinar in the series will be held during the month of April and will cover the topics of housing & rentals. Stay tuned for more information on that webinar coming soon.

Forward Upward Onward Together Webinar Series

Immigration for Bahamians in Canada

When: Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 7pm EST (4pm PST, 8:30pm NST)

Price: \$10 – General Admission

Member Discount: 100% - you saw that right!

Register for an NABC membership and then contact info@nabc@friends.com to get your unique member discount code to have the event price reduced to \$0.



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If you have ideas for other events, or would like to participate in planning or hosting an event (in person or virtually, anywhere in Canada), be sure to get in touch with us at info@nabcandfriends.com.

Become a Member and Make a Difference

By becoming a member of the National Association of Bahamians in Canada, you become a supporter of our goals and objectives, while supporting the wider Bahamian community in Canada through our activities and initiatives. Read more about the benefits of membership, as well as the types of membership and the fees associated below. [Click here to become a member.](#)



Membership Benefits (2023-2024)

More to Come

- **General Benefits**
 - Discounts on all paid NABC Events
 - Discounts from Businesses in the NABC Business Directory
 - Job Referrals (subject to preliminary interview by referrer)
- **Additional Benefits**
 - **Lifetime Members**
 - Front-of-the-Line access for in-person events (Line bypass)
 - **Business Members**
 - Front-of-the-Line access for in-person events (Line bypass)
 - Discounted sponsorship/promotion opportunities at NABC events

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Membership Types and Fees (Annual)

2023-2024

- **General** \$50
- **Student/Child** \$15
 - Under 18: Provide proof of age
 - 18 and over: Provide proof of student enrollment (including Name, Name of Institution and expiration date)
- **Lifetime** \$250
 - No Expiration
- **Business** \$500
 - Up to 5 people
- **Family** \$125
 - Up to 5 people
 - Maximum 3 adults (living in the same household): Provide proof of address
 - Children (under 18): Provide proof of age

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Get Involved! Get Involved!

Click [here](#) to listen to a Bahamian classic re-envisioned!

Running the NABC successfully, providing benefits and keeping members engaged takes lots of effort and planning. If you, or someone you know is interested in being more involved with the NABC, you can let us know [here](#). For businesses or business owners, sign up [here](#). Below are just some of the many ways for you to get involved with NABC.

- **Become a Board Member:** There are still a number of positions still available on the board (Vice-President, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Special Events Committee Chair).
- **Become a Committee Member:** The NABC board is looking to form a number of committees, including of course a 50th Independence Celebration committee and a Fundraising Committee.
- **Volunteer for a specific event/webinar:** If you have a special area of interest of expertise, or if you just want to help out, volunteer for one of our events, or suggest an event that we can plan.
- **Give us your ideas, your skills and your time:** There are many other areas in which you can contribute to helping the NABC run smoothly, efficiently and help us to fulfil our mission and vision. Whether it's helping out with web design or social media and promotions, helping us to apply for not-for-profit funding and grants, or any other areas you may be able to contribute to, we look forward to working with you!
- **Connect your Bahamian Groups with ours:** Are you a part of another Bahamian group in Canada on WhatsApp, Facebook, or elsewhere? Connect your admins with NABC so that we can all work together to improve and coordinate events, activities and initiatives together. Email us at info@nabcandfriends.com.
- **Spread the word:** If you know other Bahamians, let them know about NABC. They can join our WhatsApp or Facebook Groups, become a paying member, or all of the above.
- **Own a business? Join our Business Directory:** If you or a family member owns a business that you would like to promote with NABC members, you can apply to join our Business Directory. The Business Directory will be promoted within all our groups and on our social media platforms, providing your business with additional exposure, and you will be able to provide a special promotional discount to valid members to encourage them to support your business.



JOIN OUR TEAM

Tax Season is Coming!

The end of 2022 means another tax year is completed for personal tax returns! You can spend the next few months gathering your tax forms and weighing your options for how you want to file your taxes (manually through the mail, using a tax preparation software, or using a tax accountant) - but no matter which method you choose, make sure you get your taxes in on time!

Below are some useful tax tips and advice from Indira Major, CPA, CGA, a fellow Bahamian, who is also a tax accountant in Ontario. Special bonus! The first 5 persons to contact NABC (info@nabcandfriends.com) for a special discount code will get a 20% discount on personal tax preparation services with Major Tax & Accounting. Act fast to get your discount code!



Major Tax and Accounting, CPA Professional Corporation
 London, Ontario
 Tel: 226-270-2483
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About

Indira Major is a Chartered Professional Accountant and Certified General Accountant. She has extensive accounting and financial experience developed from a career that has spanned a wide range of industries. Namely, Not for Profit, Accountant firms, School Board, Financial, and Retail. She has worked in the Tax Department at KPMG. In January 2017, Ms. Major started her tax practice Major Tax and Accounting, CPA Professional Corporation.

Ms. Major obtained her bachelor's degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She was one of the recipients of the President's Choice Young Alumni Award. Ms. Major continues to further her education by completing the CPA In-depth Tax Certification, a three-year specialization with CPA Canada. She has a Master's in Accountancy from the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA, USA.

Indira is an energetic, passionate Accountant who loves everything to do with numbers and information technology. Her core strengths are proficiency in accounting and tax, technical savvy, and analytical.

Ms. Major teaches at Fanshawe College and King's University College when she is not in the office.

Five tip taxes

1. File your taxes on time. The deadline is April 30th
2. Report all your earnings (i.e., side hustle, hobby, employment, etc.) on your tax return.
3. Contribute to an RRSP to reduce taxes or increase your tax refund.
4. Bahamian (International) students attending university / College must file a tax return to take advantage of tuition tax credit and others benefits.
5. Donations (i.e. tithings/ offering, charitable organizations) ensure you receive a tax slip to claim it on your tax return.

2023 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

The following list of holidays may be helpful for those wishing to track holidays in The Bahamas and Canada. This is not an official list and as such, you should consult other official sources to verify the accuracy of the listed holidays and observances.

- **Observed:** This holiday falls on a weekend and is observed the following Monday
- **Optional:** This holiday may not be observed in all Canadian Provinces. In provinces where it is observed, it may be optional, such that it is not recognized by all businesses and organizations.

Holiday Name	Date Observed	Country Observed
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2, 2023 (Observed)	Bahamas and Canada
Majority Rule Day	Tuesday, January 10, 2023	Bahamas
Family Day	Monday, February 20, 2023	Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan)
Louis Riel Day	Monday, February 20, 2023	Canada (Manitoba)
Heritage Day	Monday, February 20, 2023	Canada (Nova Scotia)
Islander Day	Monday, February 20, 2023	Canada (Prince Edward Island)
Yukon Heritage Day	Friday, February 24, 2023	Canada (Yukon)
St. Patrick's Day	Monday, March 20, 2023 (Observed)	Canada (Newfoundland & Labrador)
Good Friday	Friday, April 7, 2023	Bahamas and Canada
Easter Monday	Monday, April 10, 2023	Bahamas and Canada (Optional)
St George's Day	Monday, April 24, 2023 (Observed)	Canada (Newfoundland & Labrador)

Holiday Name	Date Observed	Country Observed
National Patriots' Day	Monday, May 22, 2023	Canada (Quebec)
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22, 2023	Canada (All except Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)
Whit Monday	Monday, May 29, 2023	Bahamas
Labour Day	Friday, June 2, 2023	Bahamas
National Indigenous Peoples Day	Wednesday, June 21, 2023	Canada (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon)
St. Jean Baptiste Day	Monday, June 26, 2023 (Observed)	Canada (Quebec)
Discovery Day	Monday, June 26, 2023 (Observed)	Canada (Newfoundland & Labrador)
Canada Day	Monday, July 3, 2023 (Observed)	Canada
Independence Day	Monday, July 10, 2023	Bahamas
Nunavut Day	Monday, July 10, 2023	Canada (Nunavut)
Orangemen's Day	Wednesday, July 12, 2023	Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Regatta Day	Wednesday, August 2, 2023	Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Emancipation Day	Monday, August 7, 2023	Bahamas

Holiday Name	Date Observed	Country Observed
Civic Holiday	Monday, August 7, 2023	Canada (New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Saskatchewan)
Heritage Day	Monday, August 7, 2023	Canada (Alberta)
British Columbia Day	Monday, August 7, 2023	Canada (British Columbia)
Terry Fox Day	Monday, August 7, 2023	Canada (Manitoba)
New Brunswick Day	Monday, August 7, 2023	Canada (New Brunswick)
Saskatchewan Day	Monday, August 7, 2023	Canada (Saskatchewan)
Discovery Day	Monday, August 21, 2023	Canada (Yukon)
Labour Day	Monday, September 4, 2023	Canada
National Day for Truth & Reconciliation(Orange Shirt Day)	Monday, October 2, 2023 (Observed)	Canada (Optional)
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 9, 2023	Canada (Optional)
National Heroes Day	Monday, October 9, 2023	Bahamas
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13, 2023 (Observed)	Canada (Optional)
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25, 2023	Bahamas and Canada
Boxing Day	Tuesday, December 26, 2023	Bahamas and Canada (Optional)

NABC

Contact your Association



The National Association of Bahamians in Canada (formerly "ABC") is a non-profit organization comprised of Bahamians, Bahamian-Canadians, their families and friends, and other supporters. We host Bahamian social events, fundraisers, promote Bahamian culture in Canada to further a prosperous relationship between The Bahamas and Canada. The Association has specific charitable purposes that it supports. Most notably, disaster resiliency efforts through our hurricane relief fund and educational sponsorship.

Admin Office

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info@nabcandfriends.com

Website:

www.nabcandfriends.com

