

Press Release

CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN DONATES \$1.5-M to SIX COVID-19 COMMUNITY HELP PROGRAMMES

Kingston, May 5, 2020 - Six community help programmes designed to build human capacity and provide food and essential items in the in COVID-19 pandemic got a J\$1.5 million boost recently.

The cash injection came in the form of a donation from regional bank CIBC FirstCaribbean and Nigel Holness, Managing Director said, “Jamaica, like the rest of the world is battling this health pandemic as well as a potential humanitarian catastrophe in which household and individual incomes are negatively affected and the poor and marginalized are at an even greater disadvantage”.

Among the recipients of donations from the bank are Food for the Poor, Jamaica's largest charitable organisation, which is providing food, meals and care packages to the needy and Fellowship Tabernacle, which is giving assistance to persons unable to work and provide for their families in Maverley, Pembroke Hall, Drewsland and neighbouring communities.

Tarrant Baptist Church is delivering supplies to senior citizens especially those over seventy-five years of age and run a “Help Line” to serve their members and other callers, while the Elsie Bemand Home for Girls sought the bank’s assistance in providing for 16 wards in their care.

The Go For God Family Church, which ministers to the Shortwood Teachers College and Shortwood Practicing School family and other congregants, has launched an outreach to five inner city communities and the Waterford High School, in partnership with their Parent Teachers Association, is providing packages including food items, cleaning agents to families of students.

“While the health authorities focus on managing the spread of the disease, reducing the rate of infection and guiding Jamaica back to health, we are committed to helping to better the lot of those struggling with the social and economic impact of COVID-19”, Mr. Holness said.

CIBC FirstCaribbean’s partnership with these agencies builds on substantial contributions already made by the bank during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month the bank presented J\$4-m to the Ministry of Health for the National Health Fund (NHF), to support COVID-19 testing - Jamaica’s share of a USD\$250,000 donation across the 16 countries across the region, where the bank operates.

Eligible bank clients are also enjoying a suite of relief assistance options spanning payment moratoria on existing loans and mortgages including special waivers of late payment fees and default interest and temporary revolving or working capital financing options.

Ends

About CIBC FirstCaribbean

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in sixteen (16) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services that fit our customers’ lives through approximately 3,000 employees in 68 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with over US\$11 billion in assets and market capitalization of US \$2 billion. We also have an office in Hong Kong. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit www.cibcfib.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

Media contact:

Debra King, Director of Corporate Communications, CIBC FirstCaribbean, Barbados Head Office; telephone: 246 367 2248; fax: 246 421 7148 and email: debra.king@cibcfib.com.

Media Contact:

Nigel Holness, Managing Director, CIBC FirstCaribbean, Kingston, Jamaica; Tel: (876) 935-4902
Marcia Erskine, Tel: (876) 383-5283, Email: merskine@cwjamaica.com