

## News Release

### CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN HOSTS MALE STUDENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, 22nd November 2022. Two male final year high school students on Tortola took advantage of an invitation to go on a behind-the-scenes tour of CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank on Friday, November 18 in recognition of International Men's Day.

12th grade students Mr. Zach Hallet of Cedar International School and Mr. Andre Smikle of Elmore Stoutt High School joined Mr. Amory Jervis, Country Head, CIBC FirstCaribbean for an introductory tour of each of the bank's business sectors. The students were given an overview of the work undertaken by each segment and had an opportunity to engage with the managers for Corporate, Platinum, International and Retail banking.

"It's uncommon for 16 - 18 year olds to have a clear-cut idea of what they want to do once they leave school," said Mr. Jervis. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for young men with an interest in the financial services industry to meet our people and understand more about a career in banking. We also wanted them to hear first-hand the experiences and qualifications our managers built on to achieve their goals. The important message of gender equality was discussed along with the bank's recognition of the need to provide equal opportunities at all levels. This covers career and personal support regardless of gender."

Speaking with people on staff, the young men heard about the career paths and the diverse routes taken to management level. They also learned about the range of professional services required to run a bank including accountants, lawyers, compliance officers, analysts, financial advisors, risk assessors, marketing and customer relations personnel as well as tellers.

"Before the tour, I thought that a bank was just a place where you keep your money and get loans from," said Mr. Smikle. "I learned that there's a lot more to the business of banking and certainly more career path openings than I realised. I'm an athlete and I am hoping to pursue my career in the USA or Jamaica. I was particularly inspired by Mr. Ramirez's route to his current position as Platinum Banking Manager given his original desires to be a professional softball player."

For Mr. Hallet, the morning session delivered a clearer understanding of how banking works and he was able to tie in what he learned about banking practices with the theoretical teachings of his economics classes. It also provided insight to a potential area of interest for his future studies.

"I was quite interested in the International banking sector," said the Cedar IB student after listening to an overview of the segment from Mrs. Vernecia Holder, Head of International Banking. "It's a department that includes the areas of the financial services industry that appeal to me."

Mr. Fabian Devonish shared an overview of Retail Banking, stressing the importance of compliance and the responsibility on the bank to follow processes designed to combat money laundering.

The students ended their visit with a token gift and an invitation to consider an internship at CIBC FirstCaribbean in the summer months to help them explore a potential career in banking

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## 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 fifteen (15) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,800 employees in 64 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1.3 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. 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](http://www.cibcfib.com) , [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) , [LinkedIn](#) , [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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Fabian Devonish shared an overview of Retail Banking, with students Zach Hallet of Cedar International School and Andre Smikle of Elmore Stoutt High School



Mr. Amory Jervis, Country Head, CIBC FirstCaribbean with students Zach Hallet (right) of Cedar International School and Mr. Andre Smikle of Elmore Stoutt High School.