



For Immediate Release

Gard Centre Receives Much Needed Financial Support CIBC Caribbean Donates \$5,000

St. John's, Antigua, July 15, 2024. Devastation was what staff and students discovered when they arrived at the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARD Centre), facility on Monday 17th June, 2024. The Centre had been the victim of a break-in and burglary over that past weekend.

The Centre lost almost everything – doors were broken and destroyed and stoves, fridges, freezers, mixers, the tools used to train students, AC units, seedlings, water fountain, a printer, microwave and even desks, were all stolen.

Last Wednesday the GARD Centre received some relief when CIBC Caribbean visited to present a cheque for \$5,000 and to pledge the bank's ongoing support for the critical role it plays in training and equipping persons with skills to earn a living.

Speaking during the presentation the bank's Human Resources Officer, Jesseca Ormond, said that as soon as they heard about the losses caused by the burglary, they saw it as a part of their corporate responsibility to assist and to always play an active role in our communities.

In fact, she noted that the bank's association with the GARD Centre dates back to 2011 when there was a US\$30,000 donation over a three-year period to support an EU programme called 'Empowering Women in their Income Generation'.

"CIBC recognizes the importance of the GARD Centre and its positive impact in educating and equipping individuals with the necessary training and skills to make a living and to be able to contribute to the nation's development. More recently for International Women's Day in March, we sponsored bursaries for two females to attend courses," added Ms. Ormond.

The GARD Centre's Executive Director, June Jackson, thanked the bank for its ongoing contributions to not just Antigua but also the Caribbean.

The Centre which celebrates its 35th anniversary in November, provides vocational training and business advice to assist vulnerable youths.



Captions: L to r: CIBC's Michelle Simmons, Sales Specialist; Deborah Brookes, Sales Support Officer; Jesseca Ormond, Human Resources Officer; Gard Centre's Executive Director, June Jackson & Makalsia Shepherd, Gard Centre's Administrative Assistant.

About CIBC Caribbean

CIBC Caribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Personal and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in eleven (11) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,700 employees in 45 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 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 Caribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC Caribbean 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.cibfcib.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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