

**For Immediate Release**



**CIBC Caribbean And Bahamas Girl Guides Association  
Host Inaugural Delaney Leadership Seminar**

**Nassau, Bahamas, February 28, 2024** – Enthusiastic girl guides, ranger guides, and girls representing schools across The Bahamas recently gathered at the first ever Delaney Leadership Seminar.

The seminar, named in honor of CIBC FirstCaribbean's (now CIBC Caribbean) first female chief executive officer, Ms. Colette Delaney, empowered the next generation of female leaders through focused sessions on leadership development, cultivating a leadership mindset, and the importance of building strong, supportive friendships.

The event featured a series of team building exercises, interactive discussions, and a keynote address by Dr. Jacqui Bend, CIBC Caribbean's Managing Director. Dr. Bend shared insights on the essence of leadership, guiding principles, and emphasized the role of young women in shaping a vibrant future for The Bahamas and beyond.

"It was a privilege to witness the incredible energy and budding potential of the young leaders that participated. Leadership is not just about guiding others; it's about inspiring action and fostering an environment where everyone can thrive. The Delaney Leadership Seminar is a testament to CIBC Caribbean's commitment to nurturing young, bright minds and equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to lead with purpose and passion," said Dr. Bend.

Held under the theme, Our World, Our Bahamas, Our Thriving Future, the seminar underscored the importance of lifelong learning, perseverance, empathy, and collaboration in leadership, among other guiding principles. Dr. Bend highlighted the strides already being made by the participants and encouraged them to continue exploring their potential and envisioning their roles in creating positive change within their communities and the wider world.

Delina Rolle, a tenth-grade participant and aspiring lawyer from Preston H. Albury High School in Eleuthera, shared, "This seminar has been a life-changing experience for me. Hearing Dr. Bend's success story and her tips were inspiring for me as a young girl trying to be a leader. I am happy I was selected by my school's administration to attend and connect with so many amazing girls who share my dreams of making a difference."

The Delaney Leadership Seminar has set a new benchmark for youth leadership programs in The Bahamas. The event concluded with a commitment from both CIBC Caribbean and the Bahamas Girl Guides Association (BGGA) to continue their support for youth leadership initiatives.

In 2022, CIBC FirstCaribbean donated to the BGGA to assist in completing the interior of its \$1.5 million, West Bay Street headquarters, which will feature meeting rooms, office spaces, training areas, accommodations for girl guides visiting from other countries and other essential working areas.

It was at that time that Dr. Bend affirmed the bank's commitment to support organizations that mirror the bank's promise to assist women and girls in the communities it serves. Prior to that, the bank donated several native trees to BGGGA, which were planted at its campsite, Camp Discovery, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Housing's Forestry Unit.

**Ends**



*At the CIBC Caribbean, Bahamas Girl Guides Association Delaney Leadership, standing from left to right, are seminar participant, Delina Rolle; Bahamas Girl Guides Association President, Dr. Ruth Sumner; CIBC Caribbean Managing Director, Dr. Jacqui Bend; seminar participants Tanie Smith and Destinee Smith; and Bahamas Girl Guides Association Chief Commissioner, Leja Burrows.*



*CIBC Caribbean Managing Director, Dr. Jacqui Bend, delivered an interactive keynote address at the inaugural CIBC Caribbean, Bahamas Girl Guides Association Delaney Leadership Seminar.*



*CIBC Caribbean Managing Director, Dr. Jacqui Bend, shares a moment with CIBC Caribbean, Bahamas Girl Guides Association Delaney Leadership Seminar participants from Abaco.*

## **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 twelve (12) 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 Caribbean, visit [www.cibcfib.com](http://www.cibcfib.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

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