

For Immediate Release



**CIBC Caribbean Celebrates International Women's Day with
S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center for Young Women**

Nassau, Bahamas, March 13, 2024 – Hundreds of teenage girls from all walks of life will this week be both empowered and encouraged to make integrity-based decisions, lead a positive lifestyle, and make the world around them a better place. Under the theme, Fortify, S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center for Young Women will host its 18th Annual Girls Leadership Conference, which serves as an invaluable platform for personal growth and leadership development.

Aware of the importance of nurturing the next generation of empowered women leaders, CIBC Caribbean made a special donation to S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center for Young Women in celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) and this year's IWD theme, Inspire Inclusion. CIBC Caribbean's Managing Director, Dr. Jacqui Bend, underscored that CIBC Caribbean is committed to fostering gender equality and supporting the empowerment of girls through education and leadership development.

Dr. Bend said, "CIBC Caribbean is proud to support S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center for Young Women and the outstanding work it undertakes to uplift young women across The Bahamas. We believe in the importance of creating opportunities for young women to thrive and, through this donation and other initiatives, aim to contribute to building a brighter, more inclusive future for all."

Event organizers anticipate the participation of 250 girls representing almost every public and private junior and senior high school in New Providence and at least two Family Island schools. The event will also feature special sessions for students from local youth correctional and residential facilities.

S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center for Young Women Executive Director, Therena Cunningham, said, "We are excited about hosting this event to help harness the leadership potential of female students and to execute prevention and intervention activities which are paramount in sowing seeds of hope, confidence, safety, and peace within the minds and hearts of every adolescent and teen girl who attends and participates."

Ms. Cunningham added, "With the backing of partners like CIBC Caribbean, we are excited to continue our mission of fostering leadership and empowerment among young women, empowering them to make positive changes in their communities and beyond. On behalf of the volunteers at S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center, I am elated that CIBC Caribbean decided to support our youth development organization this year."

Ends



CIBC Caribbean staff members presented Therena Cunningham, Executive Director of S.T.R.A.W. Inc. Center for Young Women, with a special donation made in celebration of International Women's Day.



CIBC Caribbean staff members celebrated International Women's Day under the theme Inspire Inclusion.

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.

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