

# News Release



For immediate publication

## RBC Launches Award-Winning Young Leaders Program in The Bahamas

**NASSAU, February 7, 2025** — RBC Royal Bank officially launched the award-winning RBC Young Leaders program in The Bahamas during a launch event at the National Training Agency on Wednesday. The Young Leaders program is RBC's flagship youth development program, that demonstrates the Bank's commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders for a stronger Caribbean.

Originally started in Trinidad & Tobago more than 40 years ago, this initiative began as an essay writing competition aimed at increasing awareness about saving. The program has evolved over the years and is now an educational service-learning program designed to empower students to become change makers in their communities.

The Young Leaders program will give students the opportunity to acquire skills to manage projects and deliver presentations, learn financial literacy and enhance their environmental awareness.

Exploring the theme "Sustainable Future," students from six schools throughout Nassau have been challenged to create an executable project plan that promotes environmental and/or social benefits that align with the theme.

"The importance of this theme cannot be overstated," said Ericka Rolle, Managing Director and Vice President, Personal Banking, The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos. "We are facing pressing global challenges – from climate change to social inequality – that demand our attention and proactive approach. By equipping our youth with the knowledge and skills to engage in sustainable practices, we can promote awareness and action that leads to meaningful, lasting change in our communities," she added.

To inspire participation and innovation, RBC will award the winning school \$15,000 to support the implementation of their proposed project within their school or community. The second and third place finishers will be awarded \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively.

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Mario Bowleg commended RBC for its vision in creating the impactful program, stating that it is a clear demonstration of RBC's commitment to the growth and development of our young Bahamians.

"We are grateful that RBC is joining the ongoing effort for youth development and empowerment in The Bahamas," Minister Bowleg said.

"We recognize that addressing the problems we face require all hands-on deck including our young people. As we work towards national development and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development goals, we must ensure that we equip and empower our young people to be agents of change. This means having programs like the RBC Young Leaders to give young people a voice and access to resources and opportunities they need to become powerful actors for a sustainable future."

The Young Leaders initiative will run concurrently in Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas and the Cayman Islands.

Participating in this year's program are Anatol Rodgers Senior High School, C.I. Gibson Senior High School, C.V. Bethel Senior High School, St. Anne's High School, St. John's College and Temple Christian High School.

The closing ceremony is slated for May, at which time the top three schools will be awarded the prizes for engagement and project completion.



From left to right: Sandena Neely, Head of the Division of Youth, Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture; LaSonya Missick, Regional Vice President, Personal & Private Banking, RBC Caribbean; Hon. Mario Bowleg, Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture; Ericka Rolle, Managing Director and Vice President, Personal Banking, The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos, RBC; Marcus Hutcheson, Senior Regional Enablement Coach and Program Lead, RBC.



Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Mario Bowleg addresses participants during the launch of the RBC Young Leaders program.



Students from Temple Christian



Derek Sturup, Manager, Private Banking Associates engaging students during his presentation on Project Management.



Students from C.V. Bethel

### **About RBC in the Caribbean**

With more than 115 years of dedicated service to the region, RBC has a presence in 10 countries and territories, with 38 branches and over 2,800+ employees serving more than half a million clients. As one of the Caribbean's leading diversified financial services companies, RBC provides personal and commercial banking, wealth management, corporate and investment banking, insurance and trust and asset management services to a wide range of clients, including individuals, small businesses, general commercial entities, regional and multi-national corporations and governments. For more information, please visit [rbc.com/caribbean](http://rbc.com/caribbean).

### **About RBC**

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We are proud to support a broad range of community initiatives through donations, community investments and employee volunteer activities. See how at [powering ideas to help shape a stronger Caribbean](#).

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