

News Release



RBC relaunches Young Leaders Program

PORT OF SPAIN, July 8, 2024 — RBC Royal Bank is bringing back its award-winning Young Leaders Program. Marc Jardine, Vice President Business Banking RBC Royal Bank, Trinidad and Tobago made the announcement at a relaunch event at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre on July 5.

RBC Young Leaders, a program designed to create opportunities for young people to learn financial literacy and become civic-minded, has been around since 1981 but was on pause for the past four years.

“At RBC, we understand that investing in the next generation of leaders will make for a stronger Caribbean,” said Jardine. “We are confident the program creates positive opportunities for students to think of sustainable projects, apply what they learn in school, reinforce the power of teamwork, teach them finance and budgeting, and enable them to develop skills for themselves and for the benefit of the school.”

Exploring the theme Conserve | Produce | Enhance, students from 13 schools across Trinidad and Tobago have been challenged to create an executable project plan that promotes environmental and/or social benefits that align with the theme. During the six-week program, students will have an opportunity to learn financial literacy, project management, and presentation skills against a backdrop of discussions supporting environmental sustainability.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is partnering with RBC and shares a keen interest in sustainability. Carina Cockburn, IDB Country Representative, Trinidad and Tobago, who also spoke at the launch event, said, “The IDB is thrilled to support the relaunch of the RBC Young Leaders Program, an initiative that empowers youth participants to become change-makers. By focusing on sustainability and financial literacy, this program is empowering young people to become more self-reliant and to speak up on important global issues.

“We believe in the potential of young leaders to drive meaningful progress and make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond thus laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient Caribbean,” said Cockburn.

Jardine explained that upon completion of the program, students would have acquired world-of-work skills and have a project proposal that has gone through the rigour of corporate standards. “From there, the possibilities abound for students and schools as they will be set up to approach corporate entities for funding for their projects,” he added.

Sharing support for the program was Minister of Education, Dr. The Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, who noted that she too was a former Young Leader. She thanked the Bank for relaunching the program and was thrilled with the theme - Conserve | Produce | Enhance – given the priority need to focus on sustainable actions. Acknowledging the Minister of Public Utilities, The Honourable Marvin Gonzales, who was also present at the event, she noted the importance of being more mindful of our consumption of electricity.

“If we want to change things in Trinidad and Tobago and to change mindsets then we have to start with what is happening with our children in schools,” said Gadsby-Dolly. “That is the whole thrust of cultural transformation through education. It’s not just about changing our curriculum; it is about changing the mindset of our people in many different ways.” In this regard, she praised the Bank for resurging this opportunity for students.

Young Leaders started in 1981 as an essay writing competition to increase awareness about saving. Over the years, it has taken several forms, including debates, projects, and most recently, an educational service-learning program empowering students - primary and secondary - to become change-makers.

A recognition event is planned for September, at which the top three schools will be awarded financial prizes for engagement and project completion.

PHOTO CAPTIONS



RBC’s Vice President Business Banking, Trinidad and Tobago, provides opening remarks during the Young Leaders relaunch event.



Minister of Education Dr. The Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, a former Young Leader, applauded RBC for reintroducing the program during her remarks.



Carina Cockburn, IDB Country Representative, Trinidad and Tobago, addresses attendees at the relaunch of RBC's Young Leaders Program.



Teachers from participating schools, along with Marc Jardine, RBC's Vice President of Business Banking, Trinidad and Tobago (center, back row).



Students from participating schools share a moment with RBC's Vice President Business Banking, Marc Jardine (3rd from left), Minister of Public Utilities, The Honourable Marvin Gonzales (4th from left), Minister of Education, Dr. The Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly (2nd from right) and IDB Country Representative, Trinidad and Tobago, Carina Cockburn.



Lesa Cruickshank-Simon, RBC's Branch Manager, Scarborough branch (2nd from left), with students from Roxborough Secondary School in Tobago.

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About RBC

Royal Bank of Canada is a global financial institution with a purpose-driven, principles-led approach to delivering leading performance. Our success comes from the 98,000+ employees who leverage their imaginations and insights to bring our vision, values and strategy to life so we can help our clients thrive and communities prosper. As Canada's biggest bank and one of the largest in the world, based on market capitalization, we have a diversified business model with a focus on innovation and providing exceptional experiences to our more than 18 million clients in Canada, the U.S. and 27 other countries. Learn more at rbc.com.

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