



Canada-
Caribbean
Institute

YEAR IN REVIEW

MAY 2023 - APRIL 2024



MISSION

Founded in 2020 by The University of The West Indies and Brock University, the Institute is now a collaboration between a number of colleges and universities from Canada and the Caribbean. The mission of the Institute is to:

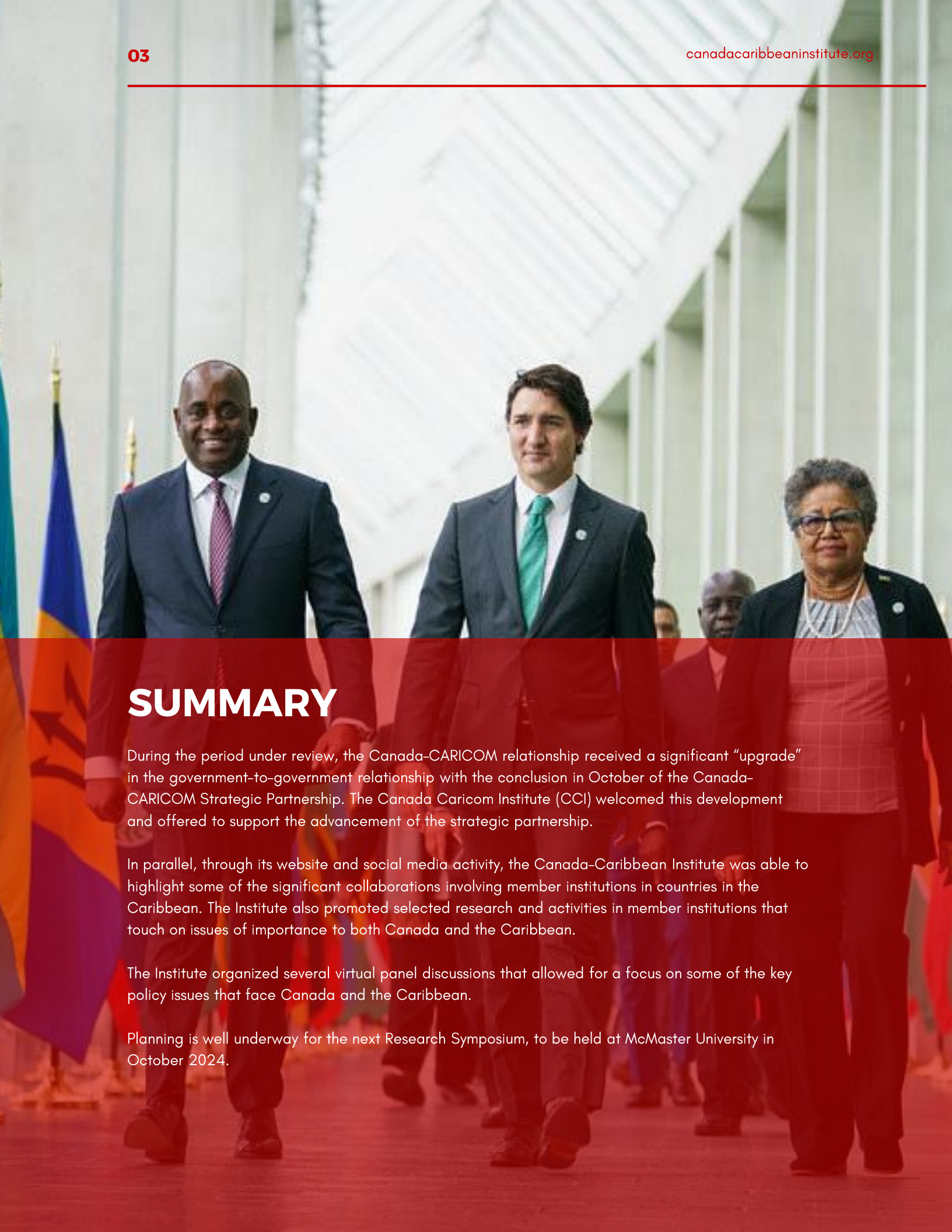
- provide a forum to connect academic institutions, scholars, the business and public sectors, civil society, and the cultural and diaspora communities.
- to inform and encourage collaboration across Canada and the Caribbean to advance important social, environmental, and economic issues that are vital to the shared prosperity and advancement of both regions; and
- to identify impediments and opportunities related to such progress.

MEMBERS

The membership includes:

- [Brock University](#), Canada
- [George Brown College](#), Canada
- [McMaster University](#), Canada
- [Northern Caribbean University](#), Caribbean
- [Sir Arthur Lewis Community College](#), Caribbean
- [The University of Belize](#), Caribbean
- [The University of The West Indies](#), Caribbean
- [Toronto Metropolitan University](#), Canada
- [University of Guyana](#), Caribbean
- [University of Toronto](#), Canada
- [University of Trinidad and Tobago](#), Caribbean
- [York University](#), Canada

Membership is also open to individuals and organizations with an interest in Canada-Caribbean relations.



SUMMARY

During the period under review, the Canada-CARICOM relationship received a significant “upgrade” in the government-to-government relationship with the conclusion in October of the Canada-CARICOM Strategic Partnership. The Canada Caricom Institute (CCI) welcomed this development and offered to support the advancement of the strategic partnership.

In parallel, through its website and social media activity, the Canada-Caribbean Institute was able to highlight some of the significant collaborations involving member institutions in countries in the Caribbean. The Institute also promoted selected research and activities in member institutions that touch on issues of importance to both Canada and the Caribbean.

The Institute organized several virtual panel discussions that allowed for a focus on some of the key policy issues that face Canada and the Caribbean.

Planning is well underway for the next Research Symposium, to be held at McMaster University in October 2024.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

Meetings

The Board of Directors held meetings on June 8, 2023, September 28, 2023, and February 1, 2024.

The Executive Committee held several virtual meetings during the year.

The Research and Scholarship Committee held one meeting during the year.

Governance

The Board approved the engagement of a Canadian Executive Director and established a Strategic Planning Committee to deepen the engagement with the Institute within member institutions as well as to assist the Executive Director in delivering Institute-related activity.

The Board received several expressions of interest from post-secondary institutions to become members of the Institute.

The Board reviewed the membership fee structure and all Directors agreed that member institutions will pay the annual fees.

People

The Board Co-Chairs provided advance notice with respect to the end of their terms of office. Caribbean Co-Chair Sir Hilary Beckles will end his term in June 2024. Canadian Co-Chair David Farrar will end his term in June 2025.

In April 2024, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) announced that CCI Board member The Most Honourable Dodridge D. Miller, FB, FCCA, MBA, LL.M, LLD (Hon) has been appointed as its 7th Chancellor. Dr Miller is expected to serve a seven-year term beginning August 1, 2024.



Sir Hilary Beckles
Source: Barbados News



Dr. David Farrar
Source: McMaster University



The Hon. Dodridge Miller
Source: The UWI

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES

Social Media

A CCI website, [Canada-Caribbean Institute \(canadacaribbeaninstitute.org\)](https://canadacaribbeaninstitute.org), and “X” (Twitter) account @CanCaribInst were launched in October 2023.

Traffic has been steadily rising. In 2023/24 156 posts were published on the website. At the end of the year in review, the website is averaging 1.1K visitors a month and 1.5 K views a month. The X account had 2100 impressions.

Virtual Panel Discussions

The Institute, and its member institutions, often in collaboration with partners, organized several virtual panel discussions on key policy issues that face Canada and the Caribbean.

Most of the Panel Discussions are recorded and available for reference on the CCI website.

See [Panel Discussions \(canadacaribbeaninstitute.org\)](https://canadacaribbeaninstitute.org)

- Discussing the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program between Canada and Jamaica – March 7th, 2024
- The Guyana-Venezuela Controversy: The Argyle Declaration – February 27, 2024
- Haiti: What’s next in 2024 – February 7, 2024
- “Guarding Sovereignty” – December 12, 2023
- Should we COP Out? COP 27/COP28 Canada and Caribbean Perspectives – November 22, 2023
- Optimizing Canada-CARICOM Trade Relationship – June 29, 2023

Communications

In the lead up to the Canada-CARICOM Leaders’ Summit, and again following it, the CCI released position statements and briefed various media. See the following stories:

[Canada and the Caribbean – A partnership for the future – St. Lucia News From The Voice \(thevoiceslu.com\)](https://thevoiceslu.com)

[Caribbean looks to Trudeau to put quest for climate change funding on the world's agenda | CBC News](https://www.cbc.com/news/world/canada-caribbean-climate-funding-2023-10-18) – CBC October 18, 2023

[Canada charts formal course for CARICOM engagement – The Hill Times](https://www.hilltimes.com) – November 1, 2024

Following the Summit the CCI wrote to each of the Leaders to congratulate them on the outcome and to offer the support and engagement of the Institute as the Strategic Partnership is advanced.

MEMBER INSTITUTION ACTIVITIES



The Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and the Hon. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados. Source: George Brown College

Brock University

- April 2024 – Brock University recently strengthened its connections in the Caribbean by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI). [Read Story](#)

George Brown College

- December 18, 2023 – George Brown College (GBC) announced a transformative partnership with the Ministry of Education, Training and Vocational Training in Barbados aimed at fostering collaboration and innovation in career-oriented education post-secondary education. [Read Story](#)
- October 2023 – GBC hosted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley for a Town Hall event. [Read Story](#)
- September 2023 – George Brown College and The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) launched the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) Technician Certificate Programme for manufacturing companies in Guyana. [Read Story](#)

McMaster University

- January 18, 2024 – McMaster University senior officials met with the Caribbean Development Bank and Canadian government staff to discuss potential collaboration in the areas of higher education partnership, governance, and clean energy. [Read Story](#)

Toronto Metropolitan University

- March 2024 – Toronto Metropolitan University and the Government of Guyana launched an ambitious “One Guyana Digital” project to provide digital skills training to over 2,000 Guyanese citizens. [Read Story](#)



President Ali
Source: Government of Guyana

- October 2023- Toronto Raptors' Chris Boucher announced the inaugural recipient of the SlimmDuck Foundation Scholarship established for Toronto Metropolitan University. The gift will help reduce barriers to higher education for students of Caribbean descent. [Read Story](#)

University of Toronto

- February 2024 - The University of Toronto has launched a Call for Proposals to support collaborative education and research initiatives with institutions in Latin America and/or the Caribbean in areas of Human Migration and/or Climate Change and Sustainability. [Read Story](#)
- February 2024) The University of Toronto received a \$5-million donation from alumnus Richard Rooney, which will be matched by funds from the Faculty of Arts & Science, will create an endowed professorship at each centre and two prestigious postdoctoral fellowships, energizing the next generation of African Studies and Caribbean Studies scholars. [Read Story](#)

The University of the West Indies

- April 2024 - The UWI and UWI Toronto Awards hold an annual fundraising gala in Toronto in support of UWI scholarships. [Read Story](#)



UWI Toronto Benefit Awards Co-Patrons Kevin Hibbert (l), Ann-Marie Hibbert, Brigitte Chang and Donette Chin-Loy Chang, Scotiabank Executive Anya Schnoor and UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles present the G. Raymond Chang Award to Raj Kothari

Source: Ron Fanfair

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

Canada-Caricom strategic partnership

One of the most significant developments in the history of the bilateral Canada-CARICOM relationship occurred in October 2023 when Prime Minister Trudeau and the Heads of Government from CARICOM states met in Ottawa for a Leaders' Summit. This meeting resulted in the launch of the Canada-CARICOM Strategic Partnership – October 2023. The partnership commits the two sides to maintain a formal process of regular engagement, between senior officials, Ministers and culminating in Leaders' Summits in order to deliver results on key issues facing Canada and the Caribbean.

During a number of Ministerial engagements during the course of the year, and at the Summit itself, Canada announced significant funding for a number of CARICOM priority initiatives.

[Minister Hussen attends 46th CARICOM meeting and announces new funding for multiple countries in the Caribbean](#) – February 2024

[Canadian Prime Minister and Caribbean leaders take next steps to fight climate change, grow strong economies, and strengthen regional security](#) – October 2023

[Canada announces \\$44.8 million in new funding to support the CARICOM in addressing the climate crisis](#) – February 2023

CARICOM and its member states engaged in several significant foreign policy issues in the Caribbean region during the year, including Haiti and the Guyana-Venezuela dispute over the Esquibo region. Canada supported each of the CARICOM initiatives.



Source: The Guardian

Haiti

Through the efforts of an Eminent Persons Group seeking to find common ground with various Haitian stakeholders, and ultimately by way of a Leaders meeting, CARICOM sought to bring about positive change in governance in Haiti and an improvement in the security situation.

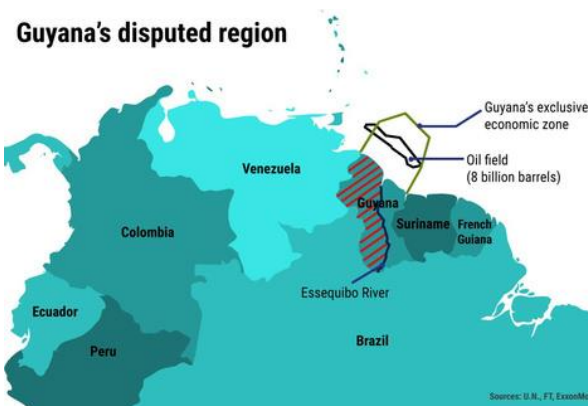
[CARICOM Statement on the Establishment of the Haitian Presidential Council](#) – April 2024

[Agreements on Transitional Governance in place following talks on Haiti in Jamaica](#) – March 2024

Canada and CARICOM worked in close collaboration during the efforts to manage a transition in Haiti. Prime Minister Trudeau participated in several international meetings. Canada has also committed significant resources to security in Haiti.

[Canada's Operation Helios](#) – March 2024

[Canada announces \\$123 million in financial support for security in Haiti](#) – February 2024



Guyana/Venezuela

CARICOM members were active in seeking to mediate relations between Guyana and Venezuela following Venezuela's territorial claims for the Essequibo region of Guyana. Certain CARICOM members facilitated a meeting between Guyanese and Venezuelan leaders which resulted in the Argyle Declaration, an attempt to pre-empt Venezuelan action to claim the Essequibo region of Guyana. Both Canada and CARICOM have made clear statements of support for Guyana

[CARICOM Statement](#) – April 2024

[Canadian Statement on Guyana and Venezuela regarding Essequibo Region](#) – December 2023

Climate Change

Both Canada and CARICOM were actively engaged with the international community on the issue of climate change, culminating during the year in the COP28 meeting held in Dubai, November 30-December 12, 2023.

[CARICOM Ministers see COP28 as a test of the world's commitment to the most vulnerable](#) – November 1, 2023

[COP28 summary of outcomes – Canada](#)

Visa Policy and other immigration matters

Canada's policies requiring visas to enter the country are considered difficult by some CARICOM states. Canada made two changes to its rules around visas and study permits that will have an impact on the Caribbean.

[Eligible travelers from 13 more countries now qualify for visa-free travel to Canada](#) – June, 2023 (Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago now visa free)

[Canada to stabilize growth and decrease number of new international student permits issued to approximately 360,000 for 2024](#) – January 2024

Other

Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Mottley were actively engaged in bilateral conversations on the issue of advancing achievement of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Similarly, Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Holness consulted closely on matters relating to advance [UN Financing for Development](#) delivery.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: un.org/sustainabledevelopment



**Canada-
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THANK YOU!

Contact the Canada-Caribbean Institute by email:

CanadaCaribbeanInstitute@gmail.com

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scan the QR codes below:

On the Web



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Caribbean Tracker

