



# Cooperative Connections

Newsletter | July 2023



## Celebrating 50 Years of CARICOM: Uniting the Caribbean for Progress

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), it is essential to reflect on its significance and the remarkable journey it has undertaken. CARICOM has emerged as a beacon of regional integration, fostering unity among its members (fifteen Member States and five Associate Members) and promoting social, economic, and political development throughout the Caribbean region. So, let's delve into what CARICOM is, its guiding principles, and its enduring importance. **I'm sure it's not lost on us that CARICOM is really a cooperative for its member states!**

CARICOM, founded on July 4, 1973, is a regional organization comprising 15 Caribbean countries and dependencies. Its primary objective is to promote economic integration, cooperation, and collective action among its member states. CARICOM's headquarters are located in Georgetown, Guyana, and its decision-making body is the Conference of Heads of Government.



Its guiding principles are as follows: -

**Unity and Solidarity:** CARICOM seeks to foster a sense of unity and solidarity among its member states, recognizing that they share common historical, social, economic, and cultural ties.

**Economic Integration:** The community aims to establish a single market and economy, facilitating the free movement of goods, services, labor, and capital within the region.

**Human and Social Development:** CARICOM places emphasis on improving the well-being of its citizens through education, health, and social programs, ensuring sustainable development and social justice.



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**Foreign Policy Coordination:** Member states work together to promote their collective interests on regional and international platforms, amplifying their influence and ensuring greater visibility.

**Climate Change and Sustainable Development:** CARICOM is committed to addressing the challenges posed by climate change and advocating for sustainable development practices, given the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters.

CARICOM is tremendously important to the Caribbean for the following reasons:

**Economic Advancement:** CARICOM facilitates economic integration, creating opportunities for trade, investment, and the development of regional industries. This fosters economic growth, job creation, and enhanced competitiveness for member states.

**Regional Security and Stability:** CARICOM promotes cooperation in addressing security challenges such as drug trafficking, organized crime, and natural disasters. By pooling resources and sharing expertise, member states can collectively respond to crises and maintain stability.

**Strengthening Regional Identity:** CARICOM fosters a sense of Caribbean identity, promoting cultural exchange, social cohesion, and the preservation of shared heritage. This unity enhances the region's global visibility and strengthens its collective voice on global issues.

**Addressing Common Challenges:** CARICOM tackles common issues such as climate change, health crises, and poverty, through collaborative efforts. By speaking with one voice, member states can exert greater influence and effectively address shared concerns.

**Advocacy on Global Platforms:** As a unified bloc, CARICOM amplifies the voice of its member states on international platforms. It allows them to advocate for fair trade, climate justice, and development assistance, ensuring their interests are represented.



As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of CARICOM, we acknowledge its indispensable role in advancing the Caribbean region. Guided by principles of unity, economic integration, and sustainable development, CARICOM has propelled the Caribbean forward, promoting regional cooperation and addressing shared challenges. Through its continued commitment, CARICOM paves the way for a brighter, more prosperous future for all its member states, ensuring the Caribbean's voice is heard on the global stage.





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## ECCB Governor visits Antigua and Barbuda for Country Outreach Mission

The Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Timothy N. J. Antoine, and his delegation recently embarked on a series of Country Outreach Missions, with their most recent stop being in the beautiful twin-island nation of Antigua and Barbuda. This visit aimed to engage with various Social Partners and address critical issues affecting the nation's economy and its citizens.

On 15 June, the ECCB delegation had the opportunity to meet and interact with an array of stakeholders, including legislators, bankers, civil society, labor unions, churches, and youth organizations. Additionally, they also engaged with members of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, further ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the concerns and perspectives of different sectors of society.

During these consultations, a wide range of pressing issues were discussed, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by Antigua and Barbuda. The topics under scrutiny included the cost of living, taxation policies, commercial bank interest rates and fees, and the functioning of the Eastern Caribbean Partial Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECPGCG). Furthermore, the delegation also delved into matters relating to access to credit for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), financial literacy, and the operations of the soon to be launched credit bureau.

Recognizing the significance of regional transportation and the vital role it plays in promoting economic growth, the ECCB Governor and his team dedicated considerable attention to this area. They also explored the potential for tourism development and economic diversification, two crucial factors for the sustainable progress of Antigua and Barbuda's economy.



*Pictured above: ECCB Governor Timothy N J Antoine with Agnes Sealey-Jarvis, Training & Accounts Officer, Antigua and Barbuda Co-operative League Limited*

In line with the growing importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, the delegation discussed the necessity for broader support and investment in STEM education, training, and innovation. By placing emphasis on these disciplines, the country can equip its workforce with the skills required to navigate an ever-evolving technological landscape and seize emerging opportunities.

One notable highlight of the ECCB Governor's visit was his interaction with Agnes Sealey-Jarvis, who represented the Antigua and Barbuda Co-operative League during the meeting. This interaction underscored the commitment of the ECCB to engage with key stakeholders and foster collaboration with organizations at the grassroots level. The involvement of the Co-operative League signifies the importance placed on co-operative principles and the contribution of co-operatives to the country's socio-economic development.

The Country Outreach Mission in Antigua and Barbuda demonstrated the ECCB's dedication to understanding the concerns and aspirations of the citizens it serves. By engaging with a diverse range of Social Partners and addressing key issues such as the cost of living, access to credit, and economic diversification, the ECCB is striving to foster a conducive environment for sustainable economic development and prosperity in the region.



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## Fortifying Your Finances: Unmasking Cybersecurity Threats and Shielding Yourself

In today's interconnected digital landscape, safeguarding our financial data has become more critical than ever. Cybercriminals employ various tactics to exploit vulnerabilities and gain unauthorized access to sensitive information. This article aims to shed light on common ploys used by criminals to obtain financial data and provides practical tips to help you protect yourself from these threats.

### Cybersecurity Threats – What are they?

**Phishing Attacks:** Phishing involves fraudulent emails, text messages, or websites designed to trick individuals into divulging personal and financial information. These messages often mimic trusted organizations, urging recipients to click on malicious links or provide sensitive data.

**Malware and Ransomware:** Malicious software (malware) is designed to infiltrate computers and mobile devices, enabling criminals to gain access to personal information or encrypt files for ransom. Ransomware holds data hostage until a sum of money is paid.

**Identity Theft:** Cybercriminals steal personal information to impersonate individuals and carry out fraudulent activities, such as opening bank accounts, applying for credit cards, or making unauthorized transactions in the victim's name.

**ATM Skimming:** Criminals install devices on ATMs to capture card information and PINs. This information is then used to create counterfeit cards or make unauthorized transactions.

**Social Engineering:** This technique manipulates individuals into revealing confidential information through psychological manipulation or deception. It often involves impersonating a trusted entity, such as a bank representative or customer service agent.



### Cybersecurity Threats – How to Protect Yourself

**Be Vigilant:** Exercise caution when interacting with emails, messages, or websites. Look for signs of phishing, such as grammatical errors, generic greetings, or suspicious URLs. Avoid clicking on unsolicited links or providing personal information unless you verify the source.

**Strengthen Passwords:** Create strong, unique passwords for each online account. Include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Consider using a password manager to securely store and generate complex passwords.

**Keep Software Updated:** Regularly update your operating system, web browsers, and antivirus software to patch security vulnerabilities and protect against known threats.



**Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Enable 2FA whenever possible, as it adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second verification step, such as a unique code sent to your mobile device.

**Protect Personal Information:** Be cautious about sharing personal data online. Avoid providing sensitive information unless it is necessary, and you trust the recipient. Regularly monitor your financial accounts for any suspicious activity.



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## Fortifying Your Finances: Unmasking Cybersecurity Threats and Shielding Yourself



**Use Secure Wi-Fi Networks:** Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks for financial transactions or accessing sensitive information. Instead, use secure, password-protected networks or consider using a virtual private network (VPN) for added security.

**Be Skeptical of Unsolicited Calls:** Beware of unsolicited calls requesting personal or financial information. Legitimate organizations usually do not ask for sensitive information over the phone. When in doubt, hang up and contact the organization directly using verified contact information.

**Educate Yourself:** Stay informed about the latest cybersecurity threats and best practices. Regularly review resources provided by trusted organizations, such as banks, government agencies, or cybersecurity experts.



As cybercriminals continue to evolve their tactics, it is crucial to stay vigilant and take proactive measures to protect your financial data. By understanding common cybersecurity threats and implementing robust security practices, you can significantly reduce the risk of falling victim to cybercrime. Remember, your financial security is in your hands, and with the right precautions, you can confidently navigate the digital landscape and safeguard your valuable information.



## Celebrating Cooperation: International Day of Cooperatives

International Day of Cooperatives, celebrated on the first Saturday of July, highlights the significant contributions of cooperatives worldwide. This annual event promotes awareness and partnership between the cooperative movement and the United Nations.

Cooperatives are associations that empower individuals and communities while promoting economic, social, cultural, and political progress. They prioritize sustainability, equality, and democratic principles.

On this day, we acknowledge the cooperative movement's role in poverty reduction, productive employment, and social integration. Cooperatives foster inclusivity by providing fair opportunities for wealth creation. They promote self-reliance and encourage responsible economic development.







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## Celebrating Cooperation: International Day of Cooperatives

International Day of Cooperatives celebrates cooperatives' contributions to a socially, economically, and culturally inclusive society. It emphasizes the importance of partnerships and collaborations for social development.

By recognizing the achievements of cooperatives, this day reinforces the values of cooperation, sustainability, and community empowerment. It serves as a reminder of the positive impact cooperative models can have on global challenges.

As we commemorate International Day of Cooperatives, let us embrace the cooperative values and work together to build a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous world.



### **Meet Jacqueline Yearwood – Antigua and Barbuda's representative on the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Union's Board of Directors**

We are delighted to introduce Jacqueline Yearwood, a dedicated individual who is passionate about cooperative principles and cooperative development. With an impressive track record in various leadership roles, she is a driving force behind economic development for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Antigua and Barbuda.

Having served as Past-Chair of Community First Cooperative Credit Union (CFCCU)'s Credit Committee, and currently serving as the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the CFCCU, Jacqueline brings her expertise and enthusiasm to the forefront. Her deep understanding of cooperative principles enables her to make significant contributions to the growth and success of the credit union.

In addition to her role at the CFCCU, Jacqueline has served as the Past President of the Board of Directors of the Antigua and Barbuda Cooperative League Limited. Through this position, she has demonstrated her commitment to advancing the cooperative movement in the country, fostering collaboration and empowerment among members.

Jacqueline's influence extends beyond the borders of Antigua and Barbuda. She holds the esteemed position of Director of the Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions, where she plays an instrumental role in shaping cooperative development throughout the region. Her contributions to this organization redound to the overall growth and success of cooperative credit unions in the Caribbean.

Moreover, Jacqueline's expertise in economic development for SMEs is further showcased through her role as the Director of Enterprise Development at the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority. She is a driving force behind creating an enabling economic environment for small enterprises, recognizing their vital role in the country's economic landscape.

Jacqueline Yearwood firmly believes that this is a critical time in history, where the focus must be on channeling energies and resources towards the development of small enterprises. Her vision and dedication ensure that she actively works towards this goal, both in Antigua and Barbuda and across the region. We eagerly anticipate her ongoing contributions to the development of the cooperative movement and economic growth in the region.



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## Co-operative Credit Unions in the Community

**COMMUNITY FIRST**  
CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LTD.

**FRIDAY**  
**28**  
**JULY**  
OLD PARHAM RD.

**SMALL BUSINESS EXPC 2023**

**\$50**  
REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE**

**INTERESTED MEMBERS SHOULD CALL**  
481-3961/4000/3950 OR EMAIL [T.JAMES-ROBERTS@CFCCUONLINE.COM](mailto:T.JAMES-ROBERTS@CFCCUONLINE.COM)

**CONDITIONS APPLY!**

Community First Co-operative Credit Union is providing members with small businesses an opportunity to showcase their products and services on Friday

Space is limited!



Register Today!



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## Co-operative Credit Unions in the Community



Team SJCCU is continuing its **"We come to you"** program by visiting different companies. In the above photograph, the team addressed the members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) Coast Guard Division. Marketing Officer Joseph Apparicio, along with Administrative Assistant, Ms. Hyacinth Mark, spoke to the soldiers about becoming a member of the Credit Union and the services offered by SJCCU.

Joseph Apparicio offered advice about obtaining a loan and the requirements. In this initiative the SJCCU is taking its message to the community! So, if your company or community group would like to hear about SJCCU, please call 786 1328 or 480 1328 to set up an appointment.



**ST. JOHN'S  
CO-OPERATIVE  
CREDIT UNION**





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## Co-operative Credit Unions Activities



The Antigua and Barbuda Cooperative League Limited is pleased to announce the launch of our website. Learn about our services, our affiliates and how the cooperative sector can make your life better. Reach us at <https://www.antiguacoopleague.com/>



The Antigua and Barbuda Cooperative League successfully completed its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting on 28 June 2023.



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## Co-operative Credit Unions Notices



**SUMMER LOAN**  
*Special*  
**\$32,000.00**  
SIX YEARS TO REPAY | 10% DEPOSIT | COMPULSORY SAVINGS

SDACCU | LOWER ALL SAINTS ROAD | TEL: 268-562-3446

**PCCU SUMMER LOAN**

UP TO **\$10,000.00**  
DOWN PAYMENT **10%**  
FOR EXISTING CUSTOMERS

**START DATE**  
**JUNE 1ST 2023**

**TRAVEL LOAN**  
**DO YOU NEED A VACATION?**  
**BORROW UP TO EC \$20,000 FOR TRAVELLING!**  
**15% CASH DEPOSIT**

**COMMUNITY FIRST**  
CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LTD.

[www.cfccuonline.com](http://www.cfccuonline.com)

**JOIN NOW**

**BORROW UP TO \$10,000.00 EC**

- 36 months repayment
- Downpayment **15%** of the amount you are borrowing
- MUST** give proof of employment for at least a year
- \$230** to open an account

**START DATE:**  
**JUNE 1ST 2023**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

[\(268\)7764-3882](tel:26877643882) [\(268\)462-7952](tel:26834627952) [info@pccu.ag](mailto:info@pccu.ag) [Police Headquarters on American Road](#)





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## Word Search

A I W V R T Y M C D Y A Y A N I R V O F Y S F P R  
R A N E Z A I G I B E G G Q B X N E K M I J N A O  
H V F S B I H B N V C E M Q Q S D Y K T L O M P T  
B R E A K O U T I E X N D W L W T I E A I D B E A  
W P G C Z U U L R H V D Q D V D Y R C T E J F R R  
C X N W V I U E W G X A L E F R G I A Y G P E S E  
Q B R O C P M K C S I E U T A A N R Q C H R S P D  
F R Q H E O P O S T E R P N C H T D B T T E R F O  
L J L S N W I K V E M H E D C S P E I T P E C A M  
P B L Y X V I N Q P U L T E I F J D K T S Z N C A  
E T A G E L E D R O P N T G Q R I O P E K P C I W  
M T H N W O R K S H O P E D P S D R N D E A I L A  
N U R L Q I U T Y S K R T V C C E T I Y I N D I R  
D J I E W U H Y C K V N C U O C A S D C M E M T D  
X N B S P T E K X R I Y S K O T F P Z A K L E A S  
Z K O A O X J T M O L S G N I K R O W T E N L T A  
J Q V I D P E W P W I R F O E E D N E T T A B O C  
Y G A Z T G M R I O V E N R Q N A M E P B L A R T  
E R X K P P E Y N V R V Y T I V I T C A R E T N I  
J I T Q E W E O S E S T R E A M I N G G P N D U V  
R Z E S O Y E C N E R E F N O C T S O P H A N S I  
V T W P U W N C E S L Z G L E L L A R A P P U A T  
T I S I V D E O E R I C E B R E A K E R H G O E Y  
U D K Z A M N V T C O N F E R E N C E L S K R V V  
D B D W P N W I W E S G N I D E E C O R P W K N L

Abstract  
Attendee  
Banquet  
Conference  
Exhibit  
hall  
Interactivity  
Moderator  
panel  
Parallel  
Poster  
Presentation  
Registration  
Site  
Symposium  
visit

activity  
Awards  
Breakout  
Delegate  
Expert  
Icebreaker  
Keynote  
Name  
Panel  
Plenary  
PowerPoint  
proceedings  
Roundtable  
Speaker  
Technical  
Workshop

Agenda  
badge  
ceremony  
discussion  
facilitator  
Industry  
Live  
Networking  
Papers  
Postconference  
Preconference  
reception  
showcase  
streaming  
Venue  
Workshop



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*We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at.....*

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