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Dear Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua,

Please accept this letter of request to the join the City of Toronto, City of Markham, City of Pickering, City of Brampton, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Mayor of Toronto and Premier of Ontario in supporting Caribbean Women's Society and the Caribbean-Canadian community by proclaiming October as Caribbean Heritage Month in the City of Vaughan.

As background, Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Caribbean-Canadian community; a rich and diverse group representing forty-two Caribbean nations, regions and territories (more info here: www.ourchm.ca).

Since the first Caribbean immigrants arrived in Canada in the late 1700's, Caribbean-Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all fields; including, science, education, medicine, broadcasting, law, politics, business, sports and culture.

Caribbean-Canadians have helped build the City of Vaughan, Ontario and the country, into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity and innovation throughout Ontario and Canada.

October is a significant month for the Caribbean-Canadian community. With the points system incorporated into the Immigration Regulations in October 1967, it meant that visitors, including Caribbeans, and their families were given the right to apply for immigrant status while in Canada. By 1970, immigration from, in part, the Caribbean represented over 23% of the total; compared to 10% four years previously.

Caribbean Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Caribbean-Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario.

By proclaiming the month of October as Caribbean Heritage Month, the City of Vaughan would be recognizing the important contributions that Caribbean-Canadians have made to the City of Vaughan's, Ontario's and the country's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Camille Kerr, Founder and President
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