



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2020 | ISSUE 36 |

PRICE \$3

IMMIGRATION OFFICERS SCOLDED

Story on Page 3

Awarding excellence



Governor-General Sir Rodney Williams surrounded by the 20 recipients of the Sir Rodney Williams Alvin Morris Award. (Photo courtesy Photogenesis) **Story on Page 3.**

Customs finally paid overtime, but how much?

Comptroller uncertain

Comptroller of Customs Raju Boddu has confirmed the payment of some six months of overtime to his team members, but he couldn't speak to the amount that was actually paid.

Speaking to PointeXpress on Tuesday, Boddu said he was pleased with the disbursement but was not necessarily in the know on the extent to which that payment has affected his team.

"It is six months of over time. It is tagged to a number of overtime. I can only tell the period for which was in arrears," Boddu said.

In a media release earlier this week, government said it had "honoured its commitment to pay officers they're overtime by January."

The payment was made during the past week; however, government is

still struggling to meet its abolition to the Festivals Commission related payments, particularly as it relates to Carnival and the like.

But it is however convinced that it is "reducing significantly the ...debt to the officers who have been tirelessly working to ensure revenues are collected and that the country's borders are protected."

"I can't tell you the amount. Treasury would have that figure. It is not one officer, its multiple officers. The over time is not a standard amount, it is dependent on the work done and the claims made," Boddu said.

In the government release, Boddu reiterated his "profound appreciation" to the government, cabinet and the entire team in the Ministry of Finance.

There are some nine months outstanding in overtime payment, according to the Comptroller, but he was however pleased on behalf of his team for the bulk of the wages having been received.

When asked about the category of workers who would have benefited most from the remittance, Boddu could not say.

"It is not a simple answer and we don't have the details of those payments. We would've made the claims but... payment covered everyone across the customs body," the Comptroller said.

In his budget 2020 presentation, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Gaston Browne announced a series of payments to reduce the government backlog in outstanding debt to employee and suppliers across the country.

ABRSC to host workshop for history teachers

Its February and the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) has joined in the recognition of February as Black History month.

The recognition comes with the vision that the history of the African people on the continent and in the Diaspora must inform our present day decision making as we seek to protect our independence.

In a statement issued earlier this week, the committee said, "We re-emphasise that the history of Africa and its peoples did not start with the European invasion and its trade in the captured and enslaved.

It's a history of greatness that can inspire our youth; it is a history of knowledge in the sciences – mathematics, astronomy, architecture among others; it is a history of creativity in language, in art, in political organization and governance; it is a history that detail the gory details of resistance and sacrifice in the struggle for the freedoms of human rights."

The Committee said, the history of African people presently engages the twenty-first century conscious efforts of many – in government and its institutions; in the non-governmental or-

ganizations, in academia, in business, to intensify the racial bonds across the continent, and across the continent and the Diaspora.

"The call for reparations from the governments of Europe for the underdevelopment of the continent and the Caribbean has been a catalyst promoting the deepening of kinship and all other relationships," the Committee said.

The main event for Black History Month in Antigua and Barbuda, according to the ABRSC, is a seminar for history teachers to be staged in the middle of the month.

"We have collaborated with

the Centre for Reparation Research (CRR)/Jamaica which shares the expertise of its affiliate Ms Nattecia Bohardsingh, history graduate of the University of the West Indies and attorney-at-law to lead deliberations at the seminar.

She is an advocate for cultural rights and the rights of vulnerable population and is on a journey to promoting the ideals of justice, human rights and dignity. History is an important subject in her mission."

In 2019, the ABRSC participated in media programmes and in exhibitions at the Villa and Pigott's Primary Schools.

Immigration officers scolded

Immigration officers who make it a practice to treat non-nationals unfairly have been put on notice that such actions will no longer be tolerated.

Speaking in parliament on Tuesday, Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade Minister, Hon. E. P Chet Greene, said he has received several reports from members of the non-national community who speak of bad experiences at the Immigration Department.

According to Greene the reports include allegations that some non-nationals have been told to 'go back where you come from'.

He said the policy of the government

is that all persons, irrespective of their origin, should be treated equally at the department and he is asking that further reports of ill-treatment should be reported directly to him as 'the buck stops with me'.

"What currently obtains at the Immigration cannot continue. We want a professionally run Department where the policies of the government are carried out by all officers," Greene declared.

The minister repeated a warning issued to immigration officers last year when he told them that if they do not meet the requirements of the department, they should request transfers to

other areas within the public sector.

"We will not tolerate a situation where there's mounting complaints about the behavior of immigration officers in their interaction with the public, especially those from within the Caribbean region," Greene stated.

He added that these individuals chose to live in Antigua, that they pay their dues and are integrating within the society.

On another note, the minister new uniforms for the staff at the department will be available soon. This is part of efforts to improve conditions for the staff.

Governor General presents the Sir Rodney Williams Alvin Morris Memorial Award to AGHS recipients

It has been twenty one (21) years since the passing of former educator Alvin Morris and the twenty first year since Sir Rodney Williams has presented the plaque in memory of the late educator to the top Information Technology Student at the Antigua Girls' High School.

The late Alvin Morris was a dedicated Mathematics and Information Technology Teacher who taught at the Antigua Girls High School for many years. He had great interest in his students and wanted them to have the best possible results. As such, Mr. Morris used to stay at school very late in the evenings to prepare for his classes and to grade assignments so the students could have ready feedback to improve on any weak areas. One evening in April 1999, while he was grading SBA's for his Form Five Students on compound of the


Antigua Girls High School, a savage individual attacked and killed him. His body was found on the grounds of the school on the morning of April 06, 1999. He was snatched from this life at the age of 32. Sadly, no one has been convicted for his death.

The late Alvin Morris was also a national sports figure. He played cricket for Antigua and the Leeward Islands. He was a prolific batsman and spin bowler. Upon the recommendation of the then Minister of Education, the Honourable Rodney Williams, and in recognition of his sterling contribution to the Antigua Girls High School, an annual award was instituted in his honour.

The Sir Rodney Williams Alvin Morris Award was presented today at the Antigua Girls' High School Anniversary Service to 20 students who all took the top position

in the school at the 2019 CXC Information Technology SEC Examinations. Each student was presented with a pin and

their names engraved on a perpetual plaque. The service was held at the St. John's Anglican Cathedral.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE	
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CLAIM NO: ANUHC2017/0441	
In the Matter of a Mortgage Claim under Section 72 of the Registered Land Act (Cap. 374)	
BETWEEN:	RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA Applicant/Claimant
	And LARRY JACKSON Respondent/1 st Defendant
	COLEEN JACKSON Respondent/2 nd Defendant
ORDER	
BEFORE: THE HONORABLE JUSTICE ROSALYN E. WILKINSON (IN CHAMBERS)	
DATED: 18 th	DAY OF September 2017
ENTERED THE: 20 th	DAY OF September 2017
UPON the Application and Affidavit in Support of Gayle Samuel-Browne, filed on the 25 th August, 2017;	
AND UPON HEARING Counsel for the Applicant/Claimant Ms. Andrea Smithen of Messrs. Marshall & Co;	
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:	
1. The Applicant/Claimant is granted leave to serve the Respondents/Defendants the Fixed Date Claim Form and Affidavit filed in Support by substituted service via two (2) consecutive publications in a Daily Newspaper in circulation within the State of Antigua and Barbuda.	
2. The Applicant/Claimant is granted leave to serve any and/or all further proceedings/pleadings by substituted service via two (2) consecutive publications in a Daily Newspaper in circulation within the State of Antigua and Barbuda.	
BY THE COURT	
 REGISTRAR	

Nedd, point guard for Ministry of Agriculture, Barbuda Affairs ...confirmation today at Gov't House

Senator Knackecynta Nedd will today be confirmed in the post of Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The appointment comes on the heels of the recent appointment of new Minister of Agriculture Samantha Marshall, after a failed stint by predecessor Dean Jonas.

Speaking with PointeXpress on Tuesday, Senator Nedd - who has grown considerably in the political arena over the past year - said she was pleased with the "upgrade", but was particularly focused on ironing out the issues that have challenged the ministry over the past years and intends to work closely with the team to ensure that a common ground was established in the interest of

nation and personal building.

Senator Nedd's will receive her instruments of appointment today at the Government House.

"It means that I am now surrounded by professionals that are experienced in the political arena and it means that I have to learn from them quickly," Nedd told PointeXpress.

The young Senator will, on top of this appointment, continue to operate in the interest of Barbuda - her native island - managing its affairs on behalf of the sitting government. Delivering Barbuda from its current economic and social standing is of paramount importance, she said.

"It also means that I will get exposure to the work - the administrative work of



Senator Knackecynta Nedd governance," she said, adding that her role will not be restricted to the interest of Barbuda, but rather incorporate [fairly] the interest of both Antigua and Barbuda.

"This is how it should be. I am now the Senator with responsibility for Barbuda but [also] the Parliamentary Secretary with responsibility for Agriculture and Fisheries in both islands," Nedd said.

He role, as she explains, will see the lending of support to the new Minister Samantha Marshall, who already has a full plate of portfolios.

"The minister will take the lead and I will follow closely behind. [But] when it comes to Barbuda affairs, she has given me the lead and she will follow closely behind," Nedd said confidently - noting that her new team leader has made it "pretty easy in terms of what we need to accomplish in the short and long term."

These short to long term goals are along the lines of both policy and industrial relations, where the mandate

of the nation is accomplished and the comfort and stability of those charged with the execution of this mandate are relaxed.

"There are a lot of areas that have not been given enough attention. There is a log of infrastructural upgrades that have to be done... and we are going to be looking at that. On the admin side, the staff feel their cries weren't being addressed and we have vowed to address those. You just need to assure the workers [but] we are not going to make promises that we can't keep," Nedd said.

Aside from her Agricultural duties, Nedd said she has begun the process of arranging a sit-down with the Barbuda Council.

This is to take place as soon as the Budget Debate has concluded, and comes with the aim of establishing "a foundation" on plans for the sister isle going forward, and - specifically - how the affairs of the island are intended to be handled.

"It is the first time in years that a government office is not restricted to a particular ministry. It encompasses Barbuda affairs on a whole," Senator Nedd said.

A letter is currently being drafted to ensure this sit-down takes place.

Senator Nedd will be sworn in as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries today.

TENDER NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

Supply of Computer Systems

Sixty-Two (62) for Secondary Schools AND

Thirty (30) for Primary Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION - 1994

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, invites interested vendors to bid for the contract to supply a total of **Ninety-Two (92) Computer Systems** (as specified above), to the **Board of Education - 1994**.

The **Specification** for the referenced tender can be obtained by making a request at the Tenders Board Office, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua, (268) 562-5825 or 562-5826.

Two (2) original copies of your bid/proposal must be submitted in sealed envelopes **marked**:

- **Tender for the supply of "62 Computer Systems for Secondary Schools" and "30 Computer Systems for Primary Schools" - Board of Education 1994**

Your bid/proposal must be submitted in sealed envelopes no later than:

- ❖ **12 noon on 03 March 2020** and addressed to **Chairman, Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua.**

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any other tender and will not accept liability for any cost incurred by the Bidder.

Antigua and Barbuda elected to Presiding Officers Board at Women for Latin America and the Caribbean Conference

Antigua & Barbuda had strong representation and participation at the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Conference is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) convened triennially to identify the situation of women's autonomy and rights at the regional and sub-regional levels. The Conference, conducted in collaboration with UN Women, considers present public policy recommendations for gender equality, undertakes periodic assessments of the activities carried out in fulfillment of regional and international plans and agreements on the subject and serves as a forum for debates on relevant issues.

Antigua & Barbuda was represented by Hon. Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, Youth and Gender Affairs, Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall, and Executive Director, Directorate of Gender Affairs, Farmala Jacobs.

A highlight of the meeting was Antigua and Barbuda's re-election to the Presiding Officers Board for the Regional Conference on Women for Latin America and the Caribbean. Antigua and Barbuda will serve as Vice President on the board alongside Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay under the Presidency of Chile. The board will act as the preparatory body for the upcoming Regional Conference on Women for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Argentina in 2022 and coordinate to manage many of the important review processes starting in 2020.

Additionally, Minister Marshall presented on several high-level panels

and side events on the Montevideo Strategy and the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, focusing on the specific priorities and concerns of the Caribbean, women in leadership and innovative solutions to address climate change and promote women's economic empowerment in a changing region.

Minister Marshall joined with the organizers of the conference in recognizing that the year 2020 is a pivotal one for accelerating the realization of gender equality and the autonomy of all women and girls in the region. She highlighted the lived experiences and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States like Antigua and Barbuda, who stand on the frontline of the climate crisis and reiterated that these international commitments must serve us all well.

"The reality is, as we try to fulfill our commitments to the international and regional "gender agenda" and advocate for more recognition and stronger voices in these spaces, we are being faced with challenges that have been described as "unfamiliar, unprecedented and urgent." We are constantly considering whether we will be impacted by tropical storms, hurricanes, droughts, floods, earthquakes and or tsunamis", highlighted Minister Marshall.

"We need fiscal and policy space, access to financing, technical support, new technologies, the creation of new industries, and a new national development pathway to achieve sustainable development. We need solidarity and support from an international community that understands and recognizes our unique needs and realities."

In response to the presentation made by the Caribbean Panel, Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC's Executive Secretary, highlighted the need for Latin America to make a very firm commitment to



Hon. Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, Youth and Gender Affairs, Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Samantha Marshall

stand in solidarity with the Caribbean in many fronts, especially considering the vulnerability of the Caribbean to climate change. She also spoke about concrete measures that UN ECLAC is promoting to support Small Island Developing States. These include a debt for climate adaptation swap initiative and the creation of a resilience fund for each country to manage, as well as an appeal to the international community to agree for Small Island Developing States to have free access to technology for innovative solutions to the unique challenges posed by climate change.

At a side event hosted by ParlAmericas in collaboration with PAHO, UN Women, CIM, UNDP, UN ECLAC, CIWIL, CAF, BID and CLADEM and the government of Canada, Antigua and Barbuda's Support and Referral Centre and the Sexual Offences Model Court were highlighted as good practices in the Caribbean region to address gender-based violence. In her remarks, Minister Marshall signaled the need for women in leadership to create spaces to promote the leadership and participation of younger women in decision-making.



Antigua Commercial Bank

PRESS RELEASE

The **64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Shareholders of **ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.** was held at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa, Dickenson Bay, St. John's, Antigua, on **Thursday January 30, 2020**. The event was for the first time streamed live via our website www.acbonline.com and available for private viewing by our over 5000 shareholders, further cementing our leadership in the market in the area of shareholder engagement.

As the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank's 2019 Bank of the Year Awardee in Corporate Governance, the ACB Group remains committed to compliance with established best practices to foster a culture of integrity and accountability throughout the organization.

The **ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK GROUP (ACB GROUP)**, recorded a **Consolidated Net Profit** of **\$20.7 million** for the financial year ended September 30, 2019. It also maintained its status as a "billion dollar bank" with total assets of **\$1.3 billion**, reflecting continued strong liquidity and capitalization.

The Bank's wholly owned Subsidiary, **ACB MORTGAGE & TRUST COMPANY LIMITED** recorded its highest Net Profit ever of **\$9.73 million**, a 17.8% increase over prior year. Total Assets grew by **\$10.23 million** or 3.3%.

Shareholders declared a **CASH DIVIDEND** of **\$0.50** for each share in respect of the financial year ended September 30, 2019, to be paid to shareholders on record as at January 20, 2020.

In relation to the composition of the **ACB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, **REGINALD N. PETERSON** retired from the Board prior to the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Clause 4.5.2 (h) of the Company's Bylaws. The Board recognizes the former Vice Chairman for his invaluable contribution during his tenure.

Additionally, **MAVIS GEORGE** retired from the Board in compliance with section 3 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2009. The Board takes this opportunity to pay tribute to former Vice Chairman George for her service to the ACB Group.

ADEKUNLE OSOBA also retired from the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting, having served since his election to the Board on March 9, 2017. The Board acknowledges his service during his tenure.



REGINALD N. PETERSON
FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN



MAVIS GEORGE
FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN



ADEKUNLE OSOBA
FORMER DIRECTOR

RETIRING DIRECTOR CASSANDRA P. SIMON was re-elected to the Board, while **DESIREE A. ZACHARIAH, ERIC E. JOSEPH** and **DYNA M. HARNEY-BARNES** were newly elected.



CASSANDRA P. SIMON
DIRECTOR



DESIREE A. ZACHARIAH
DIRECTOR



ERIC E. JOSEPH
DIRECTOR



DYNA M. HARNEY-BARNES
DIRECTOR

The present members of the Board of Directors of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. are:-

- LORRAINE RAEBURN - CHAIRMAN
- SHARON A. MATTHEW- EDWARDS - VICE CHAIRMAN
- SANDRA DERRICK
- CASSANDRA P. SIMON
- C. DAVIDSON CHARLES
- C. KEVIN SILSTON
- C. KAMILAH ROBERTS
- DESIREE A. ZACHARIAH
- ERIC E. JOSEPH
- DYNA M. HARNEY - BARNES

Audit Firm, **KPMG**, was re-appointed as the Group's External Auditor for the year ending September 30, 2020.

The **ACB GROUP'S 64th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** was hosted under the theme of its **ANNUAL REPORT 2019, "EMPOWERING ASPIRATIONS; ENABLING ACHIEVEMENT"**, a theme that powerfully captures the ethos of the Antiguan and Barbudan spirit as expressed in our country's National Anthem, **"EACH ENDEAVOURING; ALL ACHIEVING"**.

During the financial year under review, the **ACB GROUP** adopted new Vision and Mission Statements:

OUR VISION

Empowering those we serve to achieve wealth and value beyond their expectations.

OUR MISSION

To create shared value through exceptional financial services built on best practices and our foundation as an indigenous institution.

IN LOOKING AHEAD, the ACB GROUP'S Strategy will continue to focus on maximizing shareholder value by institutional strengthening in the following areas:

- pursuing growth and sustainability of earnings
- enhancing the customer experience
- improving operational efficiency through automation
- creating a cadre of highly skilled, professional and productive work force.

The Group further records its commitment to exceeding the expectations of its supportive shareholders, dedicated employees, loyal customers and the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

RHODETTE PAIGE
LEGAL COUNSEL/ CORPORATE SECRETARY

February 5, 2020

Antigua Commercial Bank - 2019 Summary Financial Statements



KPMG

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St. John's
Antigua

Telephone: 1 (268) 562-9172

Email: ecinfo@kpmg.ag

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Shareholders of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd.

Report on the Audit of the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

The summary consolidated financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at September 30, 2019, the summary consolidated statements of income, profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. ("the Group") for the year ended September 30, 2019.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards. Reading the summary consolidated financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements and our report thereon.

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements in our report dated January 10, 2020.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (cont'd)

To the Shareholders of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Chartered Accountants
January 10, 2020

Antigua and Barbuda

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Assets		
Cash and balances with the Central Bank	\$ 169,110,446	214,760,039
Due from other banks	97,482,109	71,838,547
Treasury bills	89,836,565	90,223,743
Statutory deposit	5,985,440	5,874,812
Loans and advances	674,762,574	659,077,207
Other assets	15,434,041	22,221,662
Investment securities	184,810,877	113,625,445
Property and equipment	34,529,550	32,811,807
Pension asset	7,581,763	8,109,502
Total Assets	\$ 1,279,493,185	1,218,342,764
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Income tax payable	\$ 3,826,505	1,173,830
Deposits due to customers	1,008,480,032	972,880,583
Provisions and other liabilities	16,793,189	18,620,392
Deferred tax liability	5,775,417	7,277,536
Total Liabilities	1,034,875,143	999,952,341
Equity		
Stated capital	36,000,000	36,000,000
Statutory reserve	26,059,962	23,459,372
Other reserves	75,160,350	58,623,186
Retained earnings	107,397,710	100,307,855
Total Equity	244,618,022	218,390,423
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 1,279,493,185	1,218,342,764

Approved for issue by the Board of Directors on January 10, 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman Director
 Director

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Income

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Interest income		
Income from loans and advances	\$ 52,366,010	44,082,198
Income from deposits with other banks and investments	12,237,396	9,244,418
	64,603,406	53,326,616
Interest expense		
Savings accounts	10,117,888	10,439,998
Time deposits and current accounts	4,393,344	4,943,057
Investment expenses	28,777	30,224
	14,540,009	15,413,279
Net interest income	50,063,397	37,913,337
Other operating income	16,927,728	14,518,845
Total income	66,991,125	52,432,182
Operating expenses		
General and administrative expenses	28,923,335	26,006,330
Depreciation	2,198,204	1,995,345
Directors' fees and expenses	944,182	999,304
Provision for loan impairment	10,874,896	190,880
Provision for impairment of other financial assets	7,790	118,699
Property – revaluation adjustment	(1,300,392)	-
	41,648,015	29,310,558
Profit before tax	25,343,110	23,121,624
Taxation		
Current tax expense	3,888,538	1,075,173
Deferred tax expense	719,141	2,329,293
	4,607,679	3,404,466
Profit for the year	\$ 20,735,431	19,717,158
Earnings per share	\$ 2.07	1.97

Antigua Commercial Bank - 2019 Summary Financial Statements



ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Profit for the year	\$ 20,735,431	19,717,158
Other comprehensive income:		
<i>Items net of tax that are or may be reclassified to profit or loss in the future:</i>		
Increase in fair value of AFS equity securities, net of taxes of \$nil (2018: \$211,293)	-	628,502
	-	628,502
<i>Items net of tax that will never be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Increase in fair value of FVOCI equity securities, net of taxes of \$1,979	5,934	-
Revaluation surplus due to increase in fair value of property	585,000	-
Actuarial loss for the year, net of taxes of \$280,844 (2018: \$170,869)	(842,534)	(512,607)
Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	\$ (251,600)	115,895
Total comprehensive income for the year	\$ 20,483,831	19,833,053

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2019	2018
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the year	\$ 20,735,431	19,717,158
Items not affecting cash:		
Provision for loan impairment	10,874,896	190,880
Provision for impairment of other financial assets	7,790	118,699
Depreciation	2,198,204	1,995,345
Pension income	(173,144)	(156,679)
Property revaluation adjustment	(1,300,392)	-
Interest income	(64,603,406)	(53,326,616)
Interest expense	14,540,009	15,413,279
Tax expense	4,607,679	3,404,466
Cash flows used in operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities	(13,112,933)	(12,643,468)
Change in statutory deposit	(90,628)	(29,263)
Change in other receivables and other assets	6,219,102	(3,009,381)
Change in loans and advances	(31,519,633)	(9,337,375)
Change in deposits due to customers	35,585,840	33,343,196
Change in provisions and other liabilities	(3,320,181)	1,035,191
Cash flows (used in)/from operating activities before interest, taxes and pension contributions	(6,238,433)	9,358,900
Interest received	63,123,298	52,777,444
Interest paid	(14,526,400)	(14,722,141)
Taxes paid	(1,184,051)	(3,835,757)
Pension contributions paid	(402,495)	(384,505)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	40,771,919	43,193,941
Cash flows from investing activities		
Redemption of investment securities	19,843,110	5,903,908
Purchase of short-term investments	(25,000,000)	(65,477,912)
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,230,555)	(3,347,494)
Purchase of investment securities	(52,292,708)	(13,941,022)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(59,680,153)	(76,862,520)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(22,908,234)	(37,668,579)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	226,101,952	263,770,531
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 203,193,718	226,101,952

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserves	Revaluation Reserve: FVOCI	Capital Reserve	Revaluation Reserve – PPE	Pension Reserve	Regulatory Loan Loss Reserve	Retained Earnings	Total
Balance at September 30, 2018 as previously stated	\$ 36,000,000	23,459,372	2,736,004	7,461,949	5,317,922	8,109,502	34,997,809	100,307,865	218,390,423
Changes on initial application of IFRS 9	-	-	16,493,969	-	-	-	-	(6,750,201)	9,743,768
Restated balance at October 1, 2018	36,000,000	23,459,372	19,229,973	7,461,949	5,317,922	8,109,502	34,997,809	93,557,664	228,134,191
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,735,431	20,735,431
Other comprehensive income	-	-	5,934	-	585,000	-	-	(842,534)	(251,600)
Total comprehensive income	-	-	5,934	-	585,000	-	-	19,892,897	20,483,831
Transfer to reserve fund	-	2,600,590	-	-	-	-	-	(2,600,590)	-
Decrease in pension reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(547,739)	-	547,739	-
Transactions with owners									
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Balance September 30, 2019	\$ 36,000,000	26,059,962	19,235,907	7,461,949	5,902,922	7,561,763	34,997,809	107,397,710	244,618,022

Antigua Commercial Bank - 2019 Summary Financial Statements



ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity (cont'd)

For the year ended September 30, 2019
with comparative figures for 2018

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	Stated Capital	Statutory Reserves	Revaluation Reserve: FVOCI	Capital Reserve	Revaluation Reserve – PPE	Pension Reserve	Regulatory Loan Loss Reserve	Retained Earnings	Total
Balance at September 30, 2017	\$ 36,000,000	20,768,281	2,107,502	7,461,949	5,317,922	8,251,792	16,438,353	106,211,571	202,557,370
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,717,158	19,717,158
Other comprehensive income	-	-	628,502	-	-	-	-	(512,607)	115,895
Total comprehensive income	-	-	628,502	-	-	-	-	19,204,551	19,833,053
Transfer to reserve fund	-	2,691,091	-	-	-	-	-	(2,691,091)	-
Increase in reserve for loan loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,559,456	(18,559,456)	-
Decrease in pension reserve	-	-	-	-	-	(142,290)	-	142,290	-
Transaction with owners									
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)
Balance at September 30, 2018	\$ 36,000,000	23,459,372	2,736,004	7,461,949	5,317,992	8,109,502	34,997,809	100,307,865	218,390,423

ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.

Notes to Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

September 30, 2019

(Expressed in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

1. Basis of preparation

These summary consolidated financial statements are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Antigua Commercial Bank Ltd. for the year ended September 30, 2019 and have been prepared in accordance with criteria developed by management.

Trinidad seeks “fair share” of earned revenue from Guyana’s oil resources

Trinidad and Tobago is poised to participate in the exploitation of hydrocarbons in marine areas off the Guyana-Suriname basin should its efforts to extend the limits of its Continental Shelf be successful.

He made this disclosure earlier this week at the opening Ceremony of Trinidad and Tobago’s Energy Conference, PM Dr. Keith Rowley said that the country’s claim is to be presented to the United Nations Commission this year and if successful, would extend the country’s maritime jurisdiction seawards to areas in proximity to the oil rich Guyana-Suriname Basin.

The Prime Minister was keen to note that exploration successes for oil and gas, particularly in Guyana, have radically changed the perception as well as interest in the region. Dr. Rowley said that the region, with justification, is now being heralded as the next major oil and gas province.

He said that this has generated unprecedented interest by upstream companies in the region. Guyana has been the main recipient of investment in exploration and development by these companies, he added.

It is estimated that the discoveries in Guyana hold cumulative recoverable resources of over eight billion barrels of oil equivalent.

And spurred on by this Guyana success, Dr. Rowley

noted that there is exploration activity along the length and breadth of the Caribbean and with some success. In this regard, he highlighted that US Corporation, Apache Oil and Gas, recently announced a major oil find off the coast of Suriname.

With an estimated resource potential of 13.6 billion barrels, the United States Geological Survey ranks the Guyana-Suriname Basin second in the world for prospectivity among the world’s unexplored basins and 12th for oil among all the world’s basins – explored and unexplored.

Outside of Guyana and Suriname, Dr. Rowley said that other Caribbean countries are seeking to capitalise on the interest shown in the region by the investing energy companies.

In this regard, he pointed out that Barbados has granted licences to the Australian multinational conglomerate, BHP to explore off its South-East Coast and to the Spanish company Repsol to explore to the Northwest of the island.

In the meantime, Tullow



Acclaimed poet Edward Kamau Brathwaite passes away

and its partners continue to prospect on a huge block to the south of Jamaica on the Pedro Banks, while the Bahamas Petroleum Company is conducting exploration to the South-West of Andros Island.

He also reminded that Global Petroleum Group has found some gas close to Grenada’s maritime border with Venezuela.

Considering the foregoing developments, the Prime Minister was keen to note that Trinidad and Tobago, with its long history in the industry, is well poised to assist the new entrants being Guyana, Grenada, Barbados, Jamaica and the Bahamas, in the development of their petroleum sectors.

He said that to date, Trinidad has entered into Memo-

randa of Co-operation with Guyana, Grenada and Barbados for provision of technical assistance. He also noted that preliminary discussions are in their early stages on the development of Unitization Agreements with Grenada and Barbados for the exploitation of hydrocarbons reservoirs that extend beyond our respective maritime borders.

The Prime Minister said that Trinidad and Tobago by virtue of its location has an opportunity to provide logistical and offshore support to operators in the emerging Caribbean Oil and Gas economies. He said that this will require the expansion of the country’s marine infrastructure on its South East Coast.

Dr. Rowley said that active consideration is being given to the expansion of the Galeota Port to meet the demand for services that will be generated by exploration in new marine blocks on the South East and East Coasts of Trinidad and Tobago and in offshore oil and gas developments in the Guianas and other Caribbean countries.

Acclaimed poet Edward Kamau Brathwaite passes away

Acclaimed poet Edward Kamau Brathwaite, one of the godfathers of modern West Indian literature, who coined the term “nation language” in championing creolisation in Caribbean culture and thought has died, four months short of his 90th birthday.

He is credited with extensive writing and

thought in developing the concept of Creole identity, a predominantly Afrocentric mindset.

This now leaves novelist George Lamming as the sole surviving Barbadian contributor to post-war Caribbean English literature, following the death of novelist Paule Marshall in the US.

Commonwealth helps strengthen fight against cybercrime in Caribbean

Law enforcers and legal experts in the Caribbean are now better equipped to combat cyber criminals, thanks to a Commonwealth workshop.

A four-day 'Train the Trainers' session to increase understanding around cybercrime and electronic evidence has been held in Barbados.

The workshop was a collaboration between the Commonwealth and the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS).

It was funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office as part of the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Cybersecurity/Crime Action Plan.

The aim was to equip participants from various Commonwealth Caribbean countries with skills and knowledge of electronic evidence required to fulfil their roles in cybercrime and cyber-enabled cases.

Attendees included trainers from the three major law schools in the Caribbean,

the police, officers of departments of public prosecution, lawyers, officers of the regional security systems, parliamentary counsel, digital forensic examiners and information and communications technology officers.

The workshop focused on the handling, presentation and admissibility requirements of electronic evidence, and provided trainers with the tools to embed the learning in their respective jurisdictions.

Materials produced by the Commonwealth, including a Good Practice Guide for Digital Evidence: An Introductory Guide for Law Enforcement Officer, Prosecutors, Judges, were given out as consultants took participants through the training exercise.

The UK High Commissioner to Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, Janet Douglas, addressed the opening of the workshop.

Matthew Moorhead, acting head of the Commonwealth Office of Civil and



Criminal Justice Reform (OCCJR), said the 40-plus participants would now return to law enforcement agencies, courtrooms, and law schools across the Caribbean ready to train colleagues to combat cybercrime and handle electronic evidence.

He added: "We are proud to be leading this important programme of work."

"Cybercrime is an increasing menace in the digital age, causing financial damage running into billions of dollars and having many other serious consequences."

CARICOM to combat coronavirus misinformation

The Council for Human and Social Development (Health) held an Emergency Meeting via video conference, earlier this week, under the chairmanship of Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Antigua and Barbuda Hon Molwyn Joseph.

Secretary General of the Caribbean Community, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, joined the meeting from the CARICOM Headquarters in Georgetown, Guyana.

Representatives of the Ca-

ibbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) – all Community Institutions – as well as the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), provided updates to the Ministers and Officials in relation to a Regional Response and Guidelines for action on the Novel Corona Virus (nCoV 19).

The Florida Caribbean

Cruise Association (FCCA) also made a presentation to the meeting regarding the measures they have implemented to minimise the transmission of the disease.

The Ministers and Officials agreed that the comprehensive Communications Strategy would address misinformation about the virus, as well as provide citizens with correct information on how the situation is being addressed.

The strategy will target various audiences and include

information about the ways in which the virus can be prevented, transmitted and controlled.

It was also recommended at the meeting that the Region agree to a coordinated, standard approach for handling of entry to air and sea ports. Issues such as the roles and functions of personnel at the ports; transporting of samples for testing; dialogue with airlines and cruise lines; and action to be taken before, during and after an outbreak, were all discussed.

St. Kitts welcomes Koi Resort, Curio Collection by Hilton

St. Kitts has announced the opening of KOI Resort St. Kitts, Curio Collection by Hilton, which represents the brand's debut on island as well as KOI Hospitality's first entry into the hotel space. The 102-room oceanfront haven is the latest addition to St. Kitts' growing hotel portfolio, having most recently welcomed the Park Hyatt St. Kitts at Christophe Harbour to the destination in November 2017.

"We are thrilled to be home to the Hilton brand's first property in St. Kitts as well as the first KOI Hospitality hotel," said the Hon. Mr. Lindsay F.P. Grant, Minister of Tourism, International Trade, Industry and Commerce. "As we continue to build and develop our stayover tourism, the addition of select upscale properties balances the strategic growth of our airlift service from key non-stop gateways and flow markets. The opening of Koi Resort St. Kitts not only adds room stock to our current hotel inventory, it provides further diversity in the accommodations options we can offer visitors."

Racquel Brown, CEO of the St. Kitts Tourism Authority, added, "The opening of KOI Resort St. Kitts as a Curio Collection by Hilton brand that appeals to the experiential destination travelers who comprise our primary target market is a benefit to



our tourism sector. As more lifestyle travelers are choosing St. Kitts as their destination of choice, it will help us to remain 'on the rise' in what is one of the most competitive regions in the world for tourism."

KOI Hospitality owns and operates the acclaimed KOI restaurants in New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and additional international locations. Meaning 'love' in Japanese, the 'KOI' name was the inspiration behind the love and care that was put into the property, including the resort's meticulously appointed guest rooms, delectable cuisine and poolside programming.

Situated along Half Moon Bay adjacent to the Royal St. Kitts Golf Club, KOI Resort St. Kitts is launching a new lifestyle, vibe and frame of mind for those visiting the destination by offering Asian-inspired design, locally-inspired programming, globally celebrated cuisine by KOI Hospitality and immeasurable experiences for travelers.

Set on prime beachfront property just minutes from the Robert L Bradshaw International airport, KOI Resort St. Kitts features 102 guestrooms, a full-service pool terrace overlooking the ocean, a well-equipped gym, upscale spa treatments and a variety of elevated dining options, including the famed KOI Restaurant.

Guestrooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows leading out to tranquil terraces with panoramic views of the ocean, golf course or nearby mountains and offer a variety of signature design elements and luxurious amenities including soothing rain showers, relaxing bathtubs, lavish beds and modern comforts.

The resort's pool is situated just steps from the ocean and includes a terrace complete with plush lounge beds. Notable amenities include the Kaya Spa, offering with a wide variety of body treatments, massages and facials in a tranquil setting, and an on-site fitness facility at the well-appointed Kaya Wellness.

Three culinary outlets offer style, haute cuisine and attentive service: the KOI Restaurant brand's signature KOI Restaurant, a sophisticated blend of modern elegance and Asian tradition serving Japanese cuisine; Jaya Kitchen & Cocktails, the resort's poolside bar and restaurant serving beach-inspired entrees and snacks; and Jaya Ultra Lounge, serving a menu of Caribbean-inspired libations and customized craft cocktails.

Every detail of the property was curated by the KOI Hospitality executive team to retain the vision of KOI restaurants with design that appeals to all senses.

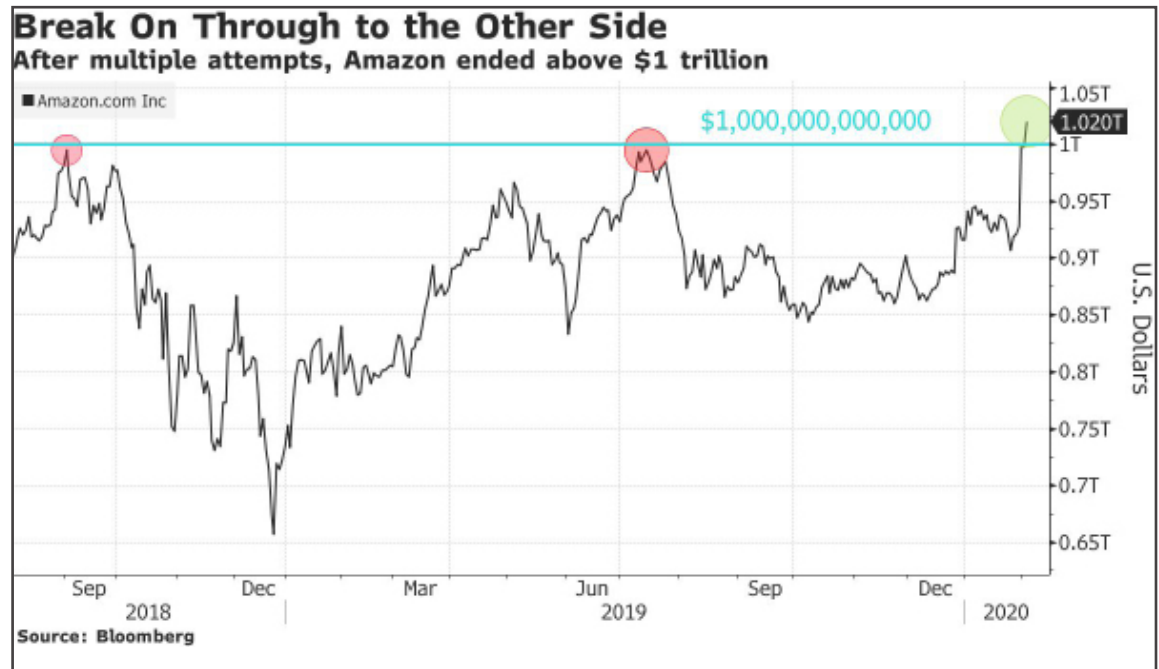
They have created experiences at the highest quality standard that are intended to provide a sanctuary for locals and visitors alike. With a striking yet minimalistic design, the lobby interiors were inspired by the majestic and zen vibe reminiscent of Southeast Asia adorned with handcrafted details, rich textures and unique pieces of art inspired by the local culture.

Amazon Finally Closes Above \$1 Trillion After Months of Flirting

Amazon.com Inc. closed with a valuation above \$1 trillion for the first time on Tuesday, after failing to hold above that threshold through the end of a trading day in the previous two sessions.

The stock closed up 2.3%, with the e-commerce company ending the day with a market cap of \$1.021 trillion. Amazon briefly joined the 13-digit club on Friday, with shares surging in the wake of a blowout earnings report, but the stock closed off its high and ended with a valuation of \$999.96 billion. The pattern repeated on Monday, with an intraday bounce above the level failing to hold.

This was something of a



familiar story for the company. Amazon first earned a \$1 trillion valuation in September 2018, but that was also on an intraday basis, and it failed to stay above

the level through the close. The company also neared it in July 2019, again without success.

Amazon is only the fourth U.S. stock to close with this

valuation, following Apple Inc., Microsoft Corp., and Alphabet Inc., which joined the elite club for the first time just last month. Alphabet closed with a market valuation of about \$993 billion on Tuesday after a disappointing earnings report sent the stock down 2.5%. Globally, the list also includes Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia's national oil company, which currently has a market cap of about \$1.8 trillion.

The milestone also further extends the wealth of Jeff Bezos, Amazon's chief executive officer, who owns more than 11.5% of outstanding Amazon shares, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Bezos, the richest man in the world, has a net worth of about \$124 billion.

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Coronavirus: Window of opportunity to act, World Health Organization says

The World Health Organization (WHO) says there is a “window of opportunity” to stop the deadly new coronavirus becoming a broader global crisis.

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the steps China took to fight the virus at its epicentre were a good way of stopping its spread.

The praise comes as Chinese officials have been widely criticised for their initial handling of the outbreak.

At least 427 people have died with more than 20,000 confirmed cases worldwide.

The WHO has declared a global health emergency over the outbreak but said it did not yet constitute a “pandemic”, or the worldwide spread of a new disease. Officials say 425 people have died in China, one in Hong Kong and one in the Philippines.

About 80% of those who died were over the age of 60, and 75% of them had pre-existing health conditions such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, according to China’s National Health Commission (NHC).

The new coronavirus causes severe acute respi-

ratory infection and symptoms usually start with a fever, followed by a dry cough. Most people infected are likely to fully recover - just as they would from a flu.

What did the WHO say? Speaking at a technical briefing in Geneva, Dr Tedros praised the Chinese authorities for their response at the epicentre of the outbreak - the city of Wuhan, in the province of Hubei, where millions of people are on lockdown and severe transport restrictions have been imposed.

“There is a window of opportunity because of the high measures, the strong measures China is taking at the epicentre, at the source. So let’s use this opportunity to prevent further spread and control it,” he said, stressing that developed countries were failing to share data.

The comments come a day after China’s top leadership admitted “shortcomings and deficiencies” in the country’s response. The government has also been accused of downplaying the severity of the virus at the start of the outbreak and in some cases, attempting to keep news of it secret.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CLAIM NO: ANUHCv2017/0441

In the Matter of a Mortgage Claim under Section 72
of the Registered Land Act (Cap. 374)

RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
-and-
LARRY JACKSON
COLEEN JACKSON

Claimant
1st Defendant
2nd Defendant

FIXED DATE CLAIM FORM
(RULE 66.2 (1) of the CPR)

The Claimant:
Of: RBC Royal Bank of Canada
Market Street and High Street in the City of Saint John, Antigua

Claims against:

The 1st Defendant:
Of: Larry Jackson
Matthew Road, Gray Hill in the Parish of Saint John, Antigua

And

The 2nd Defendant
Of: Coleen Jackson
Matthew Road, Gray Hill in the Parish of Saint John, Antigua

FOR:-

(a) Delivery of possession of the charged property being that more particularly described in the Land Registry as **Registration Section: Grays Farm; Block #: 68 1691F; Parcel#: 135;** and

(b) The payment of the principal balance of EC\$211,033.63, late charges of EC\$2,600.00 and accrued interest of EC\$106,519.30 as at 25th August, 2017 and interest continuing to accrue at the rate of 7.99% per annum or EC\$46.20 per day from 26th August, 2017;


(c) An Order to sell the charged property;

(d) Costs; and


(e) Such other relief as this Honourable Court deems fit.

CERTIFICATE OF TRUTH

I, GAYLE SAMUEL BROWNE, Senior Accounts Manager at Royal bank of Canada, the Claimant herein, hereby certify that I believe the facts stated in the Fixed Date Claim Form are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.


GAYLE SAMUEL-BROWNE
RBC Royal Bank of Canada
Claimant

Dated the 25th day of August, 2017

Signed 
ANDREA L. SMITHEN
MARSHALL & CO.
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant

This Fixed Date Claim Form was filed by Messrs. Marshall & Co., Attorneys-at-Law, Ann Rebecca House, Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua. Telephone Nos: 1 (268) 462-3572/73/74 Fax No. 1 (268) 462-3563 e-mail: msco@mcmlaw.com Attorneys for the above-named Claimant whose address for service is the same.

Buttigieg takes lead, Biden lags in Democrats' first 2020 results

DES MOINES, Iowa (Reuters) - Pete Buttigieg took a narrow lead in the first batch of long-delayed results from the chaotic Iowa Democratic Party caucuses on Tuesday, and former Vice President Joe Biden trailed badly in fourth place with about 62% of precincts reporting.

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders was a close second place and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren placed third in the first results, released nearly 21 hours after Iowans poured into more than 1,600 public locations to begin the five-month process of picking a challenger to Republican President Donald Trump.

In Tuesday's first results of state delegate equivalents, the data traditionally reported to determine the winner, Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, had 26.9%, Sanders had 25.1%, Warren 18.3% and Biden 15.6%. Senator Amy Klobuchar



Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg

was fifth at 12.6%.

If elected, Buttigieg, 38, would be the first openly gay U.S. president. A military veteran, he served in Afghanistan before becoming mayor of South Bend, a city of 102,000 people.

Sanders, 78, was ahead in the popular vote, which is not used to determine the delegates who will cast ballots at the Democratic National Convention in July. An independent, Sanders calls himself a democratic

socialist.

It was a clumsy start to voting. Officials blamed inconsistencies related to a new mobile app used for vote counting for the unusual delay in Iowa, the state that traditionally kicks off a U.S. presidential election campaign that culminates this year on Nov. 3.

The uncertainty enraged Democrats worried it would only strengthen Trump's bid for re-election and prompted some Dem-

ocratic candidates' campaigns to question whether the results would be legitimate.

"As leader of the party I apologize deeply for this," Iowa State Party Chairman Troy Price told reporters. "We've been working day and night to make sure these results are accurate."

Some Democrats have long complained that the largely white farm state has an outsized role in determining the party's presi-

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Lesotho First Lady

Maesaiah Thabane faces charge of murdering rival

The wife of the prime minister of Lesotho is to be charged with murdering his previous wife.

First Lady Maesaiah Thabane handed herself in to be questioned by police in the southern African mountain kingdom.

Prime Minister Thomas Thabane has also been questioned about the killing.

His estranged wife, Lilipolelo Thabane, was shot dead outside her home in

the capital Maseru two days before his inauguration in 2017.

The couple were involved in bitter divorce proceedings at the time.

The attack was originally blamed on unknown armed men, but recent court papers filed by the country's police commissioner, Holomo Molibeli, have raised further questions.

An arrest warrant was issued for 42-year-old Maesa-

iah Thabane on 10 January after she disappeared.

She was "picked from the border" with South Africa on Tuesday after an arrangement between her lawyers and police, police spokesman Mpiti Mopeli told AFP news agency.

Police Commissioner Holomo Molibeli told the BBC that she was being held in custody and would be formally charged in court on Wednesday.

It is not clear if Maesaiah Thabane will apply for bail at the court appearance. Mr Molibeli said police will oppose her bid if she does, as she is believed to be a flight risk.

Maesaiah Thabane's lawyer, Rethabile Setlojoane, told the BBC he could not comment on the case.

Eight others in Lesotho and South Africa are also reportedly facing charges over the murder.

Last month, Mr Thabane agreed to be questioned by the police. On the day he was questioned, hundreds of opposition supporters marched through the streets of the capital, Maseru, demanding his immediate resignation.

As pressure over the case mounted, Mr Thabane announced his intention to resign on 16 January, but did not specify a date when he would do so.

Mr Thabane framed the decision to step down as retirement, making no reference to the allegations against him and his wife.

The governing party and the opposition have accused the leader of hindering the investigation into his previous wife's murder.

Mr Thabane and his current wife have not yet commented on the case.



Thomas Thabane (centre) at his inauguration in 2017 with Maesaiah Thabane, while King Letsie III (right) looks on

Your Stars Foretold



Aries

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Your creative star is in the ascendant, and there are those who are rather impressed with you or your performance. Redouble your efforts and magnify the impression.



Libra

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

If you agree to a course of action that fundamentally irritates you just to terminate a discussion, you could find yourself in a real bind. Stick to your guns and say, "No thanks."



Taurus

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Examine the ways a venture could be structured so that it takes your creative and economic needs into account. Right now you have a blank canvas upon which you can design whatever you want. So grab your crayons.



Scorpio

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Try to get as much work done as possible. Within a few days, the desire to industriously produce widgets will be replaced by the urge to loll under a tree, while holding a beverage with a parasol in it.



Gemini

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Your perfectionist tendencies notwithstanding, review some of the activities that you would enjoy but don't actually do because you aren't expert at them. Can you guess the rest? That's right-get out there and do them.



Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

While there is always a comfort to be derived from familiar routines and patterns, there's a heaping helping of inspiration to be drawn from the untried. Let the unknown take you for a spin today.



Cancer

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

If you're looking for inspiration, the instructions are simple. Anything that propels you out of your rut or your routine, even temporarily, is a growth opportunity of the first order.



Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

It's possible you've made a choice that you're not entirely crazy about. You didn't actually engrave the agreement in stone, did you? Good, because then there's still time to change your plan.



Leo

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Certain business or personal arrangements may no longer be ringing your bell the way they once did. You could gain altitude if you chose to jettison those that are weighing you down.



Aquarius

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

If you're doing what you enjoy doing, carry on. If you aren't-and only you know for sure-you ought to seriously consider what would have to happen for you to feel the love.



Virgo

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

There's really no reason to worry about future events. Your time is far better spent becoming excited about the fun you can have extracting enjoyment from your existing-the operative word is existing-resources.



Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Have confidence in your efforts. You have quite an assortment of options and a wealth of talents, all of which are far more worthy of your attention than the hole in the bucket, dear 'Liza or Henry.



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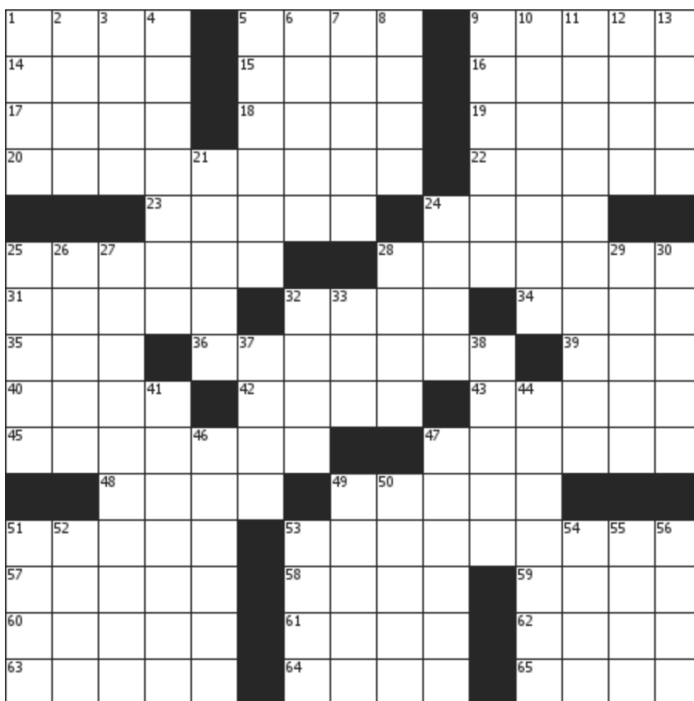


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CROSS

- 1. International Tennis Hall of fame inductee, 2004
- 2. Simps' syllables
- 3. Popular font
- 4. Klinger's state
- 5. Needlecase
- 6. Knight stick
- 7. Those that are 35 today, g.
- 8. A boxer makes it
- 9. Nimble
- 0. Some hockey feats
- 2. Play worker
- 3. Pass on
- 4. Garfield's sidekick
- 5. Opening off a larger room
- 6. Tracy of films
- 1. Love of antiques
- 2. Auction, e.g.
- 4. Site of a memorable Beatles concert
- 5. Chateau d'If setting
- 6. Surprise fare
- 9. Annoy
- 0. Fashion designer Gucci
- 2. Wharf
- 3. "Silas Marner" character
- 5. Nor partner
- 7. Strong points
- 8. You may hit the ground with

- 9. ____ Ste. Marie, Mich.
- 1. Walked nervously
- 3. Extremely trivial
- 7. Europe-Asia divide
- 8. Miss Bagnold
- 9. Builder's need
- 0. Thomas of "That Girl"
- 1. Wine-producing province
- 2. With great expectations
- 3. Supplementary feature
- 4. When it's saved, it's taken
- 5. It holds the team together



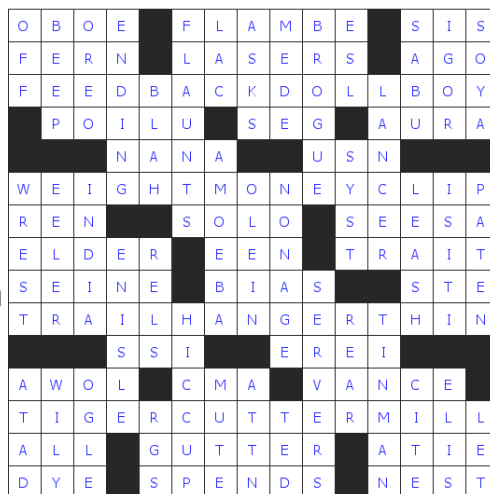
Down

1. Vincent Van ____
2. Moon of Saturn
3. Grammarian's eyebrow-raiser
4. Ballroom dance
5. Sully
6. City on the Mohawk
7. Sled dog, often
8. Is on the bottom?
9. Advert
10. Babka need
11. Wealthy, slangily
12. Throb
13. Scornful expression

21. Increase, as production
24. Oil cartel letters
25. Pertaining to birds
26. City north of Paris
27. It has purchasing power
28. Innuendo
29. Causing goosebumps
30. Tools for croupiers
32. Culinary directive
33. Seidel filler, sometimes
37. Columnist's page
38. Gene of dancing
41. Desdemona's husband

44. Save for a rainy day
46. North American river
47. Expert commentator
49. Feeling or hearing,
e.g.
50. "Dolly" novelist
Brookner
51. Ranch menace
52. Romanian city on the
Mures
53. Like two ____ in a pod
54. NASA scratch
55. Borrowed without
permission
56. Slight advantage

Answer to last puzzle

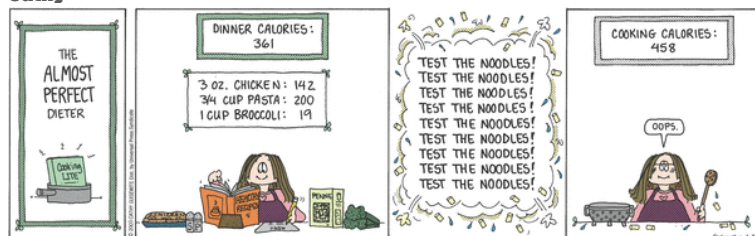


Non Sequitur

BOB FINDS AN
EXCEPTION TO HIS
"BETTER LATE
THAN NEVER"
RULE



Cathy

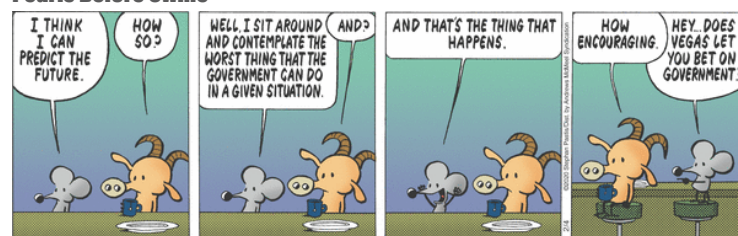


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Big Nate



Pearls Before Swine



Australian Open 2020: the tournament that tarnished tennis



From bushfire smoke to the treatment of Navratilova and McEnroe to Djokovic's meltdown in the final, tennis bounced from one PR disaster to the next in Melbourne.

Few sports guard their image with as much diligence as tennis. For a fortnight the pretty face of the gentle game took a battering in Melbourne, bouncing from one public relations disaster to another, and the bruises will last.

The image meltdown began with the reluctance of the Australian Open to acknowledge with sufficient speed and clarity what everyone in the city – everyone in the country and around the world – knew about the choking effects of bushfire smoke. It then moved on to the similar impact the twisted moral rectitude of Margaret Court had on everyone not born in the 19th century, most publicly Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe, who objected to the 77-year-old legend's hardwired homophobia and almost forgotten apartheid apologia. Holy smoke, indeed.

Presentation is everything. While the cheerleading television companies covering the first slam of the season for a worldwide audience of many millions could hardly ignore what

their viewers saw through the yellow/brown haze on the screens, most dramatically the on-court coughing collapse of Dalila Jakupovic, it took the tournament days to satisfy the curiosity of the media and the inquiries of worried players and spectators about what constitutes safe air in Melbourne Park.

The pollution eased; Court got guarded semi-apologies from Navratilova and McEnroe, but she did not reciprocate. The tournament and TV pretended, risibly, that Navratilova and McEnroe had broken hitherto unknown "safety protocols" – not what they actually did, which was to embarrass Court. Navratilova talked to TV and McEnroe put out a statement, agreeing.

But there was one exclamation mark left to put on the sentence of embarrassment. It arrived at the end of the ninth game in the second set of the men's final on Sunday evening when Novak Djokovic had his Serena Williams moment. He was enraged, with minor justification, that two violations for slow serving had shredded the steel grip he normally has on his emotions. So, with all the assurance of an entitled champion, he tapped the foot of

the chair umpire, Damien Dumusois, and, to borrow from Australian argot, "gave him a serve".

When he should have "let it go through to the 'keeper", Djokovic had "a nibble outside off" and exploded. "You made yourself famous in this match," he said to the dignified Frenchman. "Great job. Especially in the second one. Great job. You made yourself famous. Well done man."

The damage was done. Again. Because he is playing tennis from Mars (albeit via Hades), Djokovic recovered to beat Dominic Thiem, cast in the Naomi Osaka role here (except, unlike the Japanese player in the 2018 Flushing Meadows final against Williams, the Austrian lost, and that matters in this tale).

In the euphoria of Djokovic's eighth Melbourne victory, the moment was briefly parked, to resurface only when the winner remembered his obligation to put a sheen on the event. Correctly again, he apologised for his crassness. Sort of.

Trying to patch up the image thing with a smile, he said: "For touching his shoe? I mean, I didn't know that's completely forbidden. I thought it was a nice, really friendly touch."

Rory McIlroy to head into The Masters after four events in five-week spell

Incoming world No 1 set to play Texas Open, the week before The Masters, in hectic run ahead of first major of 2020

Rory McIlroy is scheduled to play four tournaments in five weeks leading into The Masters, including the week before the first major of the year in April.

According to his official website, McIlroy has added the Valero Texas Open to his schedule for the first time since 2013, meaning he will have only one week away from competitive golf throughout March.

McIlroy's only start of 2020 so far has been at the Farmers Insurance Open last month, where he finished three shots behind Marc Leishman in a tie for third, and he is back in action at next week's Genesis Open near Los Angeles.

The 30-year-old, who will return to the top of the world rankings when they are updated on Monday, then faces a hectic spell of tournament golf starting with the WGC Mexico Championship, and he is also confirmed to the Arnold Palmer Invitational - an event he won in 2018.

McIlroy will then defend his Players Championship title at TPC Sawgrass and, following one week off, he will also tee it up at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play before heading to the Texas Open in the week prior to The Masters.

His last visit to TPC San Antonio seven years ago resulted in a runner-up finish behind Scotland's Martin Laird, but McIlroy's hopes of a maiden Masters victory the following week were dashed by a third-round 79 as he recorded a tie for 25th - 11 strokes adrift of champion Adam Scott.

The four-time major champion did not compete in the week before the Masters the following year at the Shell Houston Open, finishing in a share of eighth place before again being unable to mount a serious bid for the Green Jacket a week later, although he went on to win The Open and a second PGA crown in a golden 2014 campaign.

McIlroy has recently insisted he is not putting himself under extra pressure to end his five-and-a-half-year wait for a fifth major triumph, and he went into the



Rory McIlroy will play tournament golf in the week before the Masters for the first time since 2014

new year with renewed confidence of breaking that barren run after collecting four big wins in 2019.

Ahead of his first event of this year at Torrey Pines, McIlroy admitted he paid the price for slow starts in three of the four majors last season, something he is determined to rectify this season.

"When I look back at the majors that I've won and I've done well in, I've always started well," he said. "Three of the four majors last year I had slow starts, but Pebble I started pretty good."

"There's a lot of build-up and a lot of hype going into those tournaments, and I feel like I did a pretty good

job of trying to shut myself away from all of that stuff, but there's still certain things that get in there.

"Sometimes you go out in the first draw and you're trying to sort of play your way in the golf tournament, make a few pars and play protective golf a little bit, and that's never really been in my nature."

"I'm the other way, right? I start aggressively, and if I do and I play well, I usually keep myself up there in the tournament for the most part."

"So it was just slow starts for the most part that held me back last year and that's something that I'm going to try to improve on this year." (skysports.com)



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Bravo, Powell, Allen recalled for Sri Lanka ODI series



Darren Bravo, Fabien Allen and Rovman Powell have been recalled to a 15-member West Indies squad that will play in the upcoming One-Day International (ODI) Series against Sri Lanka later this month.

Meanwhile, left-handed batsmen Evin Lewis and Shimron Hetmyer have been omitted from the squad which played the recent Colonial Medical Insurance ODI series against Ireland after failing to attain the new minimum standard fitness requirements in recent assessments.

The squad will depart the Caribbean on Saturday and will have a pre-series camp in Colombo before they face the hosts in three ODIs.

“Darren Bravo and Rovman Powell owe their

recall to their outstanding performance in the Colonial Medical Super50 tournament. Bravo brings good form, a renewed appetite for runs and lots of experience, which will benefit the team tremendously.

Powell who is back from injury, will add batting firepower to the line-up, increase the team’s bowling options and strengthen the fielding unit,” said Lead Selector Roger Harper while explaining the reasons for the recall of the previously omitted players.

“Evin Lewis and Shimron Hetmyer missed out due to the fact that they came up short in the fitness test. They will be missed.

“Lewis was the team’s best batsman in the recent Colonial Medical Insurance ODI Series against Ireland

where he batted with great composure and proved the bedrock for the team’s Series win.

Hetmyer appeared to be getting his act together and was an integral part of the team’s batting group.”

The matches will be played at Sinhalese Sports Club; the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium in Hambantota and the Pallakele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy.

Two T20 internationals will follow the ODIs and the squad for that series will be named at a later date.

FULL SQUAD: Kieron Pollard (captain), Shai Hope (vice-captain), Fabian Allen, Sunil Ambris, Darren Bravo, Roston Chase, Sheldon Cottrell, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Keemo Paul, Nicho-

las Pooran, Rovman Powell, Romario Shepherd, and Hayden Walsh.

The match schedule is outlined below:

February 17 – warm-up at P Sara Oval;

February 20 – warm-up vs SLC President’s XI – CMCG, Katunayake;

February 22 – 1st ODI at Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo;

February 26 – 2nd ODI at Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium, Hambantota;

March 1 – 3rd ODI at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy;

March 4 – 1st T20I at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy;

Match 6 – 2nd T20I at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy (sportsmax.tv)

Gambling in football

Bookmakers considering ban on shirt and pitchside advertising

Bookmakers are “considering” a voluntary ban on football shirt sponsorship and pitchside advertising, a parliamentary committee has heard.

It would expand on the whistle-to-whistle ban on television gambling adverts introduced last year.

Half of Premier League clubs and 17 of 24 Championship clubs are sponsored by bookmakers.

That had led to concerns about the potential impact on young fans and vulnerable people.

Brigid Simmonds, chair of the The Betting and Gaming Council (BGC), which represents 90% of the betting and gaming industry, told the House of Lords’ Gambling Industry Committee that the whistle-to-whistle ban has reduced gambling advertising on television by 85%.

However, she conceded that some of the advertising may have moved online and added: “We may well need to do more and we are absolutely open to that.”

Asked whether her organisation was considering banning gambling logos from football shirts and perimeter stadium advertising, she said: “We are certainly looking at the whole issue of sponsorship.

“I think, as one of us said earlier, there are good mes-



10 clubs in the Premier League are currently sponsored by gambling firms

sages. All the sponsorship that goes with clubs is about putting responsible messages on shirts as well as the name.

“We can consider this going forward, we are active in considering it.

“But I would also say, as someone who has worked a lot in sport in the last 50 years, that actually grassroots sports benefit from a lot of the money that is put into sport.

“We want that sponsorship to be used responsibly.”

GVC, the parent company of Ladbrokes and Coral, has already withdrawn its sponsorship in football.

Its chief executive Kenny

Alexander called for a wider industry move in this area, saying: “I think it needs to be seriously cut down.”

He added: “Is the industry too much in the face of the consumer at the moment?

“Is there too much TV advertising, is there too much sponsorship? I think that is undoubtedly the case and something I feel should be looked at.

“There are probably too many gambling adverts and too much noise about gambling in front of consumers in the UK at the moment.”

John Coates, joint chief executive of Bet365 and vice-chairman of Stoke City, said “I do hear the

concerns” about the amount of advertising and said he “welcomes” the review of the Gambling Act.

However, he also said: “Stoke City survives on the money we put into it.”

Meanwhile, Conor Grant, chief operating officer of Sky Betting and Gaming, which sponsors the EFL, said: “I think it is important that we do have the opportunity to advertise as a business and I think it is really important we do that responsibly.

“The tone with which we do it, and the frequency, is all up for discussion. We welcome the review that is happening.”

Windies must adapt quickly insists coach Simmons



Windies coach Phil Simmons.

West Indies head coach Phil Simmons must adjust quickly to conditions on the subcontinent when the team takes on Sri Lanka in the upcoming One Day International (ODI) series in Colombo.

Three changes have been made to the squad that recently played against Ireland in the Caribbean, with Darren Bravo, Rovman Powell and Fabien Allen returning to the squad. With the exception of Bravo, Jason Holder, and

captain Kieron Pollard very few of the team have experience playing in Asia.

“The most important thing is for us to adjust quickly to the conditions that’s why we’ll go in there a few days early,” Simmons said.

“How we played in Lucknow against Afghanistan is the kind of wicket we’re going to be getting there and we need to play in the same way to train in the same way,” he added.

“We need the same attitude that we played against India. I think if we can get the attitude right we will come out on top in the series.”

The ODIs will be played at Sinhalese Sports Club; the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium in Hambantota; and the Pallakele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy. The ODIs will be followed by two T20 Internationals in Kandy. (sportsmax.tv)