

# SKNCIC CONNECT

June 19<sup>th</sup> 2025



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**Executive Director**  
**SKNCIC**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the soft launch of our inaugural edition of the SKNCIC Connect; a dedicated platform designed to keep you informed, engaged, and connected with the dynamic landscape of industry and commerce within Saint Kitts and Nevis. This newsletter will serve as a curated space for press releases, informed perspectives, research, and technical reports that highlight pressing socio-economic issues, emerging policy directions, and opportunities for business growth and development. Our aim is to offer content that supports both private-sector innovation and national development objectives.

In each issue, you can expect:

- Academic articles and analytical reports addressing key national, regional and international trade developments, policy shifts, and sectoral trends.
- Updates on events, trade missions, and consultations coordinated by the Chamber.
- Spotlight features on member achievements, innovations, and collaborative initiatives.

As we launch this newsletter, we remain anchored in our vision to support private sector development through access to information and opportunities for connection, collaboration and community. As an organization, we are committed to continuous improvement therefore we invite your feedback and contributions as we grow this knowledge-sharing platform. Together, we can continue to shape a resilient, competitive, and inclusive business environment for the sustainability of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

## **SKNCIC Hosts Its Information Session On With The Canada Trade Commissioner Service On The Existing And Emerging Business Opportunities For St. Kitts And Nevis**



*Basseterre, St. Kitts – Thursday, 6th June 2025*

The St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC) facilitated an information session on the Existing and Emerging Business Opportunities for St. Kitts and Nevis featuring Her Excellency High Commissioner Ms. Brenda Wills and Counsellor & Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission in Barbados Mr. Jean Pierre Hammel.

The session focused on the trade opportunities between Canada and St. Kitts and Nevis, emphasizing the historical ties and the need for stronger collaboration. The High Commissioner highlighted Canada's intent to explore trade and investment opportunities particularly in on renewable energy and food security, whilst encouraging the local business community to identify growth opportunities within Canada.

The High Commissioner highlighted Canada as a reliable trading partner with strong banking systems and shipping links to the Caribbean. The Trade Commissioner Service aims connects Caribbean businesses with Canadian suppliers and expanding their market reach.

Logistics, trade facilitation, agri-tech and distribution systems were key topics, with participants discussing the complexities of sourcing products from Canada and the need for improved logistics between the two countries. The session concluded with a positive outlook on future collaborations and the importance of maintaining strong relations.

As the SKNCIC continues to expand its efforts in fostering bi-lateral and international trade relationships, this information session with the Canada Trade Commissioner Service reaffirms its commitment to creating meaningful business opportunities for its members. SKNCIC will continue to host dialogues and networking initiatives that support business growth and development within the Federation.

**— End of Release —**

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## SKNCIC Hosts Consultation Reviewing the IMF 2025 Article IV Consultation and Staff Report



SKNCIC President Mr. Trevor Blake delivered opening remarks to commence the consultation, joined by panellists Prof. Justin Robinson, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, and Mr. Joel Richards, Counsellor at the Permanent Delegation of the OECS to the Geneva Mission. The session was also supported by SKNCIC Technical Officer, Ms. Aliyah Bradshaw.

*Basseterre, St. Kitts – 18 June 2025*

The St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC) convened a high-level virtual forum on June 11, 2025, to explore the findings of the 2025 International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV Consultation and Staff Report. The IMF's report serves as an assessment of the Federation's economic performance, policy trajectory, and structural vulnerabilities. It provided a comprehensive analysis of macroeconomic stability, fiscal management, and financial sector health, while offering strategic policy recommendations to promote long-term resilience and sustainable development.

During the session, participants engaged in informed dialogue spanning key focus areas, including macroeconomic stability, fiscal sector developments, and structural reforms. Professor Robinson and Mr. Richards delivered an incisive analysis of emerging trade and investment patterns in St. Kitts and Nevis based on the report, underscoring a decline in goods and services exports. Both speakers emphasized the urgency for economic diversification and called on the private sector to seize the moment through strategic repositioning.

“St. Kitts and Nevis is at an inflection point which is one shared by many small island states. We must look critically at the federation's production base, tap into new sectors by developing an industrial policy, and partner across government and private industry to drive meaningful transformation,” Mr. Richards stated.

**SKNCIC Hosts Consultation Reviewing the IMF 2025 Article IV Consultation and Staff Report***Continued*

Professor Robinson reinforced the need for structural reform, stressing that strategic fiscal planning and a consensus-driven approach to policy are crucial to building investor confidence and long-term stability. Both panellists further highlighted the enabling role of policy clarity, particularly for renewable energy and technology-driven industries.

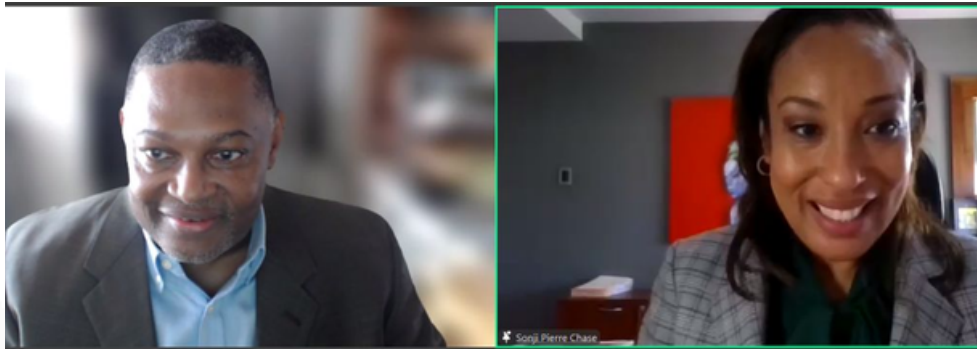
Citing regional case studies, the panellists advocated for policy mechanisms to attract local capital into clean energy ventures, and for leveraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) and sustainability-linked financial instruments such as green and blue bonds.

This consultation reinforced the SKNCIC's mission to enhance the standard and quality of life in St. Kitts and Nevis by equipping its members with the tools to assess economic trends, navigate emerging risks, and capitalize on new growth opportunities. It further reflects the Chamber's steadfast commitment to informed advocacy and strategic engagement in support of resilient and inclusive economic development across the nation and the wider region.

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**St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC) and Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) Sign Trade and Business Development Alliance Agreement**



*Basseterre, St. Kitts – June 17, 2025*

The St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC) and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) have marked a major milestone in regional economic collaboration with the signing of a Trade and Business Development Alliance Agreement on June 16, 2025. The signing ceremony was held virtually and was led by Mr. Trevor Blake, President of the SKNCIC, and Ms. Sonji Pierre-Chase, President of the T&T Chamber. They were joined by Ms. Vashti Guyadeen, CEO of the T&T Chamber, and Ms. Sanya Alleyne, Executive Director of the SKNCIC, Vice President Nick Menon and Director Kevin Thompson.

This alliance establishes a structured framework for ongoing cooperation based on mutual communication, trust, and strategic intent. Through this partnership, the Chambers seek to:

1. Collaborate on joint initiatives that expand economic and social opportunities for business and communities in both Trinidad and Tobago and St. Kitts and Nevis
2. Share research and technical expertise in sectors of mutual interest such as tourism, financial services, agriculture, and renewable energy
3. Undertake collaborative research to assess trade feasibility, develop best practices, and promote cultural and commercial exchange between the two countries
4. Facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity-building programs to strengthen institutional and private sector capabilities
5. Build and deepen linkages with government agencies, investment promotion entities, and other key trade and development stakeholders in St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago
6. Organize and support bilateral trade missions and business delegations that further the objectives of the alliance
7. Advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through aligned private sector actions and policies
8. Identify and address trade barriers, market access constraints, and regulatory challenges in a cooperative and solutions-oriented manner



## **St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC) and Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) Sign Trade and Business Development Alliance Agreement *Continued***

This Trade and Business Alliance signifies a shared commitment to fostering a more integrated and resilient regional private sector; one that is capable of navigating today's global challenges through strategic partnerships and collective action.



Mr. Blake said in his remarks: “The signing of this agreement is a significant step in that direction. Through this business alliance with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, we are formalizing a framework that allows us to work together in pursuit of mutual benefits. As membership organizations, everything we do should be for the benefit of our members, this alliance provides a framework for developing a strong relationship that could help our respective membership through engagement in mutual actions, strategic alliances and sharing of best practices, helping to strengthen the functional cooperation between the two chambers.

I want to thank you the T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce for agreeing to work with us in this regard and to signing off on this alliance agreement today which we hope can be used for the benefit of our long-term membership.”

Ms. Pierre-Chase, President of the T&T Chamber, added: “This agreement with the St. Kitts and Nevis Chamber is more than symbolic. It is a strategic partnership rooted in mutual respect and shared goals. St. Kitts and Nevis has demonstrated strong leadership in regional tourism, financial services, and entrepreneurship, and we see immense potential for synergies in those areas. Through this alliance, we aim to foster direct business linkages, catalyse joint ventures, and deepen business relations that deliver tangible value to our members and contribute to the broader economic integration of the CARICOM region. I hope today's signing will signal a continued partnership between both of our chambers and deepen our relationship as it relates to trade and business development.”



Both organizations remain committed to advancing the objectives of this agreement through tangible, results-oriented initiatives that create value for their respective members while supporting the region's overarching economic and development agenda. In this spirit, the SKNCIC and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber are collaboratively organizing an outward trade mission designed to mutually benefit their business communities; facilitating the exploration of market opportunities, the exchange of best practices, and strategic networking.

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# SKNCIC ENGAGEMENT



*May 22, 2025 - Export St. Lucia Trade Mission*

The St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce (SKNCIC), in partnership with Export Saint Lucia, hosted an inward trade mission aimed at fostering new commercial linkages between Saint Lucian exporters and the Federation's business community. The mission introduced SKNCIC members to high-quality goods and services across agriculture, manufacturing, and health & wellness sectors, with a focus on diversifying supply chains and strengthening business resilience. Participating Saint Lucian exporters included the Saint Lucia Marketing Board, Saint Lucia Distillers Limited, NatMed Ltd., Brice & Co Ltd., St. Lu Metals and Plastics, and Winera. Throughout the mission, B2B meetings facilitated the exchange of market intelligence, sourcing prospects, and potential joint ventures between member businesses.

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*June 12, 2025 - World Accreditation Day 2025*

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) Secretariat convened for a webinar in observance of World Accreditation Day 2025, focusing on the role of accredited conformity assessment in supporting SME competitiveness and market access. Representatives, including the SKNCIC, underscored the strategic need for awareness campaigns, stakeholder partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives to highlight the value of testing, inspection, and certification services. Notably, the Chamber spotlighted regional success stories such as Carib Brewery St. Kitts and Nevis, which achieved ISO 9001 and FSSC 22000 certifications with technical support from CROSQ—demonstrating how certification and accreditation facilitates international market entry and enhances brand reputation. The discussion emphasized the Chamber’s role as a conduit between the private sector and quality institutions, with plans to launch quality awards recognizing members who embed international standards into their operations. In closing, speakers stressed the importance of maintaining strong engagement with regional quality bodies and using platforms like World Accreditation Day to advocate for broader adoption of quality management systems across the Caribbean.

*June 12, 2025 - IUCN Webinar: Addressing Plastic Pollution under SDG 14 – Life Below Water*

In preparation for the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), Caribbean stakeholders convened virtually to examine progress and challenges in addressing plastic pollution under SDG 14 – Life Below Water. Saint Lucia and the OECS outlined national and sub-regional efforts, including Saint Lucia’s phased bans on single-use plastics and styrofoam, legislative frameworks, and public sensitization through the Styrofoam Prohibition Act. The OECS highlighted the Recycle OECS Project, which integrates technical, financial, and institutional strategies to build circular economy systems, with pilot programs in Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Discussions stressed the significance of the upcoming Global Plastics Treaty and the Caribbean’s active role in negotiations. A recurring theme was the prohibitive cost of exporting plastic waste due to limited recycling infrastructure, underscoring the need for domestic solutions and regional cooperation. The session reinforced the Caribbean’s shared vision for sustainable blue economy development and the imperative to scale impactful, locally driven responses to marine plastic pollution.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

July 1, 2025

Membership Survey Deadline

<https://forms.office.com/r/takErKSBwr>



### Consultation on the Increase of National Minimum Wage

June 25, 2025

Time: 2:00pm to 4:30 pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams



### Information Session on CARICOM Industrial Policy

August 13, 2025

Time: 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Venue: SKNCIC Conference Room| Microsoft Teams



### Power Breakfast: Celebrating Women's Equality Day

August 26, 2025

Time: TBD

Venue: St. Kitts Marriott Resort