



L'ASSOCIATION JAMAÏCAINE DE MONTREAL INC.

JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL INC.

4065 Jean-Talon Ouest, Montréal, Québec, H4P 1W6 \* Tel: 514-737-8229 \* Fax: 514-737-4861



1962-2022

*From the office of the President*

May 7, 2022

Dear Reader,

This letter is being sent for two reasons: there are many within our community who are asking valid questions regarding Jamaica Day and the organizations that are involved. As you may be aware it was announced on social media on Thursday May 5 that the entire Weekend du Monde 2022 celebrations, and effectively Jamaica Day 2022, have been cancelled. The reasons cited by the City are a lack of infrastructure and costs. However, prior to the cancellation of this event, there was a call for clarity on the genesis of Jamaica Day and the roles of the two entities that are associated with it. These include:

- 1) the Jamaica Association of Montreal inc. ("Association")
- &
- 2) the Jamaica Association of Montreal Foundation ("Foundation")

The **Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.** was founded in 1962 as a social club to be a beacon of home for newly arrived Jamaicans. By extension, it was always a welcoming space for all people, particularly, those hailing from the Caribbean. By 1970, it became a corporation. Over years, the Jamaica Association of Montreal has grown from the social club into a community organization that offers programs, services, for families, single women, children, and seniors as well continuing its social activities. Additionally, it is also viewed and known has a strong presence and voice with respect to advocacy. All the while, the Association remained true to its beginnings to promote Jamaican social events and activities for all who wish to take part. As such, over these many years, the Jamaica Association and has become well-known for its community engagement and presence.

In the mid 1980's members of former boards of the Jamaica Association created the Foundation which is named the **Jamaica Association of Montreal Foundation**. At its inception, the focus was to be able to raise funds for the program activities of the Association, however, in 1988 when Hurricane Gilbert devastated Jamaica, the Foundation was used as a primary source to amass funds from those in the diaspora to assist in relief efforts back in Jamaica. Since that time, the Association and the Foundation have co-existed but unfortunately not entirely or adequately explained. Furthermore, the Jamaica Association continued to be very active while the Foundation was perceived as the entity from which tax receipts for donations to the Association could be obtained. Essentially, the Foundation was seen to be dormant and inactive other than the aspect of obtaining a tax receipt. It should be stated that it housed programs such as the food bank and the Au Futur program but all staff who ran these programs worked for the Jamaica Association.

While the Jamaica Association of Montreal inc. and the Jamaica Association of Montreal Foundation have similar names, they are in two separate entities. Irrespective of this fact, they have coalesced into the thoughts and minds of individuals as one. The Association has its bylaws, has a *numéro d'entreprise du Quebec (NEQ)*, and is registerd with the *Régistre des entreprises*. The founders of the Foundation also ensured that the Foundation had a charitable status with the Canadian government, its own by-laws, and *numéro d'entreprise du Quebec (NEQ)* with the *Régistre des entreprises*. Having its own charitable status meant also that it has objects or purposes to describe its mission. It should be noted that these activities



L'ASSOCIATION JAMAÏCAINE DE MONTREAL INC.  
JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL INC.

4065 Jean-Talon Ouest, Montréal, Québec, H4P 1W6 \* Tel: 514-737-8229 \* Fax: 514-737-4861



1962-2022

included promoting programs and not social activities. On November 23, 2019, the Canadian government revoked the charitable status of the Foundation citing a failure to file. This date has been subsequently updated to November 11, 2021 on the Charities Canada government site.

Prior to 2019, the Foundation and the Association shared the same board members, which was not correct. In fact, the Associations' major funder requested, in writing, that there be a clear separation of boards due to the potential conflicts of interest for both entities. As such, a clear separation of board members was done in 2019 with the appointment of a slate of board members for the Foundation at a meeting held in November 2019 selected by the Foundation President. Subsequently, an election was held for the Association and a new board was chosen by members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting in December 2019.

As it relates to Jamaica Day, this event was created in 1980 by Neville Gray, former President 1979-80, and members of his committee to celebrate all things Jamaican. This social event was born out of the Association and was housed under that entity since the events' inception. However, in 2016, the most recent former President, who was both President of the Association and the Foundation, advised members of his board that it was best to for Jamaica Day to be moved under the Foundation. He also indicated that it would be best to acquire a liquor permit other than the one used for the Jamaica Association's bar at its premises. Essentially that the Association could not get a permit **as it** already had one and this would be for the bars at the Jamaica Day activity. As such, Jamaica Day was moved under the auspices of the Jamaica Association of Montreal Foundation from that time.

During a meeting with a representative at Weekend du Monde in March, it was clarified and meeting attendees were made to understand that the Association could have applied and obtained for a alcohol permit from the *Regie d'alcool, cours et jeux* (RACJ) for a day. With the recent and unfortunate cancelling of the Weekend du Monde 2022 edition, I am informing the public that the members of the board and staff at the Jamaica Association of Montreal are now working with a host of players to **possibly** hold a Jamaica Day event, albeit on a much smaller scale, this summer. **Our Board will be meeting in the coming week to discuss and plan** an event that will showcase all things Jamaican **that** will celebrate Jamaica's 60<sup>th</sup> year of Independence, and the Jamaica Association of Montreal.

I trust that this information helps to answer any lingering questions; however, if you still have questions, I ask that you reach out to me at [mhenry@jam-montreal.com](mailto:mhenry@jam-montreal.com) or by phone at 514-737-8229.

Yours very truly,  
JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL INC.

Per:

Mark Henry, President  
MH/(sn)