



The Association was founded in November 1962, shortly after Jamaica's Independence in August 1962. Our seal of Incorporation was granted in 1970. Since its inception, the Association has grown strong in attracting members. It is recognized as the official organization representing Jamaicans in Montreal at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. We are a member of the United Council for Human Rights, and have accompanied delegations and presented briefs to all levels of government. Given our commitment to community development, the Jamaica Association developed our Mission Statement as follows: **"To assist in improving and enhancing the quality of life for the Jamaican Community"**

Unfulfilling this Mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the development of the community through economical, educational, cultural and social activities. In 2019, the Association has become an active participant on the [Global Jamaica Diaspora Council](#) led by [The Honourable Minister Kamina Johnson Smith](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. This global initiative aims to rally Jamaicans with the purpose of building our island country through creativity, experience, and support.

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,



Mark Henry, President
Jamaica Association of Montreal

It is coming up on 5 months since our world and communities has been subjected to 2 major forces that have drastically impacted our ways of life. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter Movement have galvanized us as a people and have changed us forever. We recognize the many lives that have been lost due to the pandemic and offer our condolences to family and friends. At the same time, I would like for you to join me giving thanks to the Lord for carrying us through these tough times thus far. When we examine our situation, we can positively report that:

- (1) A great opportunity has been afforded each of us to spend more times with our families;
- (2) We have been able to find alternate and more efficient methods of communication;
- (3) We have a better appreciation for life and how important it is to value each other and ourselves; and,
- (5) Many people have had their awareness heightened and blatantly realized how systemic racism impact Black people worldwide. The silver lining is that Black voices and those of allies are being heard and positive concrete steps are being taken by individuals and institutions to correct wrongs. Black people also are more empowered than ever to be speak their truths and not hide their feelings.

Let us continue to stand together in love and unity as we move towards the victory line in surviving this pandemic and creating a new society where all are treated equally and people of color are given the respect and recognition we have earned for our contribution to the development of many societies. It is important that we continue to follow governmental guidelines that have been put in place to protect and help all citizens until a vaccine has been developed. God bless you and your family.

"We shall overcome. We shall overcome. Deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome – Martin Luther King, Jr."

Inside This Issue
FOCUS: Membership



- 1 Message from our President
- 1 About us
- 1 Black Lives Matter: JAM's Statement
- 2 **Feature: Renovations at JAM**
- 2 The Caribbean Coalition
- 3 **Introducing Kim Payton**,
Coordinator of Programs & Services
- 3 **Introducing Franklin Onwuneme**, Food Bank Manager
- 3 Getting involved & Contacts
- 3 **Highlight: Membership & dues**
- 4 Events (July – September)
- 4 Programs & Services

BLACK LIVES MATTER (BLM) MOVEMENT & HISTORY

#BlackLivesMatter was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy, we are winning immediate improvements in our lives. Source: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

JAMAICA ASSOCIATION'S STATEMENT AGAINST RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

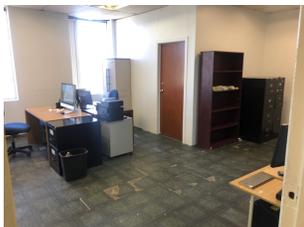
The Directors and Members of the Jamaica Association of Montreal stand against all forms of racism and discrimination. While members of the Black community are continuously fighting against anti-Black racism, our Asian brothers and sisters are now fighting the surge in anti-Asian discrimination in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Racial discrimination is not only directed at these groups but towards visible cultural and religious groups that include, but not limited to, Latin American, Indigenous, Muslim and Jewish people.

Racism and discrimination have no place in our society – they are weaknesses and failings that hamper our growth as individuals and as a community. It is time to fully respect and appreciate what each cultural and religious group bring to Montreal's dynamism and prosperity. It is time to start truly respecting each other.

The Jamaica Association has always stood up for equality and justice and this new board continues that legacy to this day! As such, we continue to reinforce that we are a part of the fabric of this city and country. We are equal citizens and have equal rights under the law.

← The President →

FEATURE: RENOVATIONS (MARCH TO NOW AND IN THE FUTURE)



New office set up with **before**



and **after** images of the floors.

ASSISTING JAMAICAN NATIONALS DURING COVID-19

In May and June, the Association was honoured to be part of the Canada wide effort to assist Jamaican nationals in Canada. The efforts raised \$14,580 in total. To date \$3,925 have been disbursed for purchasing groceries, and helping Jamaican international students.

Donations are still being accepted. Learn more by visiting: <http://www.jaccrt.ca/donations>.

Those seeking temporary help can go online to <https://www.jaccrt.ca/application>, or send an email to jamaicacovidrelief2020@gmail.com

As COVID-19 hit, the Board listened to government guidelines and closed the organization immediately as did many businesses, institutions, and other organizations. It was therefore decided to use this down time to renovate.

The first part of the plan was to start divesting of items that were no longer needed or that were old. The second action was strategically selected to rearrange the main office space thereby painting and updating the flooring. We take this opportunity to thank George Grant, Honourary Consul for Jamaica at Montreal for his financial investment in upgrading the office floors. We also thank members who contributed to this phase of the project. As seen in the photos, there is a marked difference in the look with the new flooring.

Once that work was complete, it was decided to turn our focus to the entrance, the kitchen and the main hall. The entrance painted in the gold, black and green colour scheme to represent our flag. The kitchen space was painted entirely in white and unwanted items were either thrown out or removed. The main hall was painted in the neutral colour that is in the stairwell. Additionally, the tiled floors in the entire facility were waxed. At the bar, we have a new payment terminal that also allows for tap payments. We have increased both wireless and cabled internet speeds through Videotron. Lastly, we have updated internet cables and removed unnecessary ones.

These are just some changes that have taken place to date and we are gearing up to do more renovations to make our piece of Jamaica welcoming and comfortable. The members of the Board initially donated money to the office renovations, JAM hats continue to be sold to raise funds and events that include the Car Wash and JAM Showcase raised **\$1,109** and **\$1750** respectively for our various projects – thanks to all who participated in these events!

REVIVING THE CARIBBEAN COALITION IN MONTREAL

Over many years, there has been an alliance between Caribbean groups in Montreal to encourage and support each other. This sense of community is continually needed to bolster each organization and their efforts to be a connection to each other and to the Caribbean. In January 2020, Mark Henry reached out to all Caribbean organizations informing them of the new board that was elected on December 14, 2019 and also extending a welcome to them should they need a space for their various activities. In June 2020, he again reached out and invited all organizations to a Zoom meeting to further discuss ways of assisting each other through the sharing of information and other means. Organizations such as Barbados House of Montreal, Antigua and Barbuda Association, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association, Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal, Grenada National Association of Montreal and the Monserrat Association of Montreal.

On Sunday, July 19, the third meeting was held at the Jamaica Association, socially distanced, and it was chaired this time by Barbados House President, Nigel Clarke. He noted that he was very encouraged to see so many groups coming together to discuss common goals, and ways of assisting each other. Our President once again reiterated his offer of opening the Jamaica Association to Caribbean organizations for rental use. Various collaborative suggestions were presented in the meeting. Some are currently in place that include informing each organization of respective events and supporting opportunities.



(L-R): Mark Henry, (Jamaica), Cynthia Waithe (Barbados), Nicole Swan (Grenada), Veronica Payne (Barbados), Neville Boyce (Monserrat), Nigel Clarke, (Barbados), George Grant, Honourary Consul for Jamaica at Montreal, Leebert Sancho (Guyana), William Critchlow (Guyana), Jack Dear (St. Vincent).

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES

PRIVILEGES	RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Preferred pricing on certain events	1. Sign the registry at all member's meetings
2. An updated membership card*	2. Update your contact information
3. Voting rights at the Annual General meetings	3. Pay your membership dues for the 2020 year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30)
4. Contributing to the growth of our Association	4. Respect the rules of membership

*see below for more information

DUES & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Dues: Family **\$40** (2 children (under 17 yrs old) & 2 adults), Adult **\$25** (18 - 59 yrs) Students **\$10** (12 -17 yrs) & Seniors **\$10** (60+ yrs)

Payments of membership dues can now be made using **e-transfer** through your bank and sending directly to info@jam-montreal.com.

At our November 2017 member's meeting, the Board passed a resolution extending the membership year to match our fiscal year. Therefore, membership dues are to be paid between Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 of the year in question to benefit from the stated privileges.

There are a number of benefits of getting your card. Contact us today to find out more.

Thanks to the Management Team at Kane and Fetterly, Funeral Services, for your continued support and encouragement!



INTRODUCING FRANKLIN ONWUNEME, OUR NEWLY HIRED FOOD BANK MANAGER

The members of the Human Resource Committee and Mark Henry are very pleased to welcome and to introduce you to Franklin Onwuneme, our new Food Bank Manager. Franklin is a student at the University of Montréal where he is completing his Masters in Vision Science. He has worked in Trinidad and Tobago for the past 9 years in Optometry and recently moved to Montreal to further his studies.



Franklin can be reached at jamfoodbank@gmail.com or by phone 514-737-8229. Franklin will continue to have the support of many volunteers that have been a fixture in this service.

INTRODUCING KIM PAYTON, OUR NEWLY HIRED COORDINATOR OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The members of the Human Resource Committee and Mark Henry are very pleased to welcome and to introduce you to Kim Payton, our new Coordinator of Programs and Services.

Kim joins us with many years of substantive work experience in the corporate, public and community sectors. For the many years that she was in Toronto, she worked for such organizations that include Volkswagen Canada Inc., the Durham Caribbean Festival, Sanctus Church and The Wilson Project. Her return to Montreal is a new beginning as well as an in-person reconnection with family and friends.



Kim began the Coordinator role on Monday, July 6, 2020. For the first two weeks, she went through the Orientation process to acclimatize her to the Association and its operations. We take this opportunity to thank her for accepting this position and welcome the positive energy and strengths that she will bring to our organization. Kim can be reached at jamprogramservices@gmail.com or by phone at 514-737-8229.

GETTING INVOLVED – EASY AS A, B, C!

A) Our Committees

1 – Jamaica Association Business Owners & Professionals (JABOP)
Mark Henry, President, mhenry@jam-montreal.com, 514-238-2659

2 – Membership Committee
Mark Henry, mhenry@jam-montreal.com, 514-238-2659

3 – Social Committee
Alexander Townsend, 2nd Vice President, zantowns@gmail.com

4 – Women's Auxiliary
Sharon Nelson, 1st Vice President, sharon.nelson@jam-montreal.com, 514-737-8229

5 – Youth Committee

Omar Ramus, Youth Representative, jamyouthrep@gmail.com

B) Share your ideas for programs, events or improvements

C) Volunteer for an event

D) BOARD CONTACTS

1. Carlene Clarke: Director, jamgovernmentservices@gmail.com
2. Audley Coley: Senior Representative, jamsenior62@gmail.com
3. Brian Kotler: Director, jamspecialereventsdirector@gmail.com
4. Ufon Lynch: Director, jamupkeepdirector@gmail.com
5. Aston Mendez: Treasurer, 514-576-5311
6. Keisha Wilson: Director, jamhealthdirector@gmail.com

WRAP UP – JUNE2020 FOCUS ON FUN & MENTAL HEALTH!

We are so thrilled by the level of participation during the month of June with our Zoom online events – over 200 people registered. Folks tuned in from Montreal and surroundings as well as Toronto, Iqaluit, Boston, Austin (Texas), and Vancouver to name a few other places. Thanks to all our presenters: **Audley Coley**, **Stephen Hennessy**, **Tamara Garnes**, **Melika Ford Lewis** and **Shiata Lewis Rouse** of West Can, **Garfield Morgan**, **Myrna Lashley**, **Catherine Flegel**, **Rodrick Rodney**, and **Arnette Morgan**. Thanks for a month of engaging and fun activities!

Feedback / Suggestions? We want to hear from you. Contact us!

OUR 7 PROGRAMS

There is a careful and gradual re-opening Association. The Au Futur and the ABE Programs continue to be held online. The Food Bank is the only service where clients can come to the Association to collect food items under strict measures that include wearing a face mask and sanitizing their hands. No person is allowed entry into the Association facility.

1. Au Futur Program (Young Mothers)

For women between **15 and 35** years old with one or more children. Click [here](#) for more information on this confidential service. *Cost: **FREE. (Federally Funded by Health Canada)** Contact: **Sue Hamilton**, Program Coordinator
Cell: **438-499-8229**. **Moved online using zoom** (<http://www.zoom.us>)

2. Footsteps Program

A [program](#) run on Saturdays during September to June (except holiday periods) from 1 pm to 5 pm for toddlers and children aged 0 to 9 yrs old. Includes reading activities, arts and crafts. Healthy snacks are provided, and there are qualified volunteer educators on site to assist. Contact **Sue Hamilton**. **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

3. Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs

We offer individual, as well as small classes with qualified & experienced teachers in a variety of subjects. Typically, classes take place in the evenings with one-to-one tutoring also available. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering the French Beginner, French Intermediate, French Advanced and English as a Second Language online using Zoom. Only registered students will receive the meeting ID code. Starting in October, the courses will **cost \$10** for registration. Since early April 2020, tutors through Frontier College have been providing one-to-one tutoring sessions for adults using Zoom. Contact: **Kim Payton**, Coordinator, Programs & Services, 514-737-8229

4. **Brilliant Minds Tutoring** for high school students – for [help with schoolwork](#) & career planning. Sessions will be **held online using Zoom** in May. Elementary students are welcome too. Contact: **Kim Payton**

5. **Food Bank** in collaboration with Moisson Montréal. The [Food Bank](#) is open every **Thursday (10 am - 6 pm) & Friday (10 am - 5 pm)**. *January to December* (holiday notices posted as necessary) Registration: Mandatory. Cost: \$3.00 per person. Registration & collection at the Association. **Note: New arrivals to Canada and new users of the food bank are asked to call one day in advance.** Contact: **Franklin Onwuneme**, jamfoodbank@gmail.com, 514-737-8229

NOTEABLE UPDATES:

In September 2020, there will be two changes:

1. a **modest price increase to \$5** for all selections;
2. a modification in the **hours of operation: Thursday (10 am - 5 pm) & Friday (2 pm - 5 pm).**

6. **Tax Preparation** We offer free tax preparation services for participants registered in the Young Mothers and Footsteps programs. Please call **514-737-8229** for more information. **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

7. Steel Pan Classes

Fatima Wilson of Salah Steel Pan will be offering courses on Sundays for kids and adults. **Contact number: 514-655-6239.** **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERINGS

1. **Overproof Fridays (8 pm – 1 am)** **Every Friday night**
The Association is gradually opening on Friday nights as per Provincial guidelines. We have strict protocols for entry which include washing & sanitizing hands, temperature check, & signing in.
2. **Food Bank** **Every Thursday & Friday**
3. **Online Members' Meeting** **Saturday, July 25, 7 pm**
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4555758958>
Zoom meeting ID: 455-575-8958. All are welcome!
4. **Afro-Caribbean Culture in Quebec** **August 5 & 19, 7 pm**
In collaboration with **West Can** (singing Aug 5, dancing Aug 19) **Van Horne Park**
(514)737-8229, JAM office or (514) 641-9149, West Can office
5. **Virtual Jamaican Independence Celebration August 6 – 8, 2020**
Bringing together Jamaica Associations across Canada for a virtual Independence Celebration. Featuring **King Shadrock, Frontline Restaurant** and **Carib Patty Restaurant** among others. <http://JCCCGROUP.CA>
6. **"Name that Drink" Online Fundraiser** **August 8, 2020**
We want to engage the community in the bar renovation project at the Jamaica Association of Montreal. You have a unique opportunity to be infamous like Captain Morgan and name your drink! <https://namethatdrinkevent.eventbrite.com>
7. **Online Members' Meeting** **Sept. 2020, Date TBA**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FOOD BANK !

The folks at Moisson Montreal, JAM Members, Agnes Faustin, Melissa & family, Rodrick Rodney, Richard, Hazel, Claudette, and all those who wish to remain anonymous! © We sincerely appreciate your generosity.



OUR 6 SERVICES



UPDATED office hours during COVID pandemic:

Mon – Wed.: 9 am to 6 pm phone calls only (514) 737-8229
Thurs.: 10 am to 6 pm – FOOD BANK ONLY
Fri.: 10 am to 5 pm – FOOD BANK ONLY

SERVICES ARE GRADUALLY REOPENING – PLEASE CALL FIRST

1. **Documents:** Passports, Permanent Resident Card, Commissioner of Oaths.
2. **Space rental** for your small gatherings up to 15 persons. Special events (birthdays, private parties, baby showers, shows, etc... - includes tables & chairs (table & chair coverings extra)).
3. **Community Service Program** – for persons needing to complete mandated community hours.
4. **Licensed Restaurant** – The Jerk Pit – Open Friday evenings as of 8 pm to 1 am.
5. **Fully Licensed Bar** – Open Fridays as of 8 pm. Saturdays on certain occasions, for rentals for small gatherings (up to 15 persons).
6. **A fun & secure place to come together** to enjoy each other's company and friendships.

Newsletter created by S. Nelson & S. Morgan, next issue: Sept. 2020