

Pan Alive 2023 Message from Wendy Jones,

First, CONGRATULATIONS – We won Pan Alive 2023

To all our faithful Pan Fantasy Steelband Family, and community support system, I extend another special **THANK YOU**, to each and everyone of you.

We have had our ups and down days, but we all pulled ourselves together and showed up to practice. We were frustrated and tired at times, and some of you were ready to give up, but still you stuck it out. Thank you to **Leason** for coming in to be our drummer as **Larnell** was on tour. Thank you to **Sherwin** and your section for 'holding it down' and the important work you do to transport the equipment.

Special thanks to **Al “Allos” Foster** for getting us through to the finish line, of another, another, another etc. 9 times champion win. I personally enjoyed every note.

Thank you also to **Liane** for stepping in when Al was not available. This was truly appreciated.

To all the uniform crew: **Tates, Melo, Jahtara** along with so many of you that stepped up to also help, as time was running out; Thank you, the band looked great.

Thank you to the “Peanut Gallery” headed by **Delia** and **Ena**. Your contributions are appreciated.

There are so many other responsibilities required to prepare the band. Several of you gave a helping hand daily, whether it was arriving early to open; setting up and dismantling instruments/equipment; drilling; picking up food supplies; driving members home; donations (food, beverages, props, etc.) ... **THANK YOU!**

And most important... Thank You to everyone for volunteering your time. You are helping to ensure our culture has a voice and steelpan continues to grow outside of Trinidad and Tobago.

This year the band walked away with another win. This brings us to 9 straight wins in Toronto. This is truly an Ontario Steelband Association record.

As we move forward, we must ALWAYS remain humble ... because one day another band will take the lead.

Today I leave each one of you with this quote:

***"Strive For Excellence ...
If You Fail to Prepare,
You Prepare to Fail."***

In all things we will continue to trust **God** for his guidance. Congratulations to you all for running the race and coming out as the winner.

Blessings.

(Time to head back to New York Panorama soon 🤗🌸🌸🙏)

Signed

Wendy Jones,

Executive Director & Bandleader

North York Inter-Community Youth Group (N.Y.I.C.Y.G)

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