

For Immediate Release
Kingston, Jamaica
May 8, 2007

260 Scotiabankers to Volunteer as Substitute Teachers For Teachers Day 2007

260 Scotiabankers will be volunteering in 175 schools across the island as Jamaica observes Teachers' Day on Wednesday, May 9, 2007. The programme, which was initiated in 2004, was conceptualized by the Bank to demonstrate its recognition and appreciation for the island's teachers who continue to give dedicated and selfless service in classrooms year after year.

The largest contingent of volunteers, numbering 21 Scotiabankers will be serving as substitute teachers at the Dumfries Primary School in St. James, which was selected as the national project. On Teachers' Day, Scotiabank will also be making a presentation of new furniture for all teachers and their principal, a new photocopier machine and several pieces of outdoor furniture, which will be used by the children on their school lawn. The items costing just under \$ 700,000 were well received by the school's principal, Mrs. Patricia Flemmings. " The entire school is very excited about the donation by the Bank as it will make our jobs much easier. We are very happy for the support, which we have been getting over the years and our teaching staff will utilize the material to the fullest in our quest to educate those in our care," explained Mrs. Flemmings.

The 260 substitute teachers will focus their 'lectures' on two health topics this year. This includes Wellness for Children and HIV and AIDS awareness. Wellness was selected as a focal topic as the Bank realizes the need for children to become more informed about their health and the measures they can take to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

The issue of HIV and AIDS awareness was placed on the agenda as the Bank continues its commitment to raise awareness levels among young children and change attitudes towards persons living with the disease, by fighting stigma and discrimination.

The volunteers will be using instruction material from the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, the Health Promotion Unit from the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS committee also in the Health Ministry. The substitute teachers will be utilizing visual aids, which include various posters, brochures, and pamphlets, which will be left with the schools as resource material.

The Scotiabank Substitute Teachers programme is co-ordinated by the Bank's Public Corporate & Government Affairs Department. Head of the Unit, Mrs. Joylene Griffiths

noted that “since the Bank has initiated the programme, it has had tremendous support from staff members who are very excited about retuning to their alma-maters or other schools with which the Bank has had a relationship to give of their time.” She also noted that the volunteers often develop long-term relationships with these institutions, which see them visiting and taking part in other activities over the remaining school year.

For more information, contact:

Simone Hull
Public Relations Specialist
Public, Corporate & Government Affairs
Scotiabank Centre
Tel: 932.0549
Mobile: 322.3233

or

Joylene Griffiths Irving
Director
Public, Corporate & Government Affairs
Scotiabank Centre
Tel: 932.0565
Mobile: 909.5211