

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SCOTIABANK BANKS ON UNSPONSORED STEELBANDS**

With a short Carnival season ahead, Scotiabank recently invited over 35 unsponsored steelband orchestras to its offices to hand over cheque donations to assist them in their preparations for the season. Present at the cheque handover ceremony were Richard P. Young, Managing Director of Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Earl Gill, Senior General Manager, Scotiabank, Gillian Benjamin, General Manager, Strategic Marketing at Scotiabank, Patrick Arnold, President of Pan Trinbago, Vernon Morancie, Chairman of the Eastern Region of Pan Trinbago and Michael “Scobie” Joseph, Public Relations Officer at Pan Trinbago.

The operating costs of steelbands have increased significantly over the last few years, making participation in the National Panorama competition a challenge for many of the unsponsored steel orchestras in the nation. According to Reena Panchorie, Assistant Manager, Public & Corporate Affairs at Scotiabank, “Scotiabank has been involved in providing sponsorship to unsponsored steelbands since 1978, as part of the Bank’s ongoing efforts to give back to the communities in which we operate. Today, the cost to chrome a tenor pan is approximately \$1,250, one side of a second pan is \$1,450, one side of a guitar pan is \$1,850 and the cost of a drum when available is over \$400. Tenor pans range from \$4000 - \$5000, with a double second costing about \$6000.”

The bands which received assistance hailed from all regions in Trinidad and Tobago and included the Antillean All Stars, Couva Joylanders, Dem Boys, Jah Roots, Biche Steel Orchestra, Southern Marines Steel Orchestra, Laventille Serenaders, St. James Tripolians, La Horquetta Pan Groove, Ice Water Pan Ensemble, City Sun Valley, Tunapuna All Stars among others.

*November 27<sup>th</sup> 2007*

*For further information, please contact Reena Panchorie, Assistant Manager, Public & Corporate Affairs at 625-3566 Ext 2202.*



**Gillian Benjamin, General Manager, Strategic Marketing at Scotiabank hands over a cheque to a representative from Tropical Angel Harps.**