

PRESS RELEASE

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Carriacou ICT Bridge Hosts First Networking Session

Georgetown, Grenada: Less than one month after the official launch of the Caribbean Local Economic Development (CARILED) Program sponsored ICT Bridge at the Carriacou Multipurpose Centre, the technology is proving its worth.

The Grenada Public Workers Union (PWU), in the midst of preparations for the staging of May Day, became the first organization to take advantage of the ICT Bridge. The group used the technology to connect with union members on the sister isle of Petite Martinique, removing the need for travel by boat between the islands. PWU 2nd Vice President, Dexter Leggard, who is also the chairman of the Local Economic Development Project Advisory Committee (LED-PAC) said, “When the ICT Bridge is fully functional, it will enhance the way organizations and businesses operate on the twin-isle parish of Carriacou and Petite Martinique”.

An initiative of the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, supported by CARILED, the ICT Bridge is designed to bring Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique closer together through the use of video technology. The Bridge will virtually support MSME networking, trade conferences, business training and skills workshops, by connecting facilities between the three islands, such as the Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC); the main provider of SME training in the state. Other benefits will be reduction of costs associated with air or boat travel between the islands, as well as savings for Carriacou businessmen and women seeking capacity building and networking support.

Activities of the Government of Canada funded CARILED project in Carriacou and Petite Martinique are coordinated by Local Economic Development Officer Jeffrey Izzaak. Mr. Izzaak’s partnership with IT Manager Davon Baker of the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs played an instrumental role in the realization of the Bridge. CARILED, GIDC and the Ministry are finalizing a management plan for the Bridge, setting the stage for the roll-out of training and other programs.

About CARILED

CARILED is a six year program launched in May 2012, with headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, and sub-offices in Saint Lucia (OECS) and Ottawa, Canada. The program is being implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA), the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF). The program, focused on local economic development, currently works in seven Caribbean countries to develop models of LED that can be shared throughout the region. It aims to partner with 50 local government authorities to support the growth and development of 500 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). For more information on CARILED, please contact cariled@fcm.ca. FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES ONLY, please contact kizzannlesam@fcm.ca.



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