

## **Report to Yukon Teachers Association Project Overseas – 2019 – Team Grenada**

It is with great pride and thankfulness that I submit this to the Yukon Teachers Association. I had the honor to be selected by YTA as the member put forward to the Canadian Teacher's Federation to participate in this year's Project Overseas as team leader of team Grenada.

The journey started in March when I went to Ottawa for orientation with the other team leaders. This year, 59 teacher members, on 14 teams went to 11 countries. After monthly video-conferences with team Grenada, we finally met on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa. We worked together on conflict resolution, safety, expectations and team building. We would be spending the next three weeks living and working together.

We flew out of Ottawa, early on July 9<sup>th</sup> and arrived later in the evening in Grenada. We were met by General Secretary, Tessa Mquilken, President Lydon Lewis, Course Director, Kenny James, and of course our driver Glen. It had just rained so the humidity was very high and after a short drive we arrived at South Winds Guest House, our home for the next 18 days.

Waking up to the lushness on a tropical island is glorious. We began with a visit with Ministry official and after a conversation we concluded that some of the main concerns with education in Grenada is not dissimilar to the issues in Canada. We also were able to visit TAMs College and had a discussion with the Dean of the college. It was good to get a perspective of the needs of education in Grenada. It would seem that Brain Drain is a concern of the people of Grenada.

Thursday and Friday we met with our Co-tutors and planned the two weeks of the Summer Program. We all seemed to gel very well and the work was productive and satisfying. I must say that teacher in Grenada must spend two weeks after students are out doing some form of in-servicing, sometimes with the ministry and some on their own. The second week of the Summer Programme is voluntary and teachers willingly and enthusiastically participate in the program.

The Grenada Union of Teachers (GUT) held an opening reception for the Canadian Team, which was very fun with super music, great food, drink and dancing. The weekend was spent in anticipation for the upcoming two weeks. Had some beach time, some laundry time and time to get to know the team.

The next two weeks were busy with the Summer Programme. Participants has in-servicing in literacy, numeracy, theatre arts, administration and leadership. What better way to learn than teachers teaching teachers. Collaboration and sharing experiences is what the experience is all about and I must say I am certain I learned more from the participants than they learned from me. The experience is an opportunity for teachers to grow professionally.

Again I thank the YTA, CTF and GUT for this amazing experience.

Respectfully submitted

D. Trevor Ratcliff

