

2000 A NEW HOME: A NEW ROADMAP

After a temporary relocation to DETCO Motor Services, support from Government Ministries and Hamilton Lashley, together with the leadership of the late President Boneta Phillips, facilitated the establishment of Harambee House as the permanent home for the Barbados Council for the Disabled.



On 7 April 2006, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Owen S. Arthur officially opened Harambee House and increased its subvention that supported the magnitude of work that followed.

The Council also strengthened its professional operations by expanding its management and administrative team.

2006 BUILDING A PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIAT

With the opening of Harambee House, the Barbados Council for the Disabled strengthened its operations through an expanded professional team. Roseanna Tudor was appointed Operations Manager, Emily Lynch Administrative Officer (retired), Gaylene Mohammed Finance Officer, Rose Ann Foster-Vaughan Administrative Project Officer (deceased) and Randy Mathurin (Custodian). The transportation service also expanded through the dedicated work of drivers Harold Carrington, Rupert Holder, Jemmerson Als and Larry

Butler, together with attendants Cheryl Brewster and Tishanne Mason, ensuring accessible transport services reached communities across Barbados.

In recent years, the Secretariat has continued to grow with the addition of Melissa Greaves (Administrative Officer), Priscilla Greene (Administrative Assistant) and Sherolyn Cumberbatch (Custodian), reflecting the council's continued commitment to strengthening its services and supporting the expanding needs of persons with disabilities across Barbados.



2010s NATIONAL ADVOCACY TAKES FLIGHT

Accessible transportation expanded with the acquisition of two specially adapted buses.

The council's Disability Parking Permit Advocacy Programme was introduced with support from the Private Sector.

Blind Cricket was launched by then President Clevedon Mayers in Barbados, leading to the establishment of the Barbados Blind Cricket Association in 2005. This then evolved into the development of Blind Cricket in the region.

The Fully Accessible Barbados (FAB) Programme was launched, becoming the council's flagship initiative to create a barrier-free Barbados.

The BCD contributed to the development of the Barbados Building Code. Barbados signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in 2013.



The More Than Words® Autism Programme started and has continued to date. Hundreds of children on the autism spectrum and their families benefited from this early intervention programme.



The National Census identified more than 11 000 Barbadians living with disabilities, strengthening national advocacy and planning by the BCD.



The BCD partnered with UNFPA to improve sexual and reproductive health services for young persons with disabilities. This programme continued for four years with a Counselling SRH Window being offered at the BCD.

2020s LEADING NATIONAL CHANGE

The council deepened partnerships across Government, Private Sector, and civil society while expanding the Fully Accessible Barbados Programme nationally and internationally.

The BCD in collaboration with the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs and the National Disabilities Unit, played a leading role in advancing:

- Disability Rights Legislation
- National Disability Policy
- Universal Design Accessibility standards through its FAB programme
- Inclusive tourism – Continued international and local promotions
- Employment and Education Transformation initiatives with the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and Private Sector.

2026

Fifty years after its founding, the Barbados Council for the Disabled continues to champion inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunity for all Barbadians under the leadership of President Patricia Padmore-Blackman, building on the legacy of every president, board member, staff member, volunteer, and partner who helped shape the journey.



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The Board of Trustees and the Executive Team of

The Maria Holder Memorial Trust

extend congratulations to the
**Barbados Council
for the Disabled**

on its
**50TH
ANNIVERSARY!**

You have been a beacon of hope, empowerment and advocacy, tirelessly championing the rights, dignity and inclusion of persons with disabilities across Barbados.

We are pleased to be and will continue to partner with the Barbados Council for the Disabled in this work.

We salute you for reaching this remarkable milestone.