

FEATURE



An open letter to FUTURE BARBADIANS

FROM THE BARBADOS COUNCIL FOR THE DISABLED ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear future Barbadians,

When you read this letter, we hope you are living in a Barbados where accessibility is no longer something people must ask for.
We hope you walk along sidewalks that welcome everyone.
We hope every school opens its doors to every child.
We hope every workplace values ability above disability.
We hope every bus carries passengers without barriers.
We hope every public building reflects the dignity of every citizen.

If that Barbados exists, it did not happen by chance.

It was built by people who believed that inclusion is not an act of charity but a matter of justice. It was built by parents who refused to give up on their children, by people with disabilities who challenged stereotypes, by volunteers who gave their time, by partners who believed in our vision, and by governments and businesses that chose progress over complacency.

For 50 years, the Barbados Council for the Disabled has been privileged to walk alongside those pioneers. We have celebrated victories, confronted setbacks, and remain steadfast in the belief that every person deserves the opportunity to participate fully in national life.

Today, we pass that responsibility to you.

Guard what has been achieved.

Challenge what still needs to change.

Remember that accessibility benefits everyone, not only people with disabilities. It creates stronger communities, a more inclusive economy, and a nation where every citizen can contribute.

Above all, never allow inclusion to become an afterthought. Make it the standard by which Barbados measures its progress.

As we celebrate our first 50 years, we do so with hope, knowing that the next chapter belongs to you.

Build boldly.

Lead compassionately.

Leave Barbados better than you found it.

With confidence in your future,

*The Barbados Council for the Disabled
Celebrating 50 Years of Advocacy, Partnership, and Progress*



FROM ADVOCACY TO ACTION. BUILDING A FULLY ACCESSIBLE BARBADOS FOR EVERYONE.



Staff of the Barbados Council for the Disabled with Janelle Skinn. At right: Retired Emily Lynch, served the council for 24 years. (GP)