

FEATURE

FACT

#1

THE BCD WAS
ESTABLISHED IN
JUNE 1976.

Breaking BARRIERS



“ From a small volunteer-led organisation founded in 1976 to Barbados’ leading voice for disability rights and accessibility, the Barbados Council for the Disabled has spent five decades creating a more inclusive nation.

1976 THE BEGINNING

The Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD) was established in June 1976 under the leadership of Chief Justice William Douglas, who served as the council's first President (1976–1983). Meetings were held at St Gabriel's School, Henry's Lane, St Michael.



Founding Board

- Justice William Douglas (President)
- Sir Henry Forde
- Jacqueline Banfield
- Ilene Murray-Ainsley
- Margaret Cusso
- Tony Marshall
- Mary Mahabir (Legal Advisor – continues to serve today)

1980s BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

The council's three founding member organisations were:

- Barbados Association for the Blind and Deaf
- Barbados Cheshire Association (now Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home)
- Barbados Association for Children with Intellectual Challenges

One of BCD's first major initiatives was the New Trends Workshop, co-hosted with the UWI Extra Mural Department and led by Dr Molly Thorburn of Jamaica.



As additional disability organisations joined the council, specialised committees were established under the HEALTH framework:

- Health • Education • Advocacy
- Legislation • Training • Housing
- Transportation

1990s GROWTH AND EXPANSION

The council continued to expand under the leadership of:

- Rev. Ivan Harewood
- Philip Goddard
- Dr Leonard Shorey
- Jacqueline Banfield
- Peter Serieux BCH (first President with a disability)
- Clevedon Mayers SCM



During this period, the council:

- relocated to the Children's Development Centre (now the Albert Cecil Graham Development Centre)
- strengthened partnerships with Government Ministries, and
- expanded its staff and advocacy programmes.

"The Board of Directors and members of the **Paralympic Association of Barbados** wish to extend a hearty congratulations to the Barbados Council for the Disabled on the occasion of its "Diamond Jubilee", marking 50 years of dedicated service to advancing the rights, dignity, and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Barbados.

This remarkable milestone celebrates a legacy built on the unwavering belief that every person with disabilities matters and deserves the opportunity to be heard, included, and empowered.

As you celebrate this historic milestone, we honour your remarkable legacy and look forward to continuing our partnership to expand opportunities, break barriers, and empower Persons with Disabilities through the transformative power of sport.

Congratulations on 50 years of impact, advocacy, and inclusion."

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BARBADOS
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY
COLLABORATE. ADVOCATE. INNOVATE.

congratulates the
**Barbados Council
for the Disabled**
on its
**50TH
ANNIVERSARY**

We proudly support a more
inclusive, accessible
and equitable Barbados.

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