

LAO NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, No 6 October 2025 Stronger Together

Message From the Vice President



Dear Esteemed Members of LAO,

It is with heartfelt joy and deep gratitude that I, Mrs. Williametta Weekie Moulton, extend warm greetings to each and every one of you. As your Vice President, I am truly honored to serve this vibrant and diverse community of Liberians here in Ottawa.

With my years of experience serving in both Liberia and Canada, I am deeply passionate about community development, fairness, and inclusion.

My journey through leadership roles over the past years and now Ottawa, have strengthened my belief in the power of unity, service, and shared purpose. Together, we can continue to uplift our community, celebrate our culture, and create opportunities for growth and connection.

I believe we, as an organization, hand in hand can work together in building a stronger, inclusive, and more supportive, Liberian Association of Ottawa.

Mrs. Williametta Weekie Moulton
Vice President, Liberian Association of Ottawa (LOA)

COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

LAO Executive Presents 2025 Mid-Year Financial Report

On **October 4, 2025**, the **Executive Committee (EC)** of the **Liberian Association of Ottawa (LAO)** presented its **2025 Mid-Year Financial Report** to the community. The meeting, originally scheduled for **September 27**, was postponed due to low attendance.

The report covered the financial activities from **Liberia's 178th Independence Day Gala** held on **August 4, 2025**, and the **Kids Fun Day** on **August 5, 2025**. It included a detailed breakdown of revenues and expenses from both events, providing members with a clear picture of the association's mid-year financial status.

Presenting the report, **LAO President Kelvin Nyaquoi Suah** described the events as successful but noted several challenges faced by the Executive Committee and organizing teams. He expressed concern over the low turnout of community members at key meetings and events, while extending heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered their time and efforts.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members agreed to work with the EC to improve community engagement and attendance at future gatherings.

Financial fact: As at August 31, 2025

Revenue:

Ticket sales: \$6,680.00
Fundraising: \$735.00
Alcohol sales: \$730.00
Alcohol returned: (\$783.00) (a deduction)
Total Revenue: \$8,928.00

Expenses:

Hall rental: \$2,600.00
Catering: \$2,500.00
AGCO and Noise Permits: \$231.00
Decoration: \$250.00
Alcohol purchase: \$1,513.00
Miscellaneous: \$187.00
Total Expenses: \$7,281.00

Net Proceeds: \$1,647.00

Balance at Bank: \$3,389.19

SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

LAO vs. LAQ: A Spectacular Day of Soccer and Kickball

The much-anticipated soccer and kickball matches held on October 19, 2025, between the Liberian Association of Ottawa (LAO) and the Liberian Association of Quebec (LAQ) were a remarkable display of community spirit, teamwork, and friendly competition. The event highlighted the strong collaboration and commitment of the LAO Executive and community members—values that The LAO continues to promote and uphold.

This initiative was made possible through the joint efforts of the LAO Women's Committee and the Community Engagement and Empowerment Program (CEEP) leadership, who made efforts to mobilize and engage the community. The journey began with an impromptu kickball match at the conclusion of the Children's Fun Day at Millennium Park on September 21, 2025, thanks to LAO Vice President Williametta Moulton who word hard to mobilize the women for the games.

That spirited all-female kickball game set the stage for a series of events that culminated in the October 19 matches. Following her outstanding performance and leadership during the September game, Rosetta Suah was unanimously chosen to captain the LAO Female Kickball Team. Meanwhile, Mr. Samuel Quillah, current LAO Board Chair, was named captain of the Men's Soccer Team.

In preparation for the big day, the LAO Executive Committee announced a joint practice sessions for both teams at 33 Quill Street, Ottawa, and launched the One Person, One Jersey campaign to raise funds for sporting materials and equipment. The community responded enthusiastically, reflecting their deep sense of unity and pride.

When October 19 arrived, excitement filled the air as the LAO hosted the visiting LAQ teams in Ottawa. The matches were thrilling and well-attended, drawing cheers, laughter, and community pride. The LAO Women's teams emerged victorious and the male soccer match ended with draw.

Following the games, players and supporters gathered at brother Carlo's residence on Pampero Crescent for light refreshments and fellowship—an uplifting conclusion to a day that truly embodied the LAO's spirit of unity, engagement, and community empowerment.



Joseph Zangar Bright Declares Candidacy for FLEC Presidency

Theme: "Revive, Rethink, and Rebrand"

The **Federation of Liberian Associations in Canada (FLAC)** is heading into an important election season — and one familiar name has stepped forward to lead.

Joseph Zangar Bright, affectionately known simply as Zangar in the Liberian community of Ottawa, has announced his candidacy for President of FLAC. Running under the inspiring theme "Revive, Rethink, and Rebrand," Zangar brings with him years of active service and leadership within both the Liberian Association of Ottawa (LAO) and Federation of Liberian Association in Canada.

He has held several key roles in LAO, including Secretary General and, most recently, Chairperson of the Constitution Review Committee, where he played a pivotal role in ushering in the LAO's 2025 Revised Constitution.

If elected, Zangar says his platform will focus on Unity, Inclusivity, Growth, Expansion, and Rebranding — values he believes are essential to strengthening the Liberian community presence and impact across Canada.



LAO Youth & Kids: A Day of Discovery, Learning, and Laughter

On **Saturday, October 18, 2025**, the children and youth of the **Liberian Association of Ottawa (LAO)** enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the **Canada Science and Technology Museum**. The day was filled with curiosity, laughter, and hands-on learning as the young participants explored, discovered, and shared exciting moments together.

The excursion was organized by the **LAO Community Engagement and Empowerment Committee (CEEP)** — marking the second educational and recreational outing hosted by the committee this year. These outings are designed to expose children to interactive learning environments that both educate and inspire creativity.

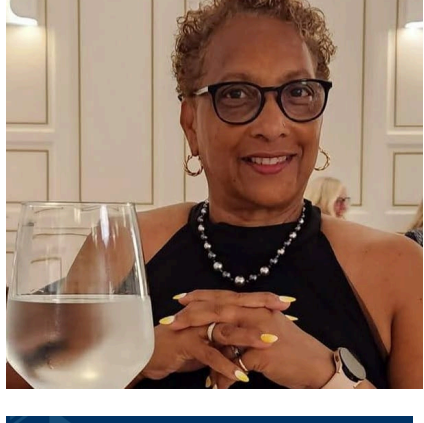
The **Canada Science and Technology Museum** was the perfect choice for this adventure. Known for its interactive exhibits and family-friendly spaces, the museum gave the children countless opportunities to explore science in action. Guided by their parents and CEEP leaders, the kids delved into several fascinating exhibits, including the "ZOOM CHILDREN'S Innovation Zone," where they built, played, and experimented, and the ever-popular "Crazy Kitchen," an immersive passageway that challenges balance and perception in fun, mind-bending ways.

After an exciting tour of the exhibits, everyone gathered in the museum cafeteria for some light refreshments — a perfect way to relax and reflect on the day's discoveries.

The LAO's CEEP continues to create opportunities for children and youth to learn, grow, and connect with one another through educational experiences that blend learning and fun. The Science and Technology Museum trip was yet another step toward fulfilling that mission — and judging by the smiles, it was a day to remember!



SPOTLIGHT: Edlyn Shepherd – A Heart of Compassion and Service



In every thriving community, there are individuals whose quiet dedication and generosity make a lasting difference. Mrs. Edlyn Shepherd is one of those people.

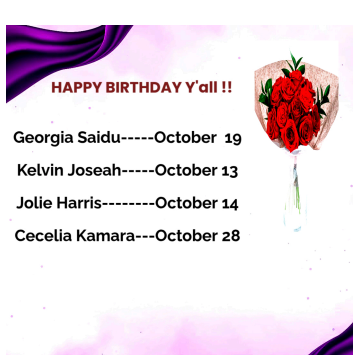
A devoted mother of four (one now deceased), Edlyn has been an active and steadfast member of the Liberian Association of Ottawa for many years. Her involvement spans a range of initiatives and leadership roles, including serving with distinction on the Board of Trustees.

Edlyn's compassion extends far beyond committee meetings and community events—it is a way of life. During a visit to Liberia with her former husband, she encountered a young Liberian teenager named Freeman, whose story of hardship deeply touched her heart. Determined to make a difference, Edlyn returned to Ottawa and mobilized support to help Freeman continue his education.

Today, Freeman has proudly graduated from college and is working to contribute positively to society—an inspiring testament to Edlyn's belief that "if you help one person, you help the whole community."

Whether she's volunteering at events, supporting community initiatives, or simply showing up with a smile and a helping hand, Edlyn embodies the values of unity, kindness, and service that strengthen our community. Together with her children and grandchildren, she continues to be a positive presence in Ottawa's Liberian community.

Let us extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Edlyn Shepherd for her unwavering support, compassion, and years of dedicated service. Her story reminds us that even one act of kindness can ripple through many lives—and help uplift an entire community.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Financial Literacy Workshop

Build a Strong Financial Future

SATURDAY
9 Nov. 2025

START AT
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FREE

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

- Debt Management (including Credit Cards)
- Banking, Saving, and Investment
- Budgeting
- Financial and assets Planning for major life events and large purchases (e.g., home ownership)

Presenter:
Edmund Brainerd, BComm, CGA/CPA
Financial Specialist

Edmund has over 10 years of experience in financial analysis and more than 20 years of expertise in taxation with both the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Build Your Financial Future — Join LAO's Financial Literacy Workshop!

The Liberian Association of Ottawa (LAO) Executive invites all community members to take part in a **one-day Financial Literacy Workshop** designed to empower participants with the knowledge and tools to build a stronger financial future.

The session will be led by **Edmund Brainerd**, a well-known expert in financial literacy education.

Participants will learn practical strategies on **banking, saving, investing, budgeting, and financial and asset planning.**

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable financial insights and take control of your financial well-being!

for more information contact the Executive on the link below

[LAO Executive](#)



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Bill C-12: Tips to Avoid Pitfalls

Bill C-12, also known as the Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Border security, has been passed into law. One aspect of the legislation, the Straighter Asylum Claim Rule, introduces new rules for Asylum claimants and Immigrants.

Here are some tips to avoid the Pitfalls of the new legislation.

- **Stay Informed: Keep an eye on official governed update, as policies can change quickly.**
- **Gather Require Documents: Maintain a detail record of your application, including receipts and documents**
- **File Claims And Application promptly: Submit claims and applications as soon as possible to avoid missing deadline and facing potential ineligibility**
- **Prepare for Interview with Immigration officials, and consider seeking support from advocacy groups or legal representatives.**

Click on the link below to read more on Bill C-12

[Bill C-12](#)

New Comers Support Services in Ottawa

Ottawa offers various services to support newcomers in settling into their new life. Here are some key resources:

YMCA Newcomer information Centers

- Provides free information and referral services, including immigration and citizenship guidance, employment support, education, health, housing, and more.

website: www.ymcaottawa.ca
Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO):

- Offers settlement services, including language instruction, career mentoring and counseling.

Website: <http://www.ociso.org>
Catholic Center for Immigrants:

1. Provides Community-based services for Immigrants and Refugees, including settlement programs, language and skills training, and orientation

Contact: <http://www.ociso.org>

Immigrant women services of Ottawa:

1. Provides Services for immigrant and racialized women who are victims of domestic abuse.

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