

BIOGRAPHY OF HAYNESLEY BENN

CONSUL GENERAL OF BARBADOS AT TORONTO



Haynesley Benn was born in St. Peter to parents who were agricultural workers and grew up with five brothers and four sisters. He received his primary education at All Saints Boys School, before entering the Coleridge & Parry School where he completed his secondary education. He then furthered his education at Erdiston Teachers Training College, the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill from which he graduated with a Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1995.

Consul General Benn has had a long and varied career, starting out as a teacher at All Saints Boys School in 1967 after completing his Secondary education at the Coleridge & Parry School. Mr. Benn joined the Barbados Agricultural Society in 1975 and served in many capacities before becoming its General Manager in 1979. He spent 22 years with that organization before leaving to take up an assignment in the private sector at Barbados Shipping and Trading Ltd, where he held a number of management positions, including Marketing Manager.

After entering politics in 2008 as a candidate for the Democratic Labour Party, Consul General Benn was appointed a Senator from 2008 to 2013. He also served as Minister of Agriculture from 2008 to 2010 and as Minister of Commerce and Trade from 2010 to 2013

A committed volunteer in the community and his church, Mr. Benn started the first 4-H Club in St. Peter, the All Saints 4-H Club, in 1969. He held many leadership positions within the 4-H movement, and became President of the 4-H Foundation of Barbados in 1989, a position he held until 1993.

Canada is not new to Consul General Benn. During his years with the Barbados Agricultural Society Mr. Benn benefitted from training opportunities in Canada at the Centre for Management at Banff in Alberta, and at the Co-operative College in Saskatchewan. He also worked as a consultant with the Canadian Cooperative Association of Ottawa, which afforded him the opportunity to visit places such as London Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and the North West Territories.

A dedicated family man, Consul General Benn has been married to Margery for the past thirty-nine years. They are the parents of two sons, Don and Dr. Neil Benn.

Consul General Benn enjoys sports and all forms of music.