



## **ST. KITTS AND NEVIS**

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### **OBJECTIVES/GUIDELINES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)**

1. Provide key challenges and opportunities for learning.
2. Status of Open Distance Learning (ODL) in St. Kitts.
3. Identify five top priorities relating to education and training that COL can support for 2015-2018.

### **KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Lack of Trained Personnel.** There is need to provide training for the Guidance Counsellors. In recent past, we have had four cases of attempted suicide in our schools. Two of these attempts occurred in the same school and one each from two other schools. Training for our Guidance Counselors is critical so that they will be better equipped to deal with these situations.
- **Limited Resources.** The Ministry of Education is piloting single sex class instruction materials in three schools. Supporting materials and training in designing the meaningful materials for the classrooms are needed for teachers in single sex classes.
- **Lack of Technical Expertise.** The Ministry of Education would like to provide additional training in TVET and ICT training for teachers and school administrators. The White Paper on Educational Development and Policy for 2009-2019 is currently under review. Any assistance with expertise for training will be greatly appreciated.

### **STATUS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION/LEARNING**

Enrollment has been steady with very little increase at the UWI Open Campus. Currently there are five tutors for several programmes of which many teachers are taking advantage. Teachers will receive their Bachelor's Degree upon completion.

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2015-2018**

The Ministry of Education White Paper on Education Development 2009-2019 is based on the theme "Raising the Standard, Maximizing Resources, Aligning with Best Practices- Promoting Learning Success for all." In keeping with this theme, the following five areas need to be fully developed:

1. **Single Sex Education.** This is piloted in three primary schools namely: Beach Allen Primary School, St. Paul's Primary School and Cayon Primary School. There is a need to enhance the teaching learning environment for the single sex classes with equipment and learning resources. Training for teachers to use the resources is also critically important.

2. **The Integration of Technology in Instruction.** In the Education System, laptops have already been distributed to secondary school teachers and students. However, current issues hindering the implementation of ICTs in the classroom include the lack of ICT skills/certification of teachers, both basic and advanced and the lack of teacher accessibility to training and other resources due to financial constraints. There is also the need to increase the capacities of teachers to more effectively respond to the expectations and needs of Twenty-First Century students through innovative secondary education programmes.
3. **Differentiated Instruction.** The Ministry of Education would like to provide training that would equip our staff with powerful tools and resources to meet the diverse learning needs of every student. This may be achieved through the development of a trained cadre of personnel at pre-school level, confident and skilled in employing strategies to deal with our vulnerable resources. Agriculture is seeking assistance in training persons in the area of video/audio processing and editing.
4. **Policy Writing- Food and Nutrition Security Policy.** Currently the Ministry of Education, with the partnership of McGill University, has adopted a modified menu – more fruits and vegetables in the lunch for four of 17 public schools. The Ministry of Education would like to have a policy which addresses the health and nutritional needs of all the students. Policy about bullying – Bullying (cyber bullying as well – Facebook reports of teachers and students) in schools bullying by teachers, bullying among students. More and more reports are coming to the fore about bullying. Policies on truancy – (need for more officers and monitoring and holding parents accountable) and disability in children – rights and responsibility of parents and care givers.
5. **Agricultural Development.** The Ministry of Agriculture is desirous of procuring desktop computers and laptops for the staff also external hard drive to store and process information. The field of plant health needs a lot of attention. Areas of focus include: Taxonomist (various fauna), weed scientists training, Pathologist, Virologist, Plant Health specialists, Lab technicians (chemical residue analysis, elisa tests, etc.), IT specialists (electronic data exchange, communication).