**PROJECT OVERVIEW – Inspirational Leadership Institute**

Vision:

The Ayahora (1) Communities of Excellence (ACE) Foundation Inc., a registered non-profit organization as of 06 June 2018, promotes and inculcates sustainable development principles and practices rooted in indigenous wisdom and 7 Generation knowledge, through the delivery and support of quality environmentally-sensitive, culturally-relevant pre-primary and adult educational programmes and initiatives, focused on Dominica’s indigenous Kalinago community.

Mission:

As a registered non-profit organization, Ayahora accomplishes its vision through partnership with other NGOs, CSOs, global development and/or indigenous-focused agencies, educational institutes, local and central government, other relevant entities and persons to develop centres and programmes of excellence.

Keystones:

Within a holistic education framework based on indigenous wisdom and 7 Generation knowledge, Ayahora’s learning/educational keystones are:

* leadership and entrepreneurship,
* creativity & innovation,
* science and technology,
* resilience and regeneration,
* environmental stewardship and climate literacy,
* permaculture,
* health and well-being.

Ayahora’s model “Inspirational Leadership Institute”:

Ayahora is presently working on the development of its first model "green" Inspirational Leadership Institute (ILI) in Dominica’s indigenous Kalinago Territory, our cradle of innovation. To achieve this, we have partnered with seasoned pioneers of the Montessori Centre of Dominica (2) and with the Canadian Rothesay Netherwood School (RNS)’s «Schools for Schools” project. This institute will be designed to house a day-time Montessori pre-primary school, and a Centre for adult skills training in the evening, focused on women empowerment.

In addition, Ayahora will implement Afternoon Supervision, Summer Camp Enrichment programmes targeting pre and primary school children locally and globally, and opportunity to foster international linkages and exchanges amongst indigenous communities under the banner of community-based agri-tourism.

Ayahora’s model “Inspirational Leadership Institute”: (cont’d)

It is anticipated that the "green" institute will be completely off grid and aims to be self-sufficient in line with Dominica’s new focus to be the world's first climate resilient country. Our keystone principles will be weaved throughout the programmes offered at the learning institute. Integral to the institute’s programme will be the operation of an efficient school farm run on permaculture principles, where the children will learn to grow what they eat and eat what they grow, to build climate resiliency and develop entrepreneurial skills from farm to market, which will also serve as a revenue stream for the institution.

Background:

The “Schools for Schools” project was the brain child of a bright and generous-hearted young Grade 10 student, who mobilized teams of volunteer Canadian students, teachers, architects and engineers, moved to action by the devastation suffered in Dominica from hurricane Maria. The “Schools for Schools” project will be donating and shipping a starter classroom/«school in a can» with all equipment and Montessori materials for 35 pre-primary students.

As we explore emerging educational opportunities, Ayahora’s partnership with the Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST), as well as with Montessori Schools in Canada will provide an element of the required Montessori teacher training and indigenous community building skills. Given the limitations of this COVID-19 era, both virtual and face-to-face teaching delivery methodologies will be employed.

Implementation Strategy:

To complete the first Inspirational Leadership Institute, to be built on a donated designated site in the indigenous Kalinago Territory, a community requiring critical developmental support, we are currently working on mobilizing resources to cover costs related to:

* engineering assessments and works for the foundation
* bathrooms and sewerage
* permaculture farm
* landscaping works
* electronic/hybrid school bus
* recruitment, on-line and face-to-face training of prospective Montessori teachers, and additional team members
* administrative and technical support

We are committed to providing affordable, world-class education and training via face to face and remote platforms. This we will accomplish, as we have successfully done in the past through the Montessori Centre of Dominica, through our ongoing sustainable tourism development work in the Kalinago Territory and related adult training across the region, with our overarching vision of contributing to the responsible development of our community, island, region, global village.

For more information, kindly contact:

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Founder/Chair:
- Ms Yvonne Armour, Montessori Educator/Sustainable Tourism Development Specialist/Regional Trainer

Directors:
- Mrs. Juliette Fadelle, Entrepreneur/Permaculturist/Former Head of Planning, Canada

- Mrs. Vincia Auguiste-François, Kalinago Lawyer/Registrar of Lands & Titles, Kalinago Resident, Dominica
- Ms Jeanelle Brisbane, Environmental Scientist/Founder of WildDominique, Dominica

Youth Ambassador/Mentee:
- Ms Christie Auguiste, Student; Valedictorian of Class 2020 Orion Academy; Former CTO Junior Minister

 of Tourism, Kalinago Resident, Dominica

Friends of Ayahora:

- Ms Adasa Lockhart, Government Adult Education Aide, East District, Atkinson, Dominica

- Mrs. Charlene Avalos, Manager of Holistic Healing Services, Native Child & Family Services of Toronto

- Mr. Kimani Lapps, Kalinago Cultural Thought Leader/ Entrepreneur, Canada
- Ms Nadira Lando, Kalinago Lawyer/State Attorney, Dominica

- Ms Sharon Jones, Plant Pathologist/Scientist, IICA St. Kitts/Trinidad/Caribbean

Honorary Directors:
- Mrs. Beverly Blatcher Lawrence, Accounts Director, UK

Notes:
(1) “Ayahora” is the Kalinago word for “Thanksgiving”

(2) The Montessori Centre of Dominica, incorporated on 18th November 1996, a pioneering educational institution focused on providing quality environmentally-sensitive education to preschool and primary school children in the Commonwealth of Dominica, as well as teacher training, using the Montessori method of education.

(3) Partners include: Conscious Caribbean Connections, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST), Dominica Tours DMC, WILDDominique, Félicité Organics, Global Resilience Systems, Association of Caribbean Museums (MAC), the new WAIKADA, Ministry of Environment, Urban Renewal and Kalinago Upliftment, Kalinago Council, Kalinago