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# CANORIENT LEGACIES

## Expanding The Reach & Building for The Future Pilot Project Newsletter

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### Our Story

Canorient Christian Association of Toronto (CCAT) is happy to introduce our pilot Building for the Future (BFF) initiated last year during our year-long 50 years celebration in 2025.

CCAT was established in 1974 as part of a national collaboration initially initiated with two chapters across Canada. It was the vision of a small group of immigrants who wanted to create a meeting place for social and cultural activities for the Christian Community predominantly from the South Asian Diaspora. Last year CCAT celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a full year of celebrations offering over 65 events and programs culminating in a Gala with over 500 attendees. Additionally, the Canorient Seniors Club of Toronto (CSCT) celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Youth Committee of Emerging Leaders completed their three (3) year milestone - another two accomplishments to be proud of. Today CCAT has expanded across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond with a membership base of over 1000 (and counting) who participate, contribute, volunteer, and support each other through our faith-based legacy of community building.

### Introducing the Canorient Legacy Model of Community Building

Last year Canorient embarked on a pioneering pilot project to engage members to review the best practices and lessons learned from 50 years of developing a multi-service association delivering programs designed for seniors to emerging youth engagement activities. Through this pilot CCAT was able to capture stories, testimonies, thoughts/insights from past and present presidents, document published and unpublished material, and the rich chronological review of accomplishments and the challenges encountered and overcome. Due to conflicting commitments and priorities, the ideas/suggestions arising from the first engagement event are still pending action to move the CCAT into the future and build sustainability.

CCAT is now embarking on implementing the Canorient Community-Building Legacy Model. This significant undertaking initiated last year by stalwart members with expertise in community development in partnership/collaboration with the CCAT/CSCT leadership during which the leadership continued to design and offer a portfolio of excellent well-attended programs. The Canorient Leadership Working Group (WG) has stewardship of this project. The WG comprising of stalwart members and the joint leadership is committed to building for the future by designing intergenerational programs to exchange ideas and opportunities such as focusing on possibilities to expanding support for seniors in the community, the continuation of social and culturally appropriate services for their overall wellbeing with a vision to impart their knowledge to future generations to build/ sustain a model for the future. This exemplary volunteer-centered model, rooted in Connection, Resilience, and Shared Purpose for the Future, continues to embrace new innovative ideas and suggestions for BFF.

CCAT/CSCT is grateful to all past, present and emerging leaders, members and volunteers for contributing to expanding the reach for the future and during the past 50 years and who remain committed to moving this pilot forward to look at ways to build our sustainability and expand the reach. CCAT received a modest grant from the Government of Canada which will enable the creation of a digital repository to retain the association's legacies- a living archive for future generations and for sustaining the association in the outyears.

The ongoing work of the WG is already demonstrating positive results and opportunities including ensuring the CCAT is well position to meet any required regulatory/legislative compliance. On September 27, 2025, the membership was invited to learn more about this pilot project and the key priorities. The WG appreciated the inspiring seniors' stories and thoughts on what CCAT means to them and who remain enthusiastic about sharing their experiences/expertise to expand the reach for several years to come. At the event, the WG also remembered the contributions/legacies of our seniors who have passed through a candle ceremony.

In closing, CCAT/CSCT invite you to consider contributing stories of past and present members for inclusion in the digital repository. Your ideas, skills, experience (lead), connections, financial support, and active participation are welcomed. Should you be interested in sharing your insights and/or suggestions, please forward the same to [toronto.canorient.event@gmail.com](mailto:toronto.canorient.event@gmail.com).

The **Canorient Leadership Working Group** would like to thank all our members for their continued support in expanding the reach and building collectively for the future. Please stay tuned for future updates.

Thank you, and a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.