1ST QUARTER NEWSLETTER | JAN - MAR 2021 | VOLUME 23





### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- CEO's Message
- Financial Tips
- Loan Features
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Covid-19 Tips
- Savings and Investment Feature

### **BUSINESS HOURS**

ALL BRANCHES Monday - Friday 9:00a.m - 4:00p.m A New Year has begun, and we can reflect on a year unlike any other. As we head into 2021, we have numerous opportunities to make a fresh start despite the challenges that we all faced in 2020. With recent medical advances and Jamaica receiving its first doses of vaccine on Monday March 8, there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel.

The uncertainty of 2020 has taught us that being prepared for the unexpected is more important than ever. It also gave us an opportunity to reflect, to appreciate our successes and treasure new aspects of life. Though it was a peculiar year, we managed to celebrate several successes. For the first time in the Credit Union's history unaudited financials have shown Total Assets hitting the \$3 billion dollar mark, Savings and deposits grew to \$2.1B and we recorded over \$2.5B in our loan portfolio. The year also turned out to be our most profitable year to date.

In the next coming months, we will be looking at innovative and new ways for you to conduct business with us by shifting our focus to online transactions as we continue our fight against Covid-19. We have started the year off by re-designing our website and making it more user friendly and we are currently exploring the possibilities of online loan application, which will become a reality in the next coming months.

Our commitment to improve member experience will continue to be our priority as we continue to enhance our products and services. We are with you every step of the way because our purpose is to champion your financial success and become your one stop financial institution.

We want to express our appreciation for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate these challenging times. Continue to stay safe and let us help you to make this year yours.

## **FINANCIAL TIPS**

New year, new you! Get familiar with some strategies you can employ in 2021 to achieve greater financial independence and stability.

### BE SPECIFIC

When setting your goals for 2021, be as specific as possible. Telling yourself you want to save \$10,000 dollars a month or create an emergency savings fund of six months' worth of expenses are clear goals.

Being thorough in your goal setting will allow you to track your progress throughout the year!

### MEASURE YOUR PROGRESS

Be sure to check-in with your goals periodically throughout the year to see how you're doing and to see If you may have been overzealous in your goal-setting, it's perfectly fine to modify your resolution accordingly as long as it's within the spirit of the original goal. Measuring your progress may also give you a boost of confidence and remind you why you made your resolutions in the first place.

### YOUR PLANS MAY DERAIL

Whatever the resolution, it is likely that you will face obstacles along the way for e.g. an emergency may come up and ruin your savings goals for the month, if this happens don't be too hard on yourself! Let it strengthen your resolve and get right back to your plan as soon as you can.

### CREATE AN EMERGENCY SAVINGS FUND

Having an emergency fund to contend with unforeseen issues, like car maintenance, medical bills or even a once-in-a-century pandemic, is more important than ever.

It is recommended that you keep 3 to 6 months' worth of expenses in your fund. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how vital it is to have money set aside for emergencies, and we should take that lesson to heart.

### TACKLING DEBTS

Whether it is creating a debt payment plan or eliminating debt entirely over the course of 2021, any efforts to ease the stress that can come from debts is a good move. There are two widely recommended strategies you can employ, the debt avalanche and debt snowball methods.

The debt avalanche method prioritizes paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first. Using this method, you may save money on interest in the end.

The debt snowball method prioritizes paying smaller debts off first before moving on to larger ones.

hank You, Our Members!

We can all agree that 2020 was a year with great challenges. Thank you for your patience and unwavering support throughout the year. As always, we are here when you need us because we are YOUR Credit Union. We look forward to serving you in 2021 and beyond.

### **5 TIPS WHEN BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME**

Buying your first home can be very exciting. There are many benefits to owning your home vs. renting but purchasing your first home can be intimidating. Here are 5 tips to help you in the process.

### **KNOW YOUR CREDIT HISTORY**

It is a good idea to review your credit report prior to applying for a mortgage loan.

#### **GET PRE-APPROVED**

Talk to a loan officer to find out how much you qualify for before you start looking for homes. It's a heartache waiting to happen to fall in love with a house and then find out you don't qualify for a loan large enough to purchase it.

#### **FIND A REALTOR**

A good real estate agent can be invaluable in helping you find your dream home.

### SAVE YOUR DOWN PAYMENT AND CLOSING COSTS

If you have not started saving for your first home, create a savings plan and pay down current debts to ensure that you have adequate funds to finance your purchase.

### ATTEND OPEN HOUSES AND THINK LONG TERM

Once you have narrowed down the neighborhoods that you would want to live, attend a few open houses. Looking at homes that are for sale, even if they are not a perfect fit for you is a great way to learn more about the area.



HEAD OFFICE 7-9 Union Square, Cross Roads **Kingston 5** Tel: 876-929-8017, 929-1845/55 Fax: 876-920-2148

**BRANCH LOCATIONS** 

ST. CATHERINE Shop 6 Caribbean Estate Shopping Plaza, Portmore Tel: 876-632-6424 or 631-0335

ST. MARY Shop 10F Pompano Shopping Complex, Tower Isle, St. Mary Tel: (876) 975-5754 or 975-5649 Fax: (876) 975-5024

ST. JAMES BRANCH Shop 10 Icon Mall 12 Crane Boulevard, Fairview Montego Bay Tel: (876)971-2306 or 979-3046 Fax: (876) 940-4720

MANCHESTER BRANCH 9 Ward Avenue, Mandeville Tel: (876) 625-8583 or 619-3109 Fax: (876) 625-8583

@pseccuja Website: www.psecreditunionja.com Email: info@psecreditunionja.com

### DRIVE AWAY YOUR DREAM CAR... FASTER !!!! **MOTOR VEHICLE LO**



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\*conditions apply

GET UP TO

YEARS TO REPAY

### **IMPORTANT ADVISORY** Please be advised that our Portmore Branch is closed and will re-open on Monday, March 29, 2021 for regular business.

# **USE THE EQUITY IN YOUR HOME TO:**

- Pay off debt

- Fund you or your child's tertiary education
- Take a much-needed vacation

ASK ABOUT OUR HOME EQUITY LOAN 8.99% per annum



Did you know you can use the equity in your home to pay for much more than home repairs? Although it is a great way to make improvements to your home, you can also tap your equity to consolidate your debt, pay for college or other big expenses, use for unexpected emergencies or even to fund a family vacation.

#### We offer:

- Competitive rates\*
  - Easy repayment schedules
  - Personalized service to help guide you through the process

Did you know that the Easi-Access loan is a revolving loan and secured line of credit which provides cash when you need it the most?

Get access to funds each month for life's emergencies at a competitive interest rate.

- Access up to \$2.5M
- Up to 50 months to repay.

# **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### PSECCU DONATES STOVE TO MEMBER WHOSE HOME WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE



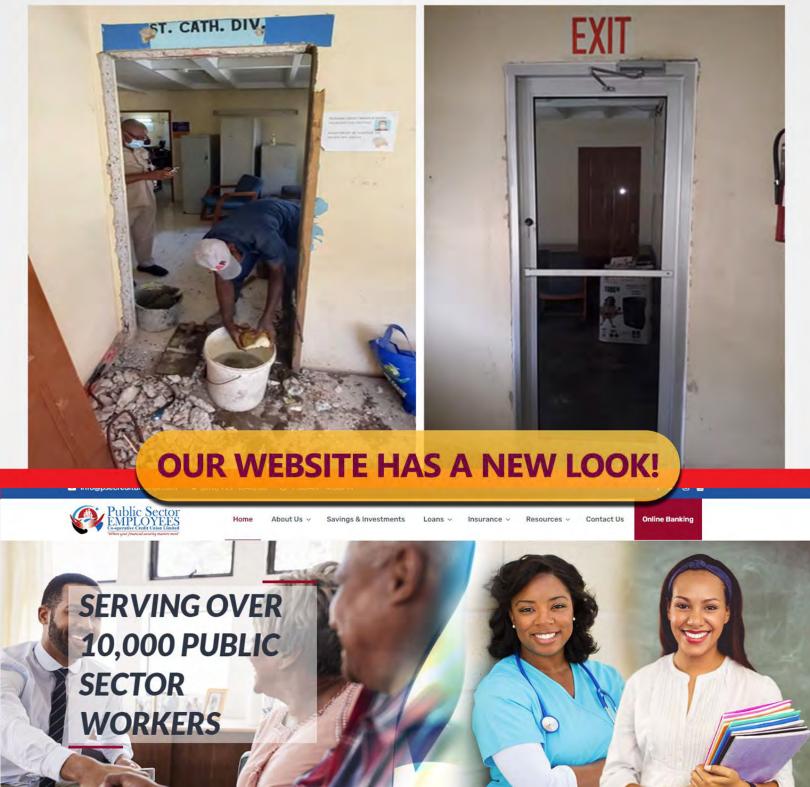
L:R Marketing and Communications Manager, KellyAnn Dixon presenting stove to Cpl Steve Bowen. **PSECCU ASSIST MEMBER WITH MEDICAL EXPENSES** 



L:R Marketing and Communications Manager KellyAnn Dixon presenting cheque to Rosina Holness.

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### PSECCU DONATES GLASS DOOR TO ST. CATHERINE NORTH COMMUNITY & SAFETY BRANCH BEFORE AFTER



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# **COPING WITH A COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS**

It is normal to feel anxiety, worry and grief if you test positive for COVID-19, or are presumed to be positive.

If your symptoms are not severe and you can recover at home, this will involve home isolation until it is safe for you to be near others without potentially spreading the infection. Here are some ways to keep anxiety and sadness from creeping in while you recover from COVID-19:

### FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN KNOW AND CONTROL

You may not know how you got infected, or how long it will take to recover. Instead of focusing your energy on regret or what ifs, focus on taking care of yourself, getting well and avoid spreading the infection.

### **ENGAGE YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK**

Ask loved ones to check in on you regularly via phone, email, or video chat. Talk to them about how you are feeling, as this will help you to not get stressed.

### EAT WELL, STAY HYDRATED + MEDITATE

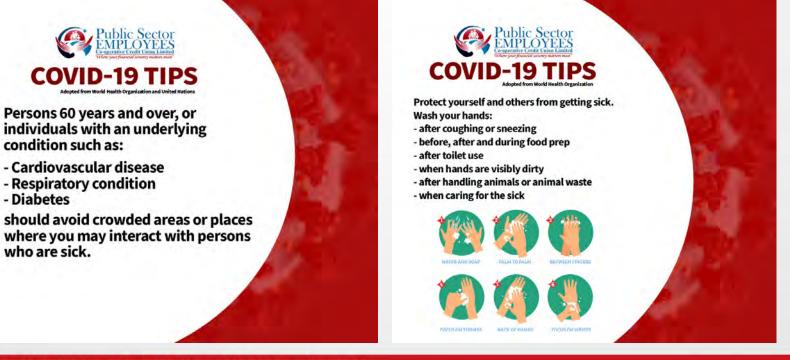
Feed your body with nutritious food (over comfort food) when your appetite allows and stay hydrated. If you're able, take deep breaths, meditate or stretch as this will help relax your body.

### **GET ENOUGH SLEEP**

Your body needs rest to recover, so now is not the time to stay up till 3 a.m. binge watching a new show. Get as much sleep as you can.

### DO ACTIVITIES YOU ENJOY AND FIND RELAXING

Puzzles, books, and crossword puzzles can help keep your mind occupied and your thoughts from ruminating. Keeping a journal of what you are experiencing may also help you to sort out your thoughts and stay positive.



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### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGH RETURNS WITH OUR

Harvest

### SAVINGS AND NVESTMENT PLAN

@pseccuja Public Sector Employees Cop-operative Credit Union email: info@psecreditunionja.com

DEFERRED

Head Office (7-9 Union Square, Kingston 5) 876-929-1845 or 876-906-8621 | Portmore 876-632-6424 or 876- 631-0335 | Mandeville 876-625-8583 or 876-619-3109 Montego Bay 876-971-2306 or 876-979-3046 | St. Mary 876-975-5649 or 876-619-3105

# **EASTER CLOSURE**

### APRIL 2- GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 5- EASTER MONDAY

ALL BRANCHES WILL RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY APRIL 6, 2021 AT 9:00AN

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BEATABLE

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#### FAX/E-MAIL INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORIZATION & INDEMNITY

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# Have you completed an Indemnity form yet?

Request transfers, withdrawals and so much more with just one email. You may complete the form at the nearest branch.



## **BIRTHDAY CLUB**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR STAFF MEMBERS WHO CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.





Dear Valued Members,

In light of the announcements made by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ), kindly be advised of our operation hours for the following days:

- Friday, March 26, 2021 All branches will open at 9a.m to 11:am
- Monday, March 29, 2021 Our Portmore branch will re-open at 9:00a.m
- Thursday, April 1, 2021 All branches will open at 9a.m to 11a.m
- Friday, April 9, 2021 All branches will open at 9a.m to 11a.m

### EASTER HOLIDAY

 All branches will be closed from Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

We will re-open for regular business on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:00a.m for regular business.

Kindly note that our **Portmore branch will no longer be open on Saturdays**. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.