



**Alfred M.  
Sears**

**STILL  
STANDING  
FIRM  
ON MY  
WORD.**



**PLP 2007**

**PLP 2007**



**STANDING  
FIRM  
ON HIS  
WORD.**

**Alfred M.  
Sears**

**MANDATE FOR  
FORT CHARLOTTE**

**One Good Term Deserves Another!  
The Progressive Liberal Party**



Dear Constituents:

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Member of Parliament and allowing me to serve our country in the high offices of Attorney General and Minister of Education, Science and Technology. I have tried to serve you with faithfulness and integrity.

I offer myself for another term and ask for your support.



*Alfred M. Sears*

Alfred M. Sears



Training session for Fort Charlotte campaign team in 2006.



## **Fort Charlotte Constituency Office**

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**Fort Charlotte Community Centre**

**Boyd Road**

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## On The Campaign Trail 2007



Alfred Sears on the campaign trail with some of his team members from the Fort Charlotte Community.



Fort Charlotte campaign team members take a much need lunch break.

## Alfred M. Sears



### Christian Values

Alfred Michael Sears, born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1953, is the eldest of eleven children of Winifred Sears, a humble, hard working woman of substance that dedicated her life to raising her children. Alfred was christened at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Church in Nassau. He participated in church activities as an altar server where he acquired a deep respect for fundamental Christian values.



Alfred Sears speaking with Archbishop Lawrence Burke after the Red Mass in 2003 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral while serving as Attorney General.

### The Road Less Traveled

Alfred, Like many boys, experienced challenges while growing up. He was convicted by the Juvenile Court on three occasions and sentenced to the Boys Industrial School twice (now Simpson Penn Centre). It was while as a resident of the Boys Industrial School, Alfred set his heart and mind to make something positive of his life in order to help his mother and contribute to his community and country.

With the support of his mother, grandmother and grandfather, Mervin and Mytis Wilkinson, the encouragement of Dr. Timothy McCarthney, Fr. Brendan Fraser, F. Pat Holmes, Mr. Audley

Kemp, some of the overseers at the Boys Industrial School (Mr. Leroy Archer, Mr. Bosfield, Mrs. Winifred McKenzie and Mr. Titus) and a group of missionary sisters from Bethel Baptist Church (Sisters Pearl Pinder, Carmel Johnson, Cleo Williams and Thelma Pinder), Alfred was able to realize his dream by working hard to prepare for high school. One small step for Alfred, but a giant leap for a young boy with bright ambitions. From this Alfred learned the value of making the best of an opportunity and the important role that elders play in a community in helping young people mature and find their path in life.

### **It Takes a Village and a Community**

Alfred succeeded in entering St. Augustine's College only to face the rigour and challenge of academic life in high school. Nevertheless, he was determined to persevere at all cost. He was assisted and mentored by concerned teachers such as Sister Barbara Doyle, Mr. Wellington Pratt, Fr. Achatz O.S.B., Elias, Mr. Winston Carter and Mr. Vincent Ferguson, Alfred eventually excelled both academically and in extra-curricular activities. He graduated from St. Augustine's College in 1972.



Closing performance at the Fort Charlotte Community Centre Summer School Programme in 2006.

**“My life experience demonstrates that God provides all of us a second chance, that we should not give up on our children and adults and that the redemptive power of the human spirit can triumph over difficulties”.**

### **VI. Safety and Security**

As your representative, I shall work with the community partners using every resource at my disposal to develop strategies to create a more safe and secure environment within Fort Charlotte. These strategies will be designed to improve our ability to enjoy the fruits of our labour, the security of our homes, and the neighbourhoods, and work areas.

### **Come Share the Vision**

Within the philosophy and platform of the Progressive Liberal Party, I believe that my background, experience and commitment will enable me to achieve these results by working with all sections of Fort Charlotte for the development and progress of all persons in the community and in our country.





- Fourth, I will, in partnership with the Fort Charlotte Community Centre, the Fort Charlotte Urban Renewal Project and St. Michael's Methodist Church, merge and expand the Fort Charlotte Marching Band and Youth Orchestra;
- Fifth, I will lobby for the construction of a baseball diamond and recreational park to be constructed in Chippingham to be dedicated to the outstanding athletic achievements of Ed Armbrister.

## **V. Community Renewal**

As your representative, I will work, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Project, churches, business and residents, promoting and initiating, for example, the following projects and programmes:

- First, I will, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Project, BTVI, churches and area businesses, establish a skills training and apprenticeship evening programme at the C. C. Sweeting Senior High School Campus for young adults in Fort Charlotte who wish to pursue a second chance to acquire life long occupational skills.
- Second, I will, in partnership with the Urban Renewal Project, area Churches and business, launch an urban redevelopment programme to assist residents in improving their properties, maintain clean-up campaigns and community watch.



Officers of the Fort Charlotte Branch of the Progressive Liberal Party after their election in 2006.

## **Community Leader**

In 1970, Alfred founded the Interdenominational Christian Youth Association ("**ICYA**") while attending St. Augustine's College with other young people, namely, Danny Price, Althea Glass and Donald Newton. Rev. Basil Johnson, a mentor and friend, acted as spiritual advisor. The ICYA organized successful summer school programmes for children in Grants Town, St. Agnes and Bain's Town communities. It was at an ICYA function in the summer of 1973 that Alfred met his future wife, Marion Bethel, who served as coordinator of ICYA Summer School Programmes.



Officers of ICYA, center: Alfred Sears, standing: Dehaviland Newton and Basil Johnson.

During this period, Alfred attended Bethel Baptist Church where he became an active member of the Junior Choir, a Sunday School Teacher and a youth leader advocating basic human values and concern for others.

## **The Journey Abroad**

In 1974, Alfred left The Bahamas to pursue undergraduate studies at Columbia University in New York and graduated from Columbia College in 1977 with a B.A. in Political Science. During this period, Alfred was elected and served as the President of the Bahamian Students Association of New York from 1974 until 1977.



Alfred Sears (4th from left) and Members of The Bahamas Student Association at Columbia University, New York in 1977.

Realizing that his preparation was incomplete to achieve the goals he had set for himself, Alfred pursued with higher education at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, where, in 1978, he earned a Masters Degree in International Affairs in International Law, as well as a Certificate in African Affairs (1981). In 1984, he was awarded the M. Phil. Degree International Relations.

In 1984, Alfred attended New York Law School and was awarded a Juris Doctor Degree in Law in 1987.

In 1991, he was awarded the Certificate of Legal Education from the Norman Manley School of Law, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.



Alfred Sears being sworn in as Counsel and Attorney of The Bahamas in the supreme court.

### **Educator and Advocate**

In 1978, Alfred was appointed as a Lecturer on Caribbean Politics and International Relations at Hunter College, City University of New York and was given tenure in 1984.

While at Hunter College, Alfred organized study abroad programmes and took students to Barbados, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in 1980 and again to the West African countries of Nigeria, Senegal and the Gambia in 1982. From 1992 to 2002, Alfred taught Labour Law, Business Law and Hospitality Law as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Florida International University and Nova Southeastern University.

In 1988, Alfred was admitted to practice law in the Bar of New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia. He was also

## **IV. Cultural Development**

As your representative, I shall promote, through public and private funding, the following cultural programmes and projects as a means of community empowerment and development in the Fort Charlotte Community.

- First, I will work, in partnership with Living Waters Kingdom Ministries and Greater Chippingham Church of God and other area Churches, to establish a second Community Centre and recreational park in Greater Chippingham;
- Second, I will work with the Home Owners Association of Perpall Tract to develop the recreational and athletic facilities on the Sean Symonette Park on Bay Street and Ferguson Road;
- Third, I will work, in partnership the Fort Charlotte Urban Renewal Project and the community junkanoo groups, to acquire land in the area and build a junkanoo cooperative for the year round production, exhibition, sale and distribution of junkanoo crafts and art, thereby; generating a stream of income for junkanoo artists and craft persons in Fort Charlotte;



A performance at the Fort Charlotte Community Centre Summer School Programme in 2006.



## **II. Party's Core Principles**

I joined the Progressive Liberal Party because I believe in its core principles. These principles include:

- Ensuring that all Bahamians have the maximum opportunity to participate in the economic and social development of The Bahamas;
- Pursuing policies that ensure that Bahamians receive priority over foreigners with respect to our land and economy;
- Deepening the democratic process to ensure that public power is exercised by and for the people of The Bahamas;
- Protect and promote the culture, heritage and environment of The Bahamas and its people for the present and future generations of Bahamians.

The core principles of the Progressive Liberal Party are more relevant today than ever before -

Milton Taylor, William Carthwright, Cyril Stevenson, Milo Butler, Clarence Bain, Doris Johnson, Lynden Pindling, Arthur Hanna Cecil Wallace Whitfield and many others fought for these principles.

I have committed myself to advancing the realization of the Party's core principles of spiritual values, security, sovereignty and fair play.

I will at all times advance the interests of The Bahamas at home and internationally and strive to deepen our commitment to the national unity, regional and international solidarity.

## **III. Representation That Matters**

As your representative, I will be available to constituents. In this regard, I will work diligently in the House of Assembly, within the national platform of the Progressive Liberal Party, for the necessary appropriation to support the programmes and projects to improve the constituency and our country.

admitted to the Bars of Jamaica and The Bahamas. Alfred began his legal career as a Court Attorney with Mr. Justice Seymour Schwartz, Civil Court of Manhattan, New York, worked with Mr. Berthan Macaulay, Queen's Counsel, Kingston, Jamaica and Gibson & Co. in Nassau, Bahamas.



Left: Dr. Perry Gomez, Alfred Sears and Bill Clinton in partnership with the Bill Clinton Foundation and the Ministry of Health in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

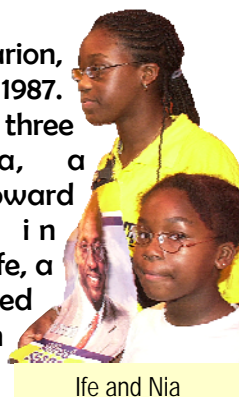
Alfred founded the law firm of Sears & Co. in 1992. from which he practiced law here in The Bahamas with his wife, Marion Bethel, until 2002 when he was appointed to the Cabinet. During this period, Alfred conducted an active practice in commercial, constitutional and labour litigation. From 1988 to 2001, he served as Honorary Secretary of The Bahamas Bar Association.



## Family



Alfred married Marion, a gifted poet, in 1987. He is the father of three children Adelaja, a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Ife, a student at the United World College in Swaziland, Southern Africa



Ife and Nia



Marion

and Nia, a student at St. Augustine's College in Nassau.



Adelaja



Alfred with his wife and his daughter Nia after her confirmation at Mary's the Virgin Anglican Church.



Alfred with Marion, Nia, Ife, Shadavia (neice) and Winifred Sears (mother)

## I. The Vision

I invite you to share and shape a common vision for Fort Charlotte where:

- There are adequate community centres, in partnership with Urban Renewal, Churches and businesses, to provide skills development, recreational and cultural programmes for every member of the community;
- Every aspiring entrepreneur has the opportunity to own and operate his or her own business on a level playing field;
- Persons find dignity and reward in secure jobs or in owning their own enterprises;
- Human dignity, economic opportunity and social progress are the rights of all;
- Nurture a culture of literacy, numeracy and life long learning amongst all children and adults in Fort Charlotte as means of personal empowerment, civic responsibility and good citizenship.

*I call on all residents of all political, religious and ethnic backgrounds in the Fort Charlotte Community to share in and expand this vision for the development of the Fort Charlotte Community.*



Private and Public Partnership meeting in the office of the Prime Minister in 2006.



14. Undertook the most massive upgrade of physical facilities of schools on every island and cay of the archipelago in the last 15 years - spending over \$70 million in the past five years in extension and repairs and building 519 new classrooms;



Mable Walker Primary School new classrooms and Security booth constructed in summer 2006

15. Launched Character Counts as a national initiative within our schools to promote the ethical values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.



As your member of Parliament, I have worked diligently to achieve the promises I made in 2002. While the two Cabinet portfolios that I held made it difficult for me to have been as available and visible as I would have liked, I have delivered on many of the commitments I made.

While there is still more work to be done in order to realize our shared vision, the following achievements have been made in Fort Charlotte over the past five years:

### **Achievements in Fort Charlotte** **2002-2007**

1. **Established the Fort Charlotte Community Centre, Boyd Road, offering the following programmes:**

- Daily After School Programme
- Remedial Classes
- BGCSE Classes
- Summer School Programme
- Adult Computer Classes
- Legal Aid Clinic
- Marching Band & Orchestra
- Job placement programme for constituents.

(we have assisted hundreds of residents of Fort Charlotte in finding employment in both the private and public sectors)



## Activities at Fort Charlotte Community Centre

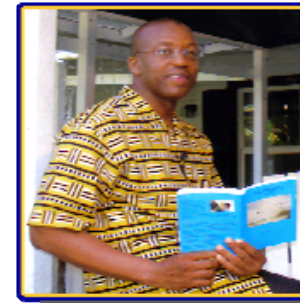


Youth Facilitators, Summer Camp 2006.



Arts and Craft activities at Summer Camp 2006.

10. Established the Education Committee to administer the Guaranteed Student Loan Programme and enacted and established the Guaranteed Loan Authority;
11. Enacted the Early Education Act to regulate daycare centres and preschools;
12. Established the Minister's Book Club to promote general literacy, showcase Bahamian and other writers and encourage Bahamians to write more books;



Promoting Bahamian writer Chester Thompson as part of the Minister's Book Club.

13. Established The Bahamas Learning Channel, in partnership with Cable Bahamas Ltd., to expand Distance Education in The Bahamas;





4. Successfully negotiated the first Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Bahamas Union of Teachers;
5. Launched initiative to evolve the College of The Bahamas into the University of The Bahamas;
6. Establishment of National Commission on Special Education and introduced Teachers' Aides in special classes and preschools, appointed additional special education technical education officers, instituted a school register to tract at-risk children from birth to adulthood and introduced a school census to determine the prevalence of special needs students throughout the education system in The Bahamas;
7. Establishment of the Education Leadership Institute, in partnership with the College of the Bahamas, for Principals, Vice Principals, Senior Masters/Mistresses in public school system;
8. Expanded preschool education in The Bahamas by building over 33 new preschool units as attachments to primary schools in New Providence, Andros, Long Island and Eleuthera, increasing the number of preschools in the public school system by over 100% in five years. This ensured that the children throughout The Bahamas, whether rich or poor get a smart and early start.



Preschool nearing completion , Driggs Hill , South Andros.

9. Reintroduced the National Scholarship Programme;



Summer Camp 2006 closing ceremony .

## **Thank You**

I wish to thank all of those teachers, lawyers, nurses, facilitators, contractors, businesspersons, residents, and parents who have volunteered their time, talents, and resources over the past five years to make the Fort Charlotte Community Centre an effective outreach presence in the Fort Charlotte Community.

I am especially grateful for the coordinating leadership provided at different times by Debbie Basden, Sandra Sejuda, Christina Johnson, Annie Sands-Moultrie, Peter Campbell, Grier Carthwright, Tamika Black, Andrew Hunter, Samuel Springer and Andrea Jenoure.

2. **Re-engineering of the Chippingham Drainage Canal** to solve drainage problem which has been causing hardship to the communities of Chippingham, St. Albans Drive and Perpall Tract for over 30 years.



Chippingham Drainage Canal



Pond created in the re-engineering of the Chippingham Drainage Canal.

### **Achievements as Minister of Education 2002 to 2007**

As Minister of Education, the following achievements, amongst other things, were realized under my ministerial period:

1. Improved the national grade mean of the BGCSE from "D-" in 2002 to "D+" in 2006;
2. Implemented the Extended Learning Programme to eradicate social promotion and provide individualized remedial instruction for low performing students in Mathematics and Reading during a four (4) week period during the summer;
3. Negotiated a \$23 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank for a transformation programme to enhance the curriculum in the areas of special education, preschool education, technical & vocational education and computer information technology in the public school system;



Centered: Alfred Sears attend the Honour Awards at the Government House with Lady Margurette Pindling and US Ambassador John Rood in 2006.



Signing of \$23 million loan with the Inter-American Development Bank to



### **Achievements as Attorney General 2002 to 2006**

As Attorney General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, from May 2002 to February 2006, I was able to achieve, amongst other things, the following:

1. Successfully led efforts to have The Bahamas removed from the Monitoring List of the Financial Action Task (FATF);
2. Responsible for conduct of Commission of Enquiry for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the Lorequin in 2005;
3. Responsible for conduct of National Commission on Legal Aid under the Chairmanship of Rev. Dr. William Thompson to study and propose a national system of legal assistance for indigent persons;
4. Served as Chairman of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) from 2002 to 2003; led CFATF to call for a Global Forum under the United Nations on anti-money laundering; and succeeded in having Grenada, St. Vincent & the Grenadines removed from the Black List of the FATF;
5. Consolidated the statutory laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in 2005;
6. Led work in enacting anti-terrorism laws in The Bahamas in 2005;
7. Strengthened international cooperation with the United States, European Union, Caribbean, African, Asian and Latin American countries in anti-money laundering and in combating the financing of terrorism.;
8. Successfully led efforts to construct new Magistrate Courts Complex on Nassau Street (in progress) to accommodate all Magistrates Courts in New Providence;
9. Successfully led efforts to enact Justice Protection Act to protect witnesses and jurors in order to better secure the administration of justice in The Bahamas.

3. **Construction of a new \$10 million state of the art primary school for T.G. Glover Primary School** (in progress) in Fort Charlotte for the students, faculty and staff who are temporarily located at Albury Sayles Primary School.



On the construction site of T. G. Glover Primary School with contractor Mr. E. R. Hanna and Ms. Tamika Hanna



Construction site of the new T. G. Glover Primary School.



4. **Successfully lobbied for the establishment of the Urban Renewal Programme in Fort Charlotte.**

5. **Sponsored the Annual Fort Charlotte Arts & Craft Festival** which showcases the crafts and arts being produced and the performing artists in Fort Charlotte.



Linda McCaulsky, Artisan at the Fort Charlotte Arts & Craft Festival 2006



Children from Fort Charlotte Community Centre giving a culture presentation at Fort Charlotte Arts and Craft Festival.



Fort Charlotte Christmas Festival at C. I. Gibson Park 2006



Miss Bahamas participate in the Fort Charlotte Christmas Festival at C. I. Gibson Park 2006

6. **Successfully lobbied for the construction of a new Government housing** subdivision on Columbus Avenue, Chippingham, next to BASH (in progress), to provide affordable homes for the residents of Fort Charlotte.