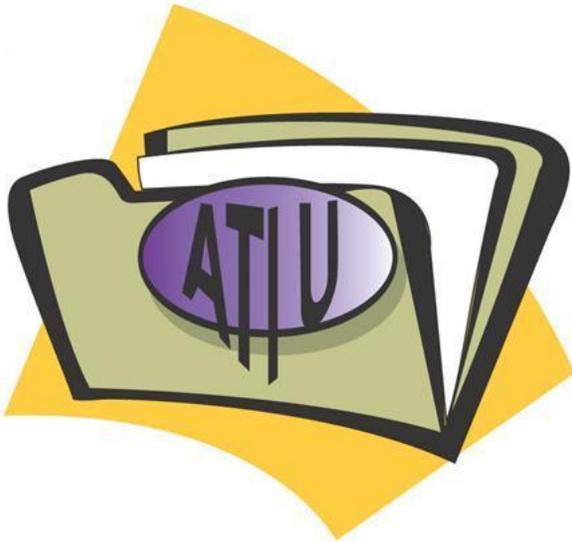


2010/2011



Access to Information Unit

Public Education Report

January to March 2011, Fourth Quarter
2010/2011

Among the mandates of the Access to Information Unit is to conduct training/sensitization sessions for public sector workers and civil society on the interpretation and application of the Act, and to produce and disseminate educational material on the rights of individuals. The Unit continues to be committed to combination of strategies in accomplishing this task. Below are the activities and avenues through which the Unit sought to engage its public and stakeholders in strengthening compliance and ensuring that a majority of public sector workers, students, and general citizens are sufficiently aware of the Act.

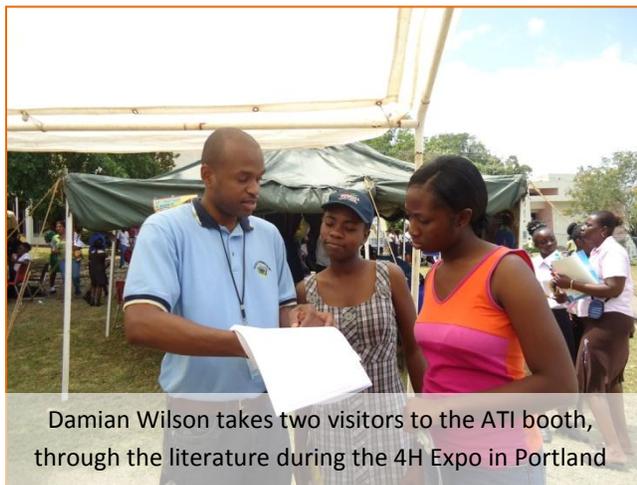
Public Expos

The Unit participated in The University of the West Indies Research Day 2011 on January 27-28. This was the third consecutive year in which the Unit was participating in this event. Six hundred and ninety-one (691) kits and brochures were distributed over the annual two-day event which saw students, lecturers and visitors including high school students from across the island being educated on the use and application of the Access to Information Act (2002).



Mitzie Moore-Cooke explains the Act to these visitors during the Annual UWI Research Day 2011

The Unit encouraged not only general use in accessing government records, but research and other academic purposes. The Unit also provided pens, pencils, water bottles and other novelty items to visitors to the booth.



Damian Wilson takes two visitors to the ATI booth, through the literature during the 4H Expo in Portland

The quarter ended with the Unit participating in another major expo - this was the Annual 4H Club National Parish Achievement Day Expo at the College of Agriculture Science and Education (CASE) in Portland. This event drew hundreds of attendees comprising visitors in and around the area, schoolchildren, teachers, and students of the College. Four hundred (400) kits and brochures were distributed at the event, along with the Unit's novelty items.

Sensitization Sessions



ATI Director, Damian Cox brings staff members of the Cabinet Office up to speed on the Access to Information Act



Here, Mr. Cox conducts a sensitization session with staff members of the Ministry of Justice

Sensitization sessions were held with the Cabinet Office (February 4) and two sessions at the Ministry of Justice (February 9 and 16), which included their various departments and agencies and accounted for line staff, and directors. Sensitization sessions were held with principals and representatives from public schools in Region Two on March 10 and Region Four on March 10 and 11. The Ministry of Education's Region Two accounts for public schools in Portland and parts of St. Thomas and St. Mary while Region Four includes St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland. These sessions accounted for a total of one hundred and eighty-three (183) persons sensitized. Literature was also given to participants to take back to their respective schools for further promotion of the Act. It should also be noted that simultaneous sessions were conducted at the other four regions with the support of members

of the Access to Information Association of Administrators (ATIAA).

Novelty Items

The Unit also procured novelty items in the form of 750 assorted pens, 100 tote bags, 100 flashlight key rings, 50 t-shirts, 50 water bottles, 100 rulers, 50 letter-sized leather-bound note pads and 35 smaller leather-bound notepads. These will continue to be used at expos to entice visitors to the Unit's booth and reward those who show substantial interest in and ask questions on the use and interpretation of the Act. It will also allow the Unit to participate in expo giveaways. Novelty items are also given at the end of sensitization sessions as tokens to those who correctly answer questions post-presentation. Another advantage of novelty items is

the fact that these items will be used and seen by several persons long after they have been distributed.

Web development

The Access to Information Unit Website underwent significant changes over the quarter. The content was reorganized and new content added in some cases in an effort to make the site more user-friendly and current.

New pages were also added, namely: Forms, Guidelines to Public Authorities and Tribunal pages. Other pages were deleted or merged, to make it easier to locate particular content and eliminate unnecessary, repetitive or out-of-date links and content. The most recent tribunal cases were also uploaded and incorporated into the new Tribunal page. Also of significance is the new 'Guidelines to Public Authorities' page. This page contains a range of resources and support for Public Authorities, in complying with the Act and adopting best practices. It addresses issues such the duties of a responsible officer, compliance lists, staff preparedness and records management checklists. Other items such the upcoming events calendar and the list of access officers was also updated.

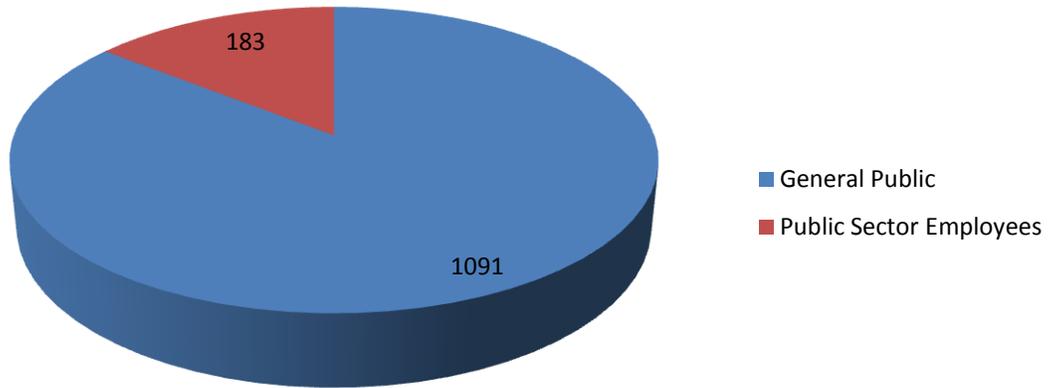
Twitter Updates

The Unit's Twitter account has also become an important part of its Public Education campaign. The site which the Unit joined in May 2010, allows the Unit to send text-based messages directly to 'followers' of the Unit on the social network site. As of March 31, 2011, the Unit had amassed 51 followers and 'followed' 85 persons and entities including the World Bank, the Carter Center, and a number of local and international media entities.

Total

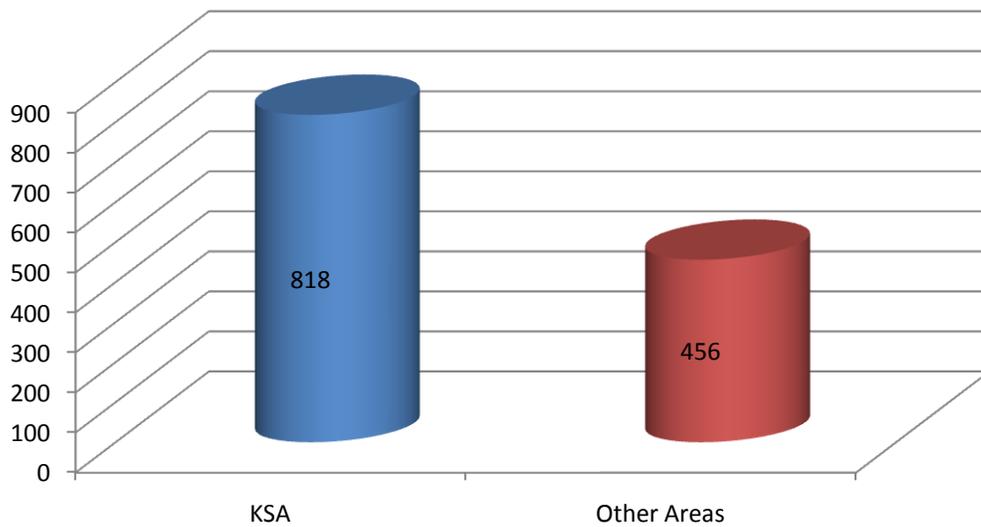
For the period January to March 2011, one thousand, two hundred and seventy-four persons were sensitized (1274), for a total of thirty-two thousand, nine hundred and sixty-two thousand (32, 962) persons since inception of the Unit. One hundred and eighty three (183) of those sensitized were public sector employees. One thousand and ninety-one (1091) were members of the general public, sensitized at the two major expos. Eight hundred and eighteen (818) were from sessions and events in the Kingston and St. Andrew area with the remaining four hundred and fifty-six (456) being locations outside this area.

Public Sector Employees v. General Public

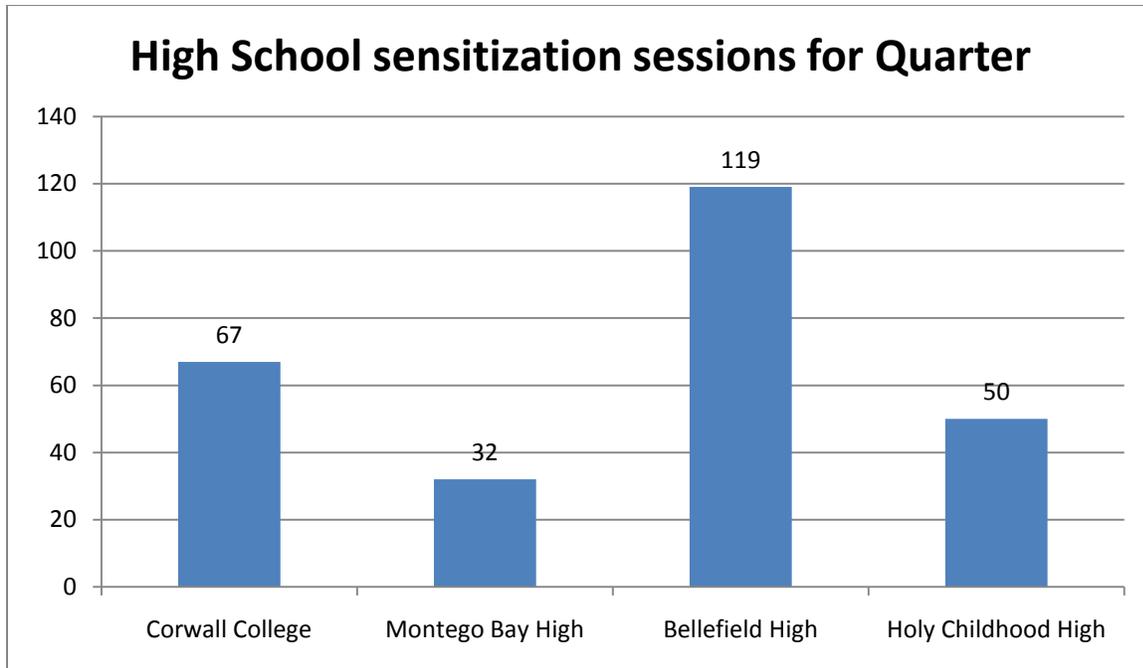


The chart above compares the number of persons sensitized in the public sector versus members of the general public.

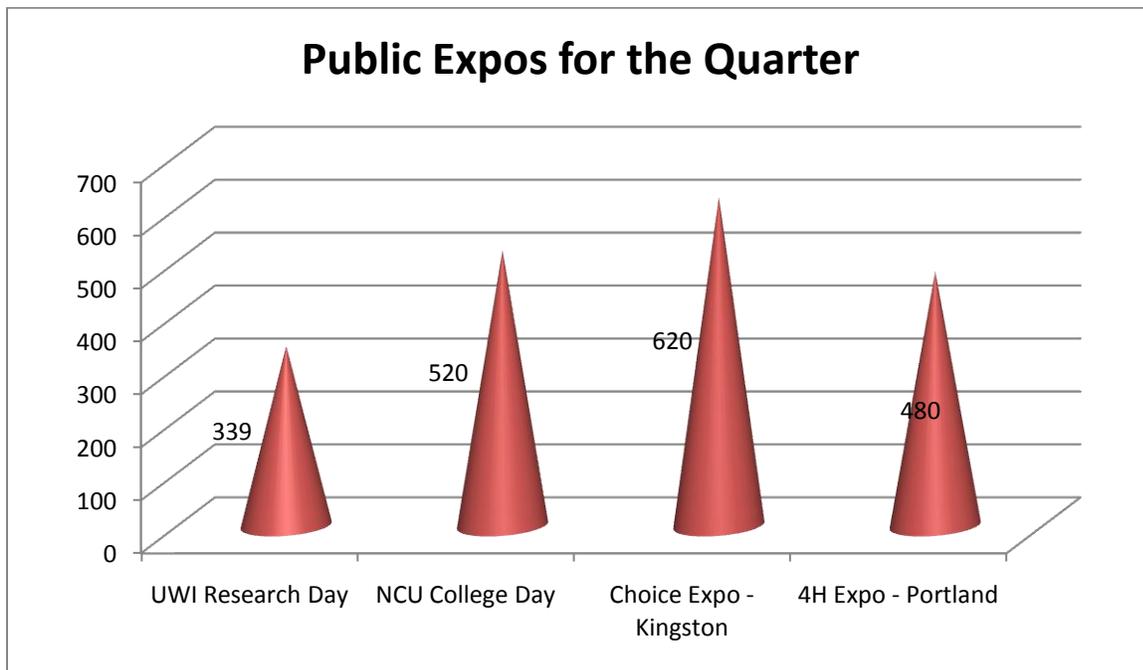
KSA v. Other Areas



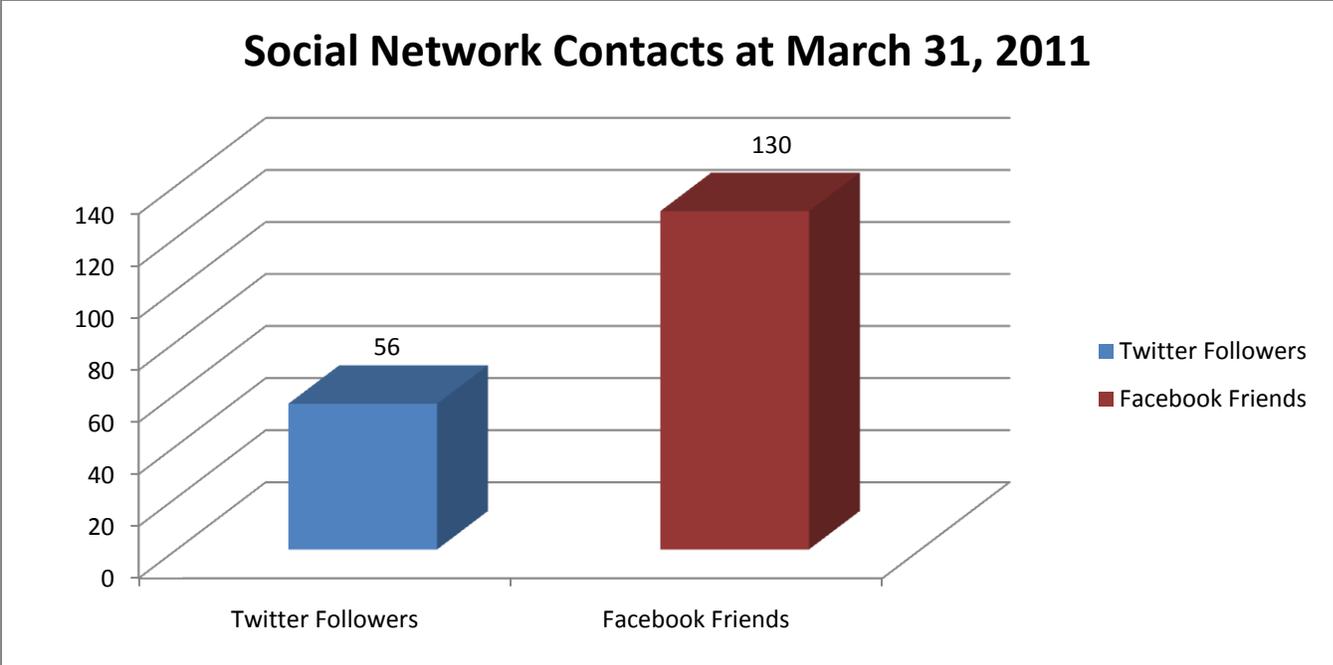
The chart above shows the number of person in Kingston and St. Andrew sensitized compared with persons in other parts of the island.



The table above shows the number of high school sensitization session held in the quarter



The table above shows the number of public expos in which the Unit participated, during the period January to March 2011



The Chart above shows the number of social network contacts on Twitter and Facebook as at March 31, 2011