

As part of our efforts to aid victims of apartheid, we were pleased to fund the feasibility study, launched at the Toronto meeting of Foreign Ministers, for the initiative you are all engaged in. I am also encouraged to learn of the support this initiative has subsequently received from across the Commonwealth, from the Secretariat, the Australian Government and many others in Africa and the Caribbean.

In my view, two aspects of this Commonwealth-wide NGO program for advanced education and high-level training for black South Africans are key. Not only does the program effectively reach into South Africa, but it also reaches out and involves institutions and governments which may otherwise not have offered assistance.

In my own country, local governments, trade unions, universities and other institutions have risen to the challenge and offered work experience and educational opportunities to black South Africans. This has a ripple effect, involving many ordinary Canadians, and in turn bolstering Canadian measures against apartheid. Through the provision of placements and in-kind support, the base of Commonwealth participation can also be broadened, again bolstering Commonwealth-wide measures.

Secondly, it is important to stress the link between promoting education and skills development among black South Africans and helping push the process of change. External training is geared towards the needs inside South Africa and among exiles. Support through training to those involved in community organizations, black professional groups and trade unions further the ability of blacks to provide internal pressure for change.

Canada has implemented other programs, including a major fund to promote dialogue among South Africans about a non-racial future and a program to counter South African propaganda and censorship.

We are engaged in this fight across the board, and we are here to stay, applying funding, programs, pressure and support. We understand the importance of Canadian leadership on this range of questions, and our government is honoured to work so closely with Ted Scott, Lord Chitnis, and the rest of you here.