



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

CABINET DU PREMIER MINISTRE

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The Observance of Commonwealth Day

Commonwealth Day will be observed in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth on Monday, March 14, and henceforth, on the second Monday in March. Our thirty-five Commonwealth partners have agreed to the proposal which the Prime Minister made at the 1975 Heads of Government Meeting in Kingston that a day should be set aside on which the people of all the member countries around the world could take special note of their Commonwealth association.

The second Monday in March was selected because it was not already a day of national significance in any member country and schools throughout the Commonwealth are in session. It is hoped that teachers will take special note of Commonwealth affairs in their classroom activities on March 14. Commonwealth Day is not a statutory holiday; rather, it is intended as an educational event with the aim of informing people in Canada and around the world of the importance of Commonwealth affairs and of the value which Canada attaches to this unique association of countries of all sizes, races, and cultures.

The Department of External Affairs has prepared information material for distribution in connection with Commonwealth Day and the flags of the thirty-six member countries will be flown on March 14 on Confederation Square.