

Government Meeting in Ottawa approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Program. This program, administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat, provides for bursary and fellowship schemes, youth service awards and an information centre, in addition to the establishment of regional training centres in Guyana, Zambia and India.

In 1965, the Commonwealth heads of government, meeting in London, approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Foundation to administer a fund for fostering and increasing exchanges between professional organizations and societies in Commonwealth countries. The Foundation, financed by Commonwealth governments and managed by an independent board of trustees and a small staff in London, provides financial assistance to encourage representation at conferences, to facilitate the exchange of visits among professional people, and to assist in organizing professional conferences and centres. More recently, the Foundation has directed its attention to encouraging the development of non-governmental associations in a number of professional fields. During its 11 years of operation, its activities have been very successful. Besides giving financial support to the non-governmental associations already mentioned and other such organizations, the Foundation has been instrumental in creating professional centres in a number of Commonwealth capitals, has made available a number of bursaries and has given financial support to various professional journals. Professional persons and associations in both developed and developing countries benefit from the fund administered by the Commonwealth Foundation.

In addition to official Commonwealth institutions and the joint programs of member governments, there are more than 200 constructively active⁸ non-governmental Commonwealth organizations.

Canadian commitment to the Commonwealth

The Canadian commitment to multilateral Commonwealth programs and institutions is reflected in the Government's contribution to them of some \$9,272,458 in 1975-76. This includes Canada's contribution of 40 per cent of the budget for the Youth Program and up to \$4 million annually to the CFTC for the Commonwealth Foundation.

⁸A partial list of these appears as Appendix G.