

The alternative press in South Africa suffers from a shortage of trained professionals. The need for freelance journalists is growing. Few blacks, and few women, can be found in the profession of journalism. Canada will therefore establish a scholarship program to provide young South Africans with the opportunity to receive an education that will prepare them for careers in journalism.

It requires both skill and courage to work as a true journalist in South Africa today. One way to encourage these brave people is to give them special recognition. Canada has therefore proposed the creation (and undertakes to provide a portion of the funding) of a Commonwealth Journalism Award to be presented to an outstanding South African journalist recognizing his/her courage and achievement in maintaining independent standards in the face of government censorship and propaganda. If other sponsors agree, such an award could be presented by the Secretary General at each CHOGM. The winners of this award would also be powerful symbols of our determination to help South Africans bring about peaceful change.

South African editors have told us that experience outside their own country is invaluable for their journalists. It may also help shield them from a somewhat capricious autocracy by providing a network of media contacts abroad. Canada will award at least two fellowships for South African journalists to provide them with the opportunity to work in Canada for a period of 3 to 12 months. The first of these will be announced in September.

My department's existing speakers program provides Canadian and foreign speakers on a host of topics to interested Canadians. This program will be augmented to provide Canadian journalists, editors, broadcasters, news producers and journalism students with an opportunity to hear informed speakers discuss South African issues with particular emphasis on propaganda and censorship and the role of the media.

A key to implementation in Canada will be an advisory board of leading citizens, from different walks of life, who share with us an abhorrence for apartheid. They will provide advice and guidance as we move forward with our program, and will help animate public involvement.