



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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MARCH 12 -- COMMONWEALTH DAY

Commonwealth Day will be observed in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth on Monday, March 12. The annual observance of Commonwealth Day on the second Monday in March is in accordance with a proposal made by Prime Minister Trudeau at the 1975 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica.

The observance of Commonwealth Day is intended to emphasize to people in Canada and around the world the importance of the Commonwealth and of the value which Canada attaches to this unique association of 40 countries of all sizes, races and cultures.

Across Canada, schools, public libraries and branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society have been provided with Commonwealth Day posters and informational materials to assist in planning special events marking Commonwealth Day.

A varied programme of events has been planned to mark Commonwealth Day in Canada. Special inter-faith services open to the public will be held on Sunday, March 11 at Christchurch Cathedral, Ottawa (4:30 p.m.); St. Paul's, Halifax; St. James Cathedral, Toronto, under the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario; and at Christchurch Cathedral, Vancouver. In Victoria, a special service is planned for Sunday March 18 at St. Peter's Church with the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia in attendance. Commonwealth Day will also be observed in Ottawa with a display of the flags of the Commonwealth nations in Confederation Square and a reception hosted by Commonwealth High Commissioners.