



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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MARCH 9 - COMMONWEALTH DAY

Commonwealth Day will be observed in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth on Monday, March 9. This will be the fifth consecutive year in which Commonwealth Day will be so marked. Annual observance of Commonwealth Day arises from a proposal made by Prime Minister Trudeau at the 1975 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica, and accepted by fellow Heads of Government.

Commonwealth Day is not a statutory holiday. Its observance is intended to emphasize to people in Canada the importance of the Commonwealth and the value which Canada attaches to this unique association of 44 countries of all sizes, races, and cultures.

Across Canada, schools, public libraries, numerous organizations and the branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society have been provided with Commonwealth Day posters and informational materials to assist in the events planned to mark this occasion.

A varied programme of events — both official and non-governmental— has been planned to mark Commonwealth Day in Canada, including public interfaith services to be held on Sunday, March 8 in Ottawa, Halifax, Vancouver, Victoria, and Toronto under the auspices of the Royal Commonwealth Society. The service in Ottawa will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. and will be attended by the Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer.