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THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING OPENS IN VANCOUVER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Honourable Pat Carney, P.C., will represent the Canadian Government at the inauguration November 14 of the headquarters in Vancouver of the Commonwealth of Learning, the newly created Commonwealth agency for cooperation in distance education. Also participating in the inauguration will be the Hon. William Vander Zalm, Premier of British Columbia and H.E. Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

The inauguration will coincide with the first meeting in Vancouver of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth of Learning. Mr. Don Hamilton, a former President of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters and a director of the Knowledge Network of British Columbia, the educational television system of that province, has been appointed by the Federal Government to represent Canada on the Board. Dr. John Daniel, President of Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, who was the Chairman of the Commonwealth Working Group on institutional arrangements for Commonwealth cooperation in distance education, will sit on the Board as an independent member.

The Commonwealth of Learning was established on September 1, 1988 following a decision taken at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver in October 1987. The new organization will promote co-operation in distance learning through a "network" of cooperating institutions throughout the Commonwealth.

Canada has offered to provide up to \$12 million in support to the new agency over the next five years of which approximately \$5 million will be provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), towards operating costs. \$5 million will be contributed by the Government of British Columbia, a portion of which will cover the costs of accommodation for the Agency's headquarters in Vancouver.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada