

Commonwealth parliamentary relations

Parliamentary relations continued to be a productive area of Commonwealth activity. The twenty-third Commonwealth parliamentary conference, which took place in Ottawa from September 20 to 24, was the largest ever held. More than 250 parliamentarians from over 100 national and provincial legislatures attended, and groups of them visited all provinces of Canada. The parliamentarians discussed such matters as human rights, the world energy crisis and Southern Africa. They also adopted a new constitution and gave priority in future programs to promoting greater activity by branches.

The Commonwealth Group of Experts met under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community and Common Market in February and March to complete their report to Commonwealth governments on means for closing the gap between rich and poor countries. The Canadian High Commissioner in Barbados has been serving as the Canadian expert in this group.

Canada participated in an 11-man team of industrial specialists that met to consider measures for accelerating the pace of industrial development. The team submitted a preliminary report to the Commonwealth heads-of-government meeting in June.

A Canadian delegation took part in a Commonwealth-wide seminar in Jamaica, organized by the Commonwealth Youth Program for the purpose of encouraging greater involvement by young people in the development of their countries.

Canadian participants presented papers to the Fourth Triennial Conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Studies, which met in New Delhi in January.

The Executive Council of the Commonwealth Science Council met in May in London and organized a September seminar on energy matters. A Canadian delegation attended the seminar, which was held in Barbados.

The biennial conference of the Royal Argicultural Society of the Commonwealth met in Regina and later in Jamaica.

The sixteenth meeting of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Council was held in Singapore.

In Canada, the Royal Commonwealth Society continued to be engaged in a wide variety of activities. One of the more notable was the fifth Student Commonwealth Conference, held in Ottawa. More than 100 Canadian students from across Canada took part.