

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION

The mandate of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), which currently administers the Games, is to:

- promote at four-yearly intervals the Commonwealth Games which shall be open to amateur competitors representing the Commonwealth Games Associations of the countries affiliated to the Federation;
- establish rules and regulations for the conduct of the Commonwealth Games in conformity with the technical rules of the international federations governing the sports concerned;
- encourage amateur sport throughout the Commonwealth by efficient organization of the Commonwealth Games competitions.

The Commonwealth Games Federation relies upon Games' organizing committees for its revenues, but the Edinburgh Games, for instance, ran a substantial deficit. In fact, the CGF is run more on good-will than financial resources. The lack of funding and facilities available to the CGF makes the "efficient organization of the Commonwealth Games competitions" extremely difficult. It restricts innovation and progress within the organization. The Federation is operated on an extremely modest budget, with minimal flexibility to respond to changing circumstances or Federation emergencies.

Canada proposes that the Commonwealth Sport Trust allocate funds to the Commonwealth Games Federation to establish a Secretariat with a strengthened personnel complement, expanded facilities and upgraded equipment. The Secretariat will be responsible for continuing to administer the Games, as well as public relations and promotional activities. An "outreach" programme would be set up to establish and maintain communications linkages with member associations and encourage regional sport development.

Commonwealth Governments may also want to recommend that the CGF be relocated in a developing country, such as Jamaica, which has excellent air transportation connections, hosting facilities and experience, communication links and an advanced sport infrastructure.