

Commonwealth Youth Program

The Commonwealth Youth Program, which is receiving a \$1.6 million Canadian contribution in 2001–02, increases contact between the youth of Commonwealth countries, links individuals and non-governmental organizations, and promotes the exchange of experiences on youth development policies and programs.

Priorities of the program are leadership training, information exchange, technical assistance and exchanges of youth workers and instructors. This program fosters human rights education and democratization, particularly in smaller states. Key initiatives now include a youth credit initiative; the formulation of national youth policies; a human rights development program, including a diploma course through distance education; a health program emphasizing AIDS prevention; and conflict resolution workshops.

The Commonwealth Youth Program has regional centres located in Lusaka, Zambia; Georgetown, Guyana; Chandigarh, India; and Honiara, Solomon Islands. These centres have facilities for on-campus training courses, extensive links with government and the business community, and advisory services.

The Commonwealth Youth Forum brings together representatives from all Commonwealth countries every two years to discuss issues of interest to youth. The latest forum took place in Brisbane, Australia, in October 2001.

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan

Each year, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan sends 1,500 gifted students to pursue studies and research in another Commonwealth country. In 2001–02, the Canadian government is providing \$4.8 million for the plan and will host some 200 Commonwealth scholars and fellows.

Small States Facility

Through the Small States Facility, nine Commonwealth countries, including island states in the South Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean, share premises in New York. This allows them to have permanent representation at the United Nations. Canada shares the cost with several Commonwealth countries, including Australia, New Zealand, India, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. Canada is contributing \$250,000 in 2001–02.