



news release

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CANADA WELCOMES SOUTH AFRICA'S READMITTANCE TO COMMONWEALTH

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today extended Canada's congratulations to South Africa on the occasion of its readmittance to the Commonwealth.

"Thirty-three years ago, South Africa left the Commonwealth because of its policy of apartheid. Since that time, Canada has led the Commonwealth in encouraging change in South Africa, all the while hoping for its eventual return. That day has now come. Canada joins with the other members of the Commonwealth in extending our welcome and congratulations to South Africans on the breathtaking achievements that have made their return possible," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet expressed satisfaction that today's move to readmit South Africa paves the way for South African participation in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia, this August.

With the readmittance of South Africa to the Commonwealth, Canada's embassy to South Africa becomes a High Commission, as does the South African Embassy to Canada.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874