

have granted over 5,000 awards throughout the Commonwealth. More recently, the 1973 Heads of Government Meeting in Ottawa approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Program. This program, administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat, provides for bursary and fellowship schemes, youth-service awards and an information centre, in addition to the establishment of regional training centres in Guyana, Zambia and India.

In 1965, the Commonwealth heads of government, meeting in London, approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Foundation to administer a fund for fostering and increasing exchanges between professional organizations and societies in Commonwealth countries. The Foundation, financed by Commonwealth governments and managed by a small staff in London, provides financial assistance to encourage representation at conferences, to facilitate the exchange of visits among professional people, and to assist in organizing professional conferences and centres. More recently, the Foundation has directed its attention to encouraging the development of non-governmental associations in a number of professional fields. Over its nine years of operation, it has been very successful in its activities; it has provided financial support to these and other such organizations; it has been instrumental in the creation of professional centres in a number of Commonwealth capitals; and it has provided funds for professional journals and bursaries. Professionals and associations in both developed and developing countries benefit from this fund.

In addition to official Commonwealth institutions and the joint programs of member governments, there are more than 200 non-governmental Commonwealth organizations constructively active.(8)

Canadian commitment
to the Commonwealth

The Canadian commitment to multilateral Commonwealth programs and institutions is reflected in the Government's contribution to them of some \$4,750,000 in 1973-74. This includes Canada's contribution of 40 per cent of the budget for the Youth Program and up to \$3 million annually to the CFTC on a matching formula of \$2 for every \$1 contributed by developing countries. For the Commonwealth Foundation, the Canadian Government has offered to double its contribution (to 30 per cent) from 1976. In addition, Canada provides more than \$300 million in bilateral aid to Commonwealth countries as an area of concentration in its development assistance.

The Canadian Government has been host to a number of recent Commonwealth conferences: the senior officials meeting and the Ministerial Telecommunications Conference in 1972, the Heads of Government Meeting in 1973 and the finance ministers' meeting in 1974.

(8) A partial list of these is contained in Appendix G.