



# communiqué

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## MARCH 8 - COMMONWEALTH DAY

On Monday, March 8, Commonwealth Day will be observed in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth for the sixth consecutive year. It was Prime Minister Trudeau's proposal at the 1975 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, that an annual observance should make the Commonwealth better known to its people, particularly in the schools, by whatever activities are considered appropriate.

Commonwealth Day is not a statutory holiday. Its observance is intended to emphasize the value Canada attaches to this unique association of 46 countries of all sizes, races and cultures. Across the country, schools, public libraries, numerous organizations and branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society have been provided with Commonwealth Day posters and information materials to assist in the plans to mark the occasion.

A varied programme of events--both official and non-governmental--has been planned to observe Commonwealth Day, including interfaith services to be held on Sunday, March 7, in Ottawa, Halifax, Vancouver, Victoria and Toronto under the auspices of the Royal Commonwealth Society. A service in Ottawa will be held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kent Street, at 4 p.m., and will be attended by H His Excellency, the Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer.