

Functional Co-operation – the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation

Canada supports the Commonwealth's pragmatic approach to functional co-operation and is among its most active contributors of funds, technology and trained individuals. For example, Canada gave the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), the chief Commonwealth program of development assistance, \$6.5 million towards its 1977/78 fiscal year, \$7.8 million for 1978/79, \$8.8 million for 1979/80 and \$10 million in 1980/81.

These figures represent Canada's continuing and active commitment to Commonwealth co-operation and amount to over 40% of the CFTC's annual budget. The CFTC is multilateral and is supported by financial contributions from Commonwealth member countries and a number of the dependent territories. It draws upon human and technical resources from all parts of the Commonwealth to help meet the development requirements of its members. It has made a point of encouraging mutual self-help among developing members, with half the experts on assignment to developing countries coming from other third world countries. The CFTC has quickly established a reputation for speedy response, flexibility and quality. It has also ensured the accommodation of development requests from smaller nations unable to obtain attention and assistance from other major international agencies. It is, finally, an efficient development assistance mechanism whose minimum overhead costs ensure the most effective funding for its many programs.

