



# communiqué

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## CARIBCAN TRAINING SEMINARS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced that a week-long series of training seminars for Commonwealth Caribbean officials will begin in Kingston, Jamaica on March 15. The seminars form part of the CARIBCAN initiative implemented last year to assist Commonwealth Caribbean countries in developing improved access for many of their products to Canadian markets.

Over sixty government, foreign service and trade officials from fourteen Commonwealth countries (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago) and two multilateral regional organizations (CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) will attend the twenty-three session seminar. Sessions will focus on developing practical skills for diplomatic and commercial representatives posted abroad, and will be taught by a variety of Canadian and Caribbean government, business and university experts specializing in business, trade, industrial development, tourism, finance, development assistance, political and diplomatic issues. The Department is honoured that the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Rt. Honourable Edward Seaga, will address the participants at the opening dinner.

The program was developed in consultation with Commonwealth Caribbean governments and CARICOM. Co-hosts for the seminars are the Canadian High Commission in Kingston and the Caribbean and Central America Trade Development Division of the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa.

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The seminars continue the tradition of Canadian-sponsored diplomatic training activities in the region, and reaffirm the long-established "special relationship" between Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean in cultural heritage, personal interchanges, education, trade, and industrial development.

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