



news release

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CANADA OBSERVES COMMONWEALTH DAY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet issued the following statement to mark Commonwealth Day, March 14.

Canadians join citizens of 49 other Commonwealth member countries today in observing Commonwealth Day.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 1994 is **Sport in the Commonwealth**, which serves to focus the attention of the entire Commonwealth on the upcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, from August 18 to 28. The Games have become a great Commonwealth institution and Canadians are proud and honoured to be hosting "the friendly Games" for the fourth time in their history.

As a prominent player within the Commonwealth, Canada continues to mobilise efforts to promote fundamental human values. These basic values lie at the heart of the Commonwealth and were reaffirmed in the landmark 1991 Harare Declaration: to protect and promote democracy and human rights; to promote women's equality; to provide universal access to education; to work to end apartheid; to alleviate poverty; to protect the global environment; to fight against disease and drug trafficking; to assist small Commonwealth countries; and to support the United Nations in search for peace.

Canada remains committed to the establishment of a non-racial democratic society in South Africa. In the upcoming April Elections, Canadians will be counted among the international community observing the Elections and contributing to free and fair voting.

Canadians can be proud of our role within the Commonwealth at the governmental level as well as within the non-governmental community. The people-to-people linkages holding the Commonwealth family together are numerous and found in every sector. Commonwealth Day

symbolizes these links and celebrates the spirit of Commonwealth co-operation and friendship.

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