

# News Release

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## CANADA OBSERVES COMMONWEALTH DAY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet issued the following statement to mark Commonwealth Day, March 13:

Canadians join the citizens of the other 50 Commonwealth countries in celebrating Commonwealth Day. This includes about one third of the world's population.

The theme for Commonwealth Day 1995 is **Our Global Neighbourhood - Working together for tolerance and understanding**. Through communication and co-operation, Commonwealth countries have worked toward promoting world peace and understanding.

In promoting these values, the links established among Commonwealth countries and peoples on an everyday non-governmental basis are of great significance. Thousands of individuals throughout the Commonwealth devote considerable time and effort toward establishing mutually valuable links. This includes sport - last year, Canada was pleased to host the Commonwealth Games for the fourth time, celebrating sport, art, culture and friendship.

The highlight for this year is the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, to take place in November. This meeting will give Commonwealth heads of government the opportunity to discuss world issues in an informal and unstructured manner. Canada values this opportunity to enhance our relationship with other Commonwealth nations and to elaborate upon Canadian foreign policy objectives.



Canada believes the Commonwealth should continue its valuable role as an instrument to promote democracy and human rights, values that we Canadians cherish, and which are essential to building the types of societies and political structures that we all want for our countries.

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