

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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SIXTH STUDENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE:
APRIL 3-7, 1978

The Sixth Student Commonwealth Conference will be held in Ottawa in the Lester B. Pearson Building from April 3 to 7, 1978. It's theme will be "Human Rights Issues in the Commonwealth". The conference will take place at the same time as the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council Biennial Meeting which will be the subject of a separate press release.

Each year since 1973 the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society, with the co-operation and support of the Department of External Affairs and Comonwealth High Commissioners resident in Ottawa, has organized a Sudent Commonwealth Conference. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for Canadian young people to increase their understanding about the nature of the modern Commonwealth and its role in seeking solutions to current international problems.

One hundred and five delegates from across Canada comprising 35 delegations will meet on this occasion. Each delegation will represent a particular Commonwealth country in the course of the conference. The youth delegates attending the biennial meeting of the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council are being invited to participate in some of the sessions of the Student Conference.

The keynote address for the opening session on Tuesday, April 4, will be given by His Excellency Nahboob Ahmad, High Commissioner for India. Mr. Gordon Fairweather, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and a former Member of Parliament, will deliver the theme address on Wednesday, April 5 at 8:00 p.m. in the main auditorium of the Lester B. Pearson Building. The public is cordially invited to attend.

On the final day of the conference, April 7, there will be a model Heads of Government Meeting during which each delegation will present its countries viewpoint on the agenda items. For this meeting the delegates will follow the same procedures used at a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.