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## Message from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, on the occasion of Commonwealth Day - March 10, 2008

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March 10, 2008

On this Commonwealth Day, I join Canadians across the country in reflecting upon our history and the ties that we share with our partners in 52 countries around the world.

I have spoken a great deal during my mandate of breaking down the solitudes that exist between Canadians, but it is also vital to find common ground with the people that represent nearly a third of the world's population. During my travels across the Commonwealth, I have been privileged to meet people who share similar hopes and dreams as we do. We live in a global world where, more than ever, we are connected with one another in new and surprising ways. The theme for this year, "The Environment-Our Future", strikes a chord with all nations, because the issues that affect our planet know no borders and require co-operation from these countries to ensure that we give each generation, today and tomorrow, the opportunity to enjoy everything this world has to offer.

Canada is proud to be a member of the Commonwealth headed by Her Majesty The Queen and embracing members who, despite their diversity, share similar values and dreams for prosperity. I wish all Canadians, as well as those celebrating in other countries of the Commonwealth, a joyous day to reflect upon how we can continue to work together to create a better world.

Michaëlle Jean

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