



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Many congratulations to the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Study Conferences Canada, for celebrating 15 years advancing leadership development across the Commonwealth. Experience has shown these conferences are a force for good. On this milestone, just two years after resurrecting the global conferences, Canada is hosting the Caribbean Canada Leaders Dialogue 2025, marking the country's tenth hosted Commonwealth Study Conference.

The first Commonwealth Study Conference was convened in Oxford in 1956. It initiated a new process of dialogue and personal development among those most likely to have increasing leadership responsibilities in business, government, labour, academic and civil society. The founder, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, my late father, understood that the principle of learning by observing, discussing, and experiencing real-time cross sector topics and communities allows for opinions and assessments to be debated convincingly, yet objectively.

Each Conference exposes the participants to new experiences, new arguments, and diverse perspectives, so that the quality and relevance of their decision-making is improved through a broadening of their exposure to different approaches. The Commonwealth Study Conference participants also learn about their world. The Commonwealth represents the shared heritage of nearly one third of the earth's population. For its 56 member nations, it is a source of special opportunity and connection. At the study conference, the Commonwealth itself becomes a classroom where each participant will engage with and learn from others.

I am delighted that the Canadian Commonwealth Study Conference Board remains steadfast in committing the time, resources and effort required to re-constitute and sustain the Commonwealth Study Conferences. Building leadership competencies is a critical contribution to a Connected Commonwealth and a tribute to my father. You can count on my continued support and engagement.