

Release  
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The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien proud of the outstanding cooperation that created the newly announced Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships program

" In April 2012, Prime Minister Stephen Harper asked me to take on the responsibility of representing Canada on The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust which was established in honour of the 60 years of the reign of Her Majesty. The Trust was established to raise funds for various charities across the Commonwealth.

From the start, I identified the need to focus Canadian resources to a single future-oriented initiative that would benefit Canada as a member of the Commonwealth. As the acquisition of knowledge has always been at the center of my priorities as a tool for long-term prosperity, I talked with one of its most eloquent spokesmen, Governor General David Johnston. From this came the idea to develop a scholarship program to be administered in partnership by Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and with the technical support of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

The Prime Minister accepted this idea and the Government of Canada today announced a contribution of \$10 million that will be added to \$20 million from the provinces and the private sector through a dedicated team effort under my leadership. This funding will be used to develop the talents of some of those who lead the private and public institutions in the coming decades.

Provincial governments and the private sector have responded positively to this initiative. I commend and acknowledge the work of former provincial premiers, who all participated in at least one of Team Canada mission with me, for their outstanding contribution as leaders of this campaign in their respective provinces: Gordon Campbell in British Columbia, Roy Romanow in Saskatchewan, Gary Filmon in Manitoba, Mike Harris in Ontario, Frank McKenna in New Brunswick, John Hamm in Nova Scotia, Patrick Binns in Prince Edward Island and Brian Tobin in Newfoundland and Labrador. James Dinning has assumed this role in Alberta.

I extend my appreciation to those who have offered their own remarkable efforts around events held throughout the country to support the scholarship program in order to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. "