
Chretien-Francophone

BENIN -- Prime Minister Chretien says nothing has changed in the dynamics of the Francophone summit in the wake of the Quebec referendum.

Quebec Deputy Premier Bernard Landry has suggested that by the end of the gathering, the province will practically be recognized as sovereign because of the close "No" victory.

But Chretien says nothing has changed.

He says the Quebec and New Brunswick governments both have a role to play at the summit as provinces of Canada.

He says they have a unique position because of their language and culture.

Chretien says the system giving Quebec and New Brunswick status at La Francophonie was established years ago.

The summit, which gets under way tomorrow in Benin (beh-nehn), is to deal with plans to promote the use of French on the information highway.

Canada will be pushing for the member countries to become a more political organization involved in conflict resolution and the promotion of human rights, particularly in Africa, where a majority of members run states.

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