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OPENING OF A UNESCO OFFICE IN QUEBEC CITY

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry participated today at the official opening of the office of UNESCO in Quebec City.

The establishment of the UNESCO office is the result of an agreement between the Government of Canada and UNESCO as well as an accord between the Government of Quebec and UNESCO. «International agreements of this kind enable Canada to exercise its sovereignty in harmony with the provinces. The agreement we are about to sign is not the first of its kind, but it shows once again that Canada is able to give full reign to its international obligations with the complete support of the provinces», stated the Minister.

This office will inform the media and the Canadian public of UNESCO's numerous programmes and activities and will also act as official representative and spokesperson of UNESCO in Canada.

Minister Landry renewed Canada's confidence in the work of UNESCO and the willingness of Canadians to play a serious role in its varied activities in education, science, culture and communications; activities towards which Canada contributes \$5 million a year. Canada supports the efforts of UNESCO in making the organization as effective as possible.

The Minister echoed the sentiments of the UNESCO Director General and the Secretary General of the United Nations that the organization has an important role and future. Minister Landry's statement at the opening made it clear that Canada wants to be part of that future.

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Minister for External Relations and

Ministre des Relations extérieures et du International Development développement international