



news release

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QUELLET INVITES CANADIANS TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

At the Chaillot Summit of 1991 in Paris, la Francophonie heads of state and government officially named March 20 as the International Day of La Francophonie. Since then, this day has given Francophones in Canada and worldwide an opportunity to commemorate their adherence to la Francophonie internationale, a grouping of 47 states and governments comprising over 400 million people. Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet invites all Canadians to celebrate this day.

"We are pleased and proud to commemorate this day and our membership in la Francophonie which, over and above questions of language and culture, provides an opportunity to promote fundamental democratic and human rights values," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet added that participation in la Francophonie is an integral part of Canada's foreign policy; besides furthering Canada's influence, it enables Canada to form special relations with a very large group of countries over five continents.

International Day of la Francophonie will be commemorated across Canada, particularly in Quebec and New Brunswick. Among other activities in Ottawa, Mr. Ouellet has invited representatives of la Francophonie countries to a ceremony at which prizes for la Francophonie nationally and internationally will be awarded. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will be attending this March 20 reception on Parliament Hill.

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