



# communiqué

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## SAGUENAY'S "MARATHON DE LA FRANCOPHONIE"

The Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister for External Relations, has announced today in collaboration with the Members of Parliament representing the Saguenay region, Messrs. Marcel Dionne, Pierre Gimafel and Gilles Marceau, payment of a \$15,000 contribution to ensure African participation in the fourth Marathon de la Francophonie, to be held in Chicoutimi on June 17, 1984.

La Francophonie is a basic and permanent aspect of Canadian foreign policy, and the Saguenay marathon is an excellent example of an event organized to produce a spirit of unity among nations through the promotion of a common language combined with sports.

Canada is a member of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (CONFEJES), which now includes 27 Francophone countries. Through this conference, and especially through its Permanent Technical Secretariat (STP) in Dakar, Canada is seeking to generate an awareness of the Chicoutimi Marathon among the Francophone countries, hoping that it will one day become a multidisciplinary event similar to the Commonwealth Games. Last year the Marathon de la Francophonie attracted athletes from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Acadia, Senegal and Djibouti.

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