

Republic of Senegal

Date of Independence:	August 4, 1960
Capital:	Dakar
Population:	5,800,000 (1981)
Head of State and Head of Government:	His Excellency Abdou Diouf
Economy:	Groundnuts, phosphates and tourism.

Canada/Senegal Relations: Canada and Senegal have had diplomatic relations for the past twenty-five years, and have been partners in La Francophonie since the creation of its institutions. Over the years, Canada has developed a major co-operation program which is now focussing on the fight against desert encroachment, increased food and fisheries production, advanced technical training and development of the energy sector. Given the resources available to Senegal, our commercial ties with this country are limited. Nevertheless, several companies are involved in multilateral projects that have been undertaken by a number of development banks.

His Excellency Abdou Diouf: The President was born in Senegal in 1935. He obtained a law degree at the University of Dakar, and a licence in public law and political science at the University of Paris (1959). He left the Ecole nationale de la France d'Outre-mer with the rank of major in 1960. At the age of twenty-eight, he became Chief of Staff of the President of Senegal, and subsequently Secretary General to the Presidency, the highest civil service position in the State. In 1970 he was appointed Prime Minister, a position created especially for him. On January 1, 1981, he succeeded President Senghor. As the Prime Minister of Senegal, he made an official visit to Canada in 1971.