



news release

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CANADA BECOMES A FULL MEMBER OF CITEL

The Minister of Communications, the Honourable Francis Fox, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced that Canada has become a full member of the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference (CITEL), a specialized conference of the Organization of American States (OAS). The resolution on the admission of Canada to CITEL was approved unanimously at the Seventh Plenary Session of the Eleventh General Assembly of the OAS, held in December 1981 in Saint Lucia.

Canada has held observer status in CITEL since 1971 and has been actively involved in its operations, contributing expertise, training and financial support. Canada's new full member status will, however, offer greater influence and will be more in line with the priority Canada places on its relations with Latin America. It can also provide contacts leading to commercial opportunities in telecommunications.

In recent years, CITEL has become a focal point for coordinating preparations for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) administrative radio conferences which establish the regulations governing international telecommunications. These international and regional conferences are important for Canada.