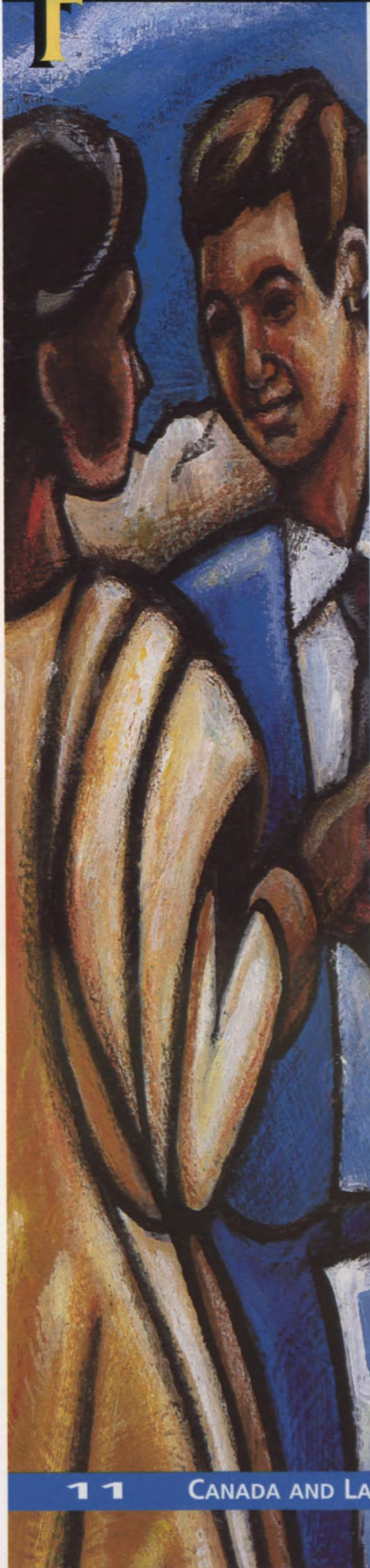


F RANCOPHONE INSTITUTIONS



OVER THE YEARS, the Francophone community has developed various structures and mechanisms for exchange, co-operation and management. In each case, Canadians continue to play an active role.

STANDING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

A) The Conference of Ministers of Education

The Conference of Ministers of Education of the French-speaking countries (CONFEMEN) is the oldest governmental institution of

La Francophonie. It now has 35 member states, meets every two years and, between sessions, holds a ministerial meeting of its Bureau. Its Secretariat is located in Dakar.



The mandate of the Conference of Ministers of Education, as redefined at the ministerial session of June 1993, is to further the development and evaluation of educational policies within the member states of La Francophonie and to orient all education and training programming with a view to submitting it for approval to the heads of state and government during the Summits.

Canada joined CONFEMEN in 1969. Quebec and New Brunswick actively participate in the Conference as part of the Canadian delegation, as do Ontario and Manitoba to a lesser extent. At the Liège Conference, held in April 1996, New Brunswick was officially elected a member of the Bureau, under procedures for participation that have been periodically discussed between Canada and Quebec since 1977.

Currently, CONFEMEN's programming is concerned above all with basic education. The main focuses of this programming are: the reform of standardized curricula at the regional level, the production of educational materials and the motivation, training and supervision of educational personnel.

It should also be noted that the introduction into the labour force of young people through technical instruction and professional training is currently a major concern of CONFEMEN.