

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announces that the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission established under the 1965 Franco-Canadian Cultural Agreement will be held in Ottawa June 29 to July 2.

The Joint Commission meets periodically, alternatively in Ottawa and Paris. The forthcoming meeting will assess the results of the cultural exchanges that have so far taken place under the Agreement of 1965 with a view to ensuring the development of relations between the two countries in the areas covered by the Agreement.

The progress achieved in putting into effect the government's policy of bilingualism and the increasing awareness among a large number of Canadians of the many benefits, in particular the cultural enrichment and the reinforcement of a distinctive Canadian identity, to be derived from closer contact with the French-speaking world have underlined the significance of this Commission meeting. The official cultural exchanges offer an important means whereby Canadians in many different spheres of activity can achieve their objective of a better knowledge of the French language, institutions and people.

At the June-July Commission meeting many areas of co-operation will be studied: artistic exchanges, including those involving artists, musicians, theatrical groups, cinema, broadcasting, the plastic arts, books; exchanges of professors, teachers, scholarship students, research scientists and groups of young people.

The Canadian delegation, led by Mr. André Bissonnette, Assistant Under-Secretary for External Affairs, will comprise officials of the Departments of External Affairs, the Secretary of State, Manpower and Immigration and the Public Service Commission and representatives of a number of cultural and educational agencies.

In addition, four provinces--New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta--will be represented on the delegation.

The French delegation will be led by Mr. Paul Fouchet, of the French Foreign Ministry.