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Previous Summits

PARIS, FRANCE

February 17–19, 1986

QUÉBEC CITY, CANADA

September 2–4, 1987

DAKAR, SENEGAL

May 24–26, 1989

CHAILLOT, FRANCE

November 19–21, 1991

MAURITIUS

October 16–18, 1993

COTONOU, BENIN

December 2–4, 1995

HANOI, VIETNAM

November 14–17, 1997

Moncton

Selected to host the eighth Sommet de la Francophonie, Moncton is the ideal location from a geographic, economic and cultural standpoint. The largest city in southeastern New Brunswick, this dynamic urban centre is located in the heart of the Maritimes' Acadian community, close to Quebec, the United States and some magnificent beaches. It is home to the Université de Moncton, Canada's largest French-language university outside Quebec, founded 35 years ago. Moncton is a model of harmonious relations between English- and French-speaking communities, with Francophones accounting for a third of its population of 110 000, including the suburbs.

photo: CANAPRESS



From left: Quebec Premier Bouchard, New Brunswick Premier Frenette and Prime Minister Chrétien at 1997 Hanoi Summit

Over the years, La Francophonie has developed specific tools for better promoting the French language and spreading awareness of the French-speaking world's cultural diversity. A good example is the Montréal-based Agence universitaire de la Francophonie, with a membership of nearly 400 institutions of higher learning; its aim is to foster French-language scientific activities through research, education and training (including distance education), and the promotion of French. The biggest success story is undoubtedly TV5; this international French-language television network is a partnership between Belgium, Canada, France, Switzerland and several African countries. TV5 is one of the world's largest television networks and can reach nearly 100 million households in over 100 countries throughout the world.

Last, the Francophonie Games, first held in Morocco in 1989, bring together French-speaking youth from around the world for a wonderful celebration of sport and culture. The next Games will be held in Canada's Ottawa-Hull region, from July 14 to 24, 2001. Some 2600 athletes and artists will participate.

Canada's role

Canada hosted the second Sommet de la Francophonie, held in Québec City in 1987. Now, 12 years later, it is once again welcoming its partners. La Francophonie is a leading foreign policy focus for Canada. It is an international forum where we exert strong influence, and where we can defend our interests and promote democratic values. It is also a forum for cultural, economic and scientific co-operation. Canada is particularly interested in promoting democratic development, human rights, peace and human security.

The provinces' role

Participating government status was conferred on Quebec in 1971 and New Brunswick in 1977. This enables them to make an active, distinct contribution. There are even times when a provincial minister leads the Canadian delegation to ministerial conferences. Both provinces have "interested observer" status on international policy questions discussed at the Summit. For a number of years now,

Ottawa has invited the governments of Manitoba and Ontario to take part in the summits by appointing a representative to the Canadian delegation.

Canada's objectives

In Moncton, Canada wants to broaden the scope of the political discussions, foster greater co-operation with other international organizations, and increasingly focus efforts on issues related to human security and conflict prevention. In addition, Canada would like to accelerate the economic integration of the least developed Francophone countries into the international trading system, expand access to and familiarity with the new information technology, and support the production of Francophone content. In the area of co-operation, Canada wants to keep development projects from proliferating out of control; instead, it prefers consolidating those already under way.

Youth

Youth is the central theme of the Moncton Summit. The three traditional areas of discussion—policy, economics and co-operation—will thus be addressed from the perspective of youth interests and concerns. The aim is to:

- safeguard young people's future in the new millennium by contributing to enhanced human security;
- emphasize social and economic integration through familiarity with new technology; and
- take action to make the world a better place for young people by developing programs in partnership with youth.

To learn more about La Francophonie and the Summit, visit the DFAIT Web site:
www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/francophonie

