

UNESCO also operates in the fundamental area of culture, which is also of great importance to the Canadian government. Affirmation of cultural identity is a must in the international community. We must learn to share our cultural wealth. UNESCO's interventions in Venice, Athens and Carthage to preserve historic sites were of benefit to all mankind.

Finally, UNESCO has also adapted to new roles. We have entered an era of global communications. Like Canada, UNESCO has been quick to recognize this. I trust that all Canadians feel justifiably proud of the pioneer work done in this field by Marshall McLuhan, one of our compatriots. In 1983 the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, in association with Teleglobe Canada, instituted a prize bearing the name of this great thinker. It is the world's highest distinction in the communications field.

As you can see, UNESCO, in undertaking the above activities, has become a modern complex international organization.

Mr. Speaker, the organization's membership over forty years has grown from 28 to 160. The majority of member states are developing countries many of them do not have the resources to plug into an international network for exchanging information and ideas in education, science, and culture. So, we are told by our friends from developing areas, UNESCO has an intrinsic value to them to protect their cultural identities, and to gain access to important information flows. UNESCO has been right in placing considerable emphasis on programs focussed on Third World activities. To that extent, Canada's support of UNESCO is an extension of our foreign aid programme, a role that is very much appreciated by Canada's friends in developing countries.