

"This notable increase in the responsibilities of the Agency demonstrates our common wish to ensure the permanence of the Francophonie by providing an institutional structure to carry out decisions of the Heads of Government," said Mr. Bouchard.

At the Ottawa Conference a new Secretary-General will be elected. Canada is presenting Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, currently General Delegate of Québec in Paris, as a candidate for this position. "Canada gives its full support to Mr. Roy's candidature. We hope that the States members of the ACCT will consider Mr. Roy as the candidate who has all the qualities required to become the next Secretary-General at the Agency", stated Mrs. Landry.

The Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique was founded in 1970 to promote cooperation between francophone countries in cultural and technical fields. Ottawa and Québec have hosted the Second Session of the General Conference. The ACCT consists of 39 states and governments. Québec and New Brunswick have the status of and sit in the General Conference as "participating governments."

The upcoming proceedings of the General Conference will take place at the Canadian Government's Conference Centre. Some 30 ministers and 200 delegates are expected for the meeting.