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EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FRANCE-CANADA MIXED COMMISSION

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Eighth Session of the France-Canada Mixed Commission, created under the terms of the France-Canada Cultural Agreement of 1965, took place in Ottawa on May 17 and 18. The Canadian and French delegations were led respectively by Mr. André Bissonnette, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Michel Fontaine, Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the Canadian side, seven provinces, as well as the Council of Ministers of Education, took part in the sessions of the Commission, together with various government departments and agencies.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation and were conducted with a concern for efficiency which reflects the importance the two sides attach to their cultural relations. The deliberations concentrated on two major headings, exchanges of persons and cultural promotion. Under the first, the two sides agreed on an important number of exchanges which aim at strengthening working relationships between French and Canadian specialists involved in the educational, socio-cultural and artistic fields. Under the second heading, the two delegations indicated their agreement to intensify their respective programmes of tours of theatre, music and dance groups, and exhibitions. Lastly, exchange projects involving audio-visual materials and books received increased attention.

The two delegation heads expressed their satisfaction at the manner in which the work of the Mixed Commission was conducted and agreed that the next meeting will take place in Paris in 1979, at a date which is to be fixed later.