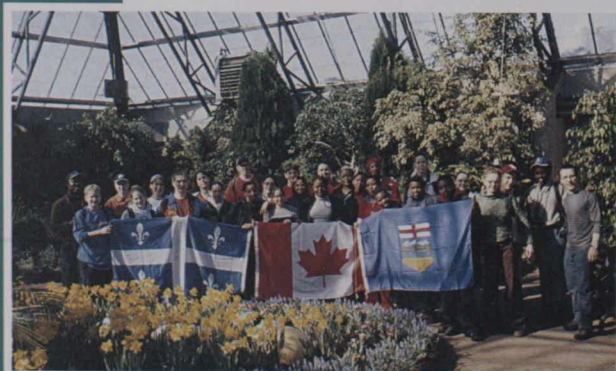


### Quebec school offers international program

Since 1999, secondary students at Collège Saint-Bernard in the town of Drummondville, Quebec, have been able to choose an unusual study stream: international education. In addition to the general requirements for a high school diploma, participating students must achieve proficiency in French, English and Spanish; they learn cultural sensitivity; they follow an enriched and wide-ranging curriculum; they do community work; and they undertake a personal project requiring research. Overseen by Quebec's Société des écoles d'éducation internationale, the program promotes self-learning, openness to other cultures, self-esteem, respect for the environment, creativity and familiarity with technology.

Cultural exchange is a priority at Collège Saint-Bernard. In March 2002, for example, 16 students travelled to Edmonton, Alberta, to join in the celebrations at the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. In May, it was their turn to host youth from Alberta for a



Students of Collège Saint-Bernard on an exchange trip to Edmonton, Alberta

week. Other recent exchanges took students from the college to Prince Edward Island and Europe (England, France and Belgium). In 2003-04, destinations will include France, Peru and Italy.

But the students don't have to leave home to experience other cultures. For the past two years, the college has held a week of cross-cultural activities in February. Throughout the week, music from around the world can be heard at lunch hour, and the cafeteria serves cuisine from different countries. Students also lead discussions about their lands of origin. With some 20 nations represented in the student body, the college has a wealth of resources on which it can draw.

The college's reputation has drawn the attention of Canadians in leadership positions. In March 2002 the 60 students enrolled in the international program met with Denis Paradis, Secretary of State for Latin America, Africa and La Francophonie. They have also been addressed by Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion, and have met with Claude Laverdure and Jacques Bilodeau, Canada's past and present ambassadors to Belgium.

For more information, visit the College's Web site: [www.csb.qc.ca](http://www.csb.qc.ca) (French only)

### Five years of the Ottawa Convention

There were celebrations across Canada and around the world in 2002 on the fifth anniversary of a historic treaty banning anti-personnel mines.



photo: Denis Drever

At a mine action symposium held in Ottawa late last year to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Ottawa Convention, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham welcomes Cambodian landmine survivor Tun Channareth—an ambassador of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, who in 1997 accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Campaign together with Coordinator Jody Williams.

The Ottawa Convention was the outcome of efforts by national governments and civil society organizations to establish a total ban on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines, and on their destruction. It was opened for signature in December 1997. As of January 20, 2003, a total of 131 states have ratified or acceded to it, making this the most quickly ratified disarmament treaty in history.

To mark the anniversary, from November 29 to December 1 Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham hosted an international mine action symposium in Ottawa. Organized by Mines Action Canada, the symposium was called "Without Reservation—Addressing the Challenges of Achieving a Landmine-Free World." Participating were governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Canada also renewed the Canadian Landmine Fund, committing \$72 million over the next five years to support global mine action programs.