

Since operations began in 1978, the PSD has carried out over 550 projects based on requests from 20 member states. Canada, as a major donor to the PSD, contributed \$1.4 million in 1984-85. Other major donors are France, Gabon, Tunisia and Cameroon. The Governments of Quebec and New Brunswick are also active participants in the PSD.

Canada's purpose in creating the Program was to give the Agency new momentum and to respond to needs expressed unanimously by the developing countries, without burdening the Agency's budget. It also wanted to make the Agency an effective instrument of co-operation which would complement larger-scale forms of bilateral and multilateral aid.

More recently, the Agency has become a forum for sectoral ministerial meetings; one of these was a gathering of the ministers of science and technology in Luxembourg in 1977. Another was a meeting of the ministers of justice in Paris in September 1980 and, in March 1981, the agriculture ministers met. In September 1981 the ministers of culture assembled in Cotonou, (Benin).

In October 1983 the ministers responsible for scientific research and higher education met again in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, and the meeting of ministers responsible for communications was held in Cairo, Egypt in February 1985. In this way the Agency is fulfilling its role as the co-ordinator of its members' intellectual, financial and technical resources.

Ministerial Conferences

In addition to co-operating with the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, Canada is involved in two Francophone intergovernmental conferences—the Conference of Education Ministers (CONFEMEN) and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (CONFEJES).

The national education ministers of the French-speaking states of Africa and Madagascar met for the first time in Paris in 1960. Today, 24 countries are members of the Conference of Education Ministers.

The purpose of this Conference is to encourage a more satisfactory adaptation of education to the processes of economic and social development of the member countries and a pooling of the results of experiments which have been conducted in this

area, especially through action programs that confirm the Conference's role as an agent of effective co-operation. Four Canadian provinces, Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, are usually represented on the Canadian delegation to these meetings in accordance with procedures agreed upon with the federal government. In addition, Canada maintains liaison with the agencies attached to this conference, the Permanent Technical Secretariat (STP) centred in Dakar, Senegal, and the African and Malagasi Council on Higher Education (CAMES) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Since 1977, the Secretariat has operated as a general secretariat for both the Conference of Education Ministers and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports. Two Canadians have joined the Secretariat as advisers. The African and Malagasi Council on Higher Education, a specialized body of the Conference of Education Ministers, has its own secretariat and structures.

The Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (CONFEJES) met initially in Paris in December 1969. At that time, it was composed of a majority of the French-speaking countries of Africa and Madagascar, along with Belgium and Canada. Today its membership comprises 26 countries. It originated in the common desire of the participants to work together for a policy which would provide social advancement and protection for younger people in their respective countries. In recent years, principally by means of a major annual action program, the conference has been concentrating more on producing instructors and group leaders for the two sectors concerned. As with the Conference of Education Ministers, the Canadian delegation includes representatives from Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba.

Among the specific activities organized by the CONFEMEN and CONFEJES with the help of grants from the Canadian government are: the promotion of productive activities in a traditional setting; training for sports officials (Djibouti, May 1983); the marathon de la Francophonie (Chicoutimi, June 1983); and the CONFEJES games (Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, June 1985) celebrating International Youth Year.