



## 2. Francophone Institutions

Over the years, the Francophone community has developed various structures and mechanisms for exchange, co-operation and management. In each case, Canadians continue to play an active role.

### 2.1 Standing Ministerial Conferences

#### A. The Conference of Ministers of Education (CONFEMEN)

Since 1960, the goal of the **CONFEMEN** has been to encourage a better adaptation of education to the processes of economic and social development of member countries, and to share the results of experiments carried out to this end, particularly through action programs affirming the organization's role as an agent of effective co-operation. The Canadian delegation to CONFEMEN meetings normally include representatives of four provinces: Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, in accordance with procedures developed with the federal government.

Canada also maintains contact with the African and Malagasi Council on Higher Education (CAMES) in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). The **CAMES** is a specialized agency of the CONFEMEN.

#### B. The Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (CONFESJES)

The **CONFESJES**, created in 1969 by participants with a common desire to establish a policy to promote and protect youth, now includes 26 countries. For a number of years, the CONFESJES has been focusing increasingly on the training of instructors and group leaders in the two sectors with a major annual action program. Like CONFEMEN, the Canadian delegation includes representatives of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba.

In September 1987, the heads of state and government met in Quebec City for the second Summit, at which time they established the Francophone Games. The CONFESJES was given chief organizational responsibilities. The inaugural games were held in Morocco in the summer of 1989.

The Games were quite successful considering the restrictive time frame to organize an event of this scope. In fact, delegations of artists and athletes from 39 countries took part in the first Games. Forty national athletic records and the production of original and noteworthy artistic works provided tangible evidence of a Francophonie that is dynamic, rich and full of promise.