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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that an agreement will be signed early in September between the Governments of France and Canada to facilitate the co-production of films in the two countries. The agreement negotiated in Paris earlier this year has subsequently received the formal approval of both Governments.

Under the terms of the agreement, the co-production of feature films by French and Canadian film-makers jointly, with creative personnel and finance coming from both countries, will be encouraged. Such arrangements are common in Europe and many important European film productions are co-produced under similar agreements between major film producing countries there. Under the agreement, which will be signed in September, films co-produced by Canadian and French film-makers, with the lesser share not being lower than 30%, will be considered both French and Canadian and thus able to qualify for the advantages, financial and other, which may exist in either country. The agreement sets out the terms under which such co-productions can be undertaken and the receipts shared.

Le Centre National de la Cinématographie Française will represent the Government of France, and the National Film Board the Government of Canada in the administration of the agreement.

It is expected that the conclusion of the agreement will encourage the production of more feature films in Canada and aid in their distribution abroad.