



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.

STANDING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

A) The Conference of Ministers of Education (CONFEMEN)

The original mandate of the Conference of Ministers of Education (CONFEMEN), underscored at the ministerial session of June 1993, was to further the development and evaluation of educational policies among the member states of La Francophonie and to orient all education and training programming with a view to submitting it for approval to the heads of state and government during the Summits. The Canadian delegation to CONFEMEN meetings normally includes representatives of four provinces: Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, in accordance with procedures agreed upon with the federal government.

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

Created in 1969 by participants with a common desire to establish a policy to promote and protect youth, the Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (CONFESJES) now includes 26 countries. For a number of years, the CONFESJES has been using a major annual action program to focus on the training of instructors and group leaders in the sports and youth sectors. It has also made a significant contribution to the implementation of major Francophone policies for promoting the social and economic integration of young people. In fact, a fund was recently created for this purpose. 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, for which the CONFESJES was given chief organizational responsibility. The inaugural games were held in Morocco in the summer of 1989.