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SAGUENAY'S "MARATHON DE LA FRANCOPHONIE"

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced today in collaboration with the Member of Parliament representing the Chicoutimi region, Mr. André Harvey, payment of a \$12,000 contribution to ensure African participation in the fifth "Marathon de la Francophonie", to be held in Chicoutimi on June 2, 1985.

"La Francophonie" is a basic and permanent aspect of Canadian foreign policy, and the Saguenay marathon is an excellent example of an event organized to produce a spirit of unity among nations through the promotion of a common language combined with sports.

Canada is a member of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports (CONFEJES), which now includes 27 Francophone countries. Through this conference, and especially through its Secretariat in Dakar, Canada is seeking to generate an awareness of the Chicoutimi Marathon among the Francophone countries, hoping that it will one day become a multidisciplinary event similar to the Commonwealth Games. Last year the "Marathon de la Francophonie" attracted athletes from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Senegal, Djibouti, Haïti and Congo.