

Non-governmental Organizations

Most associations of the Francophonie were created to meet common goals or are groups of professionals. The involvement of these organizations in a wide variety of fields and many programs and activities is a particularly important dimension of the Francophonie, giving it an even more dynamic character and taking it well beyond the government sector.

The federal government supports several associations that are either Canadian in origin or involve significant Canadian participation. This support consists of annual or one-time subsidies; contributions to congresses, symposiums or seminars; and the services of personnel loaned by the Office of the Federal Co-ordinator for the Francophonie.

At a time when co-operation among peoples and cultures is rapidly increasing, international non-governmental organizations are becoming more important. Such contributions are intended to provide tangible encouragement to the various groups of Canadians actively involved in international affairs.

International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF)

The International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF) was formed in Luxembourg in 1967, in response to the efforts by countries, including Canada, to expand the influence of the Francophonie. Today, 36 parliaments are represented in the AIPLF. Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario are autonomous sections with equivalent standing to Canada. From its inception and until 1990, the president of the association was a Canadian.

The goal of the AIPLF is to strengthen the solidarity created by the common use of French and establish a cultural dialogue among parliamentarians by examining cultural, economic and social issues of common interest.

Association of Partially or Wholly French-Language Universities (AUPELF)

The Association of Partially or Wholly French-Language Universities (AUPELF) was founded on the initiative of Quebec journalist Jean-Marc Léger and has its headquarters in Montreal. The majority of francophone universities are members of the association. By promoting exchanges and co-operation, it contributes to the development of university teaching, research and management. With the support of governments such as Canada, AUPELF has established the International Fund for University Co-operation (FICU).

At the Quebec Summit, AUPELF was asked to establish the University of French-Language Networks (UREF), an open university that consolidates the research and operational capacities of francophone universities.