

From July 14 to 24, 2001

THE IV FRANCOPHONIE *festivities in*

From July 14 to 24, the Ottawa-Hull region is hosting the IV Games of La Francophonie. This grand celebration of sports and culture will draw some 3000 participants from 52 states and governments having in common the use of French.

A unique event

The Francophonie Games are the only major international competition with equal emphasis on sports and cultural activities, where medals are awarded to both athletes and artists. It is an opportunity to showcase the distinctiveness of Francophone culture as well as the excellence of athletes from all the member states and governments of La Francophonie.

But the Games are not at all restricted to French speakers. As in the Commonwealth Games, competitors are chosen solely for their outstanding ability, whether they speak French, English or another language. Athletes and artists from all across our country will be on the three Canadian teams: Canada, Canada-Quebec and Canada-New Brunswick.

Of course France and Canada are members of La Francophonie, but so are countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and all parts of Europe. For the first time this year, former East Bloc countries will be at the Games. There's a place in the celebration for all ethnic groups plus a host of languages and religions.

Past venues for the Games were Madagascar in August 1997, France in July 1994 and Morocco in July 1989.

Sports

Athletes will compete in eight sports at the 2001 Games: track and field, basketball, boxing, judo, soccer, table tennis, beach volleyball and handisport (sports for the disabled). Among well-known participants will be Canadian sprinter Bruny Surin and the world's two top decathletes—record-holder Tomas Dvorak and Roman Sebrle, both of the Czech Republic.

Like the Commonwealth Games and the Pan American Games, the Francophonie Games offer excellent training for our athletes who hope to go on to the Olympics and world sporting championships. At the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, countries of La Francophonie won 111 medals (including 32 gold); Commonwealth countries took home 120 medals (including 23 gold).

Bruny Surin (centre, waving Canadian flag) with Donovan Bailey (centre right) and teammates celebrating their gold medal win in the men's relay, at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Surin is one of the special ambassadors of the IV Francophonie Games.



photo: CANAPRESS



IV Games
of La Francophonie

OTTAWA-HULL CANADA 2001