

### Canada's position

The Francophone Summit is a long-awaited opportunity to give new impetus to international co-operation in matters concerning the French language, and to give the Francophone countries the feeling that they are as a group better able use the French language to experience and express the world as it is in the closing years of this century.

Canada is fortunate to have French, which is spoken by more than a quarter of its population, as one of its two official languages. As a member of the Anglophone world, it is well placed to acquire and share new information rapidly, particularly in the fields of science and technology. However, the possibility of a linguistic invasion poses a real threat if the French language is unable to defend itself against such inroads.

This is why Canada takes steps to ensure that all citizens can study in their mother-tongue, including French, and seeks to encourage second-language learning as a means of promoting the country's linguistic duality. Canada has, moreover, long and solid experience in the language-related industries, particularly translation and terminology. Lastly, aware of the need to circulate information and ideas in French, our country is at the forefront of computerized communication technology.

Canada is prepared to share with La Francophonie, either multilaterally or bilaterally, its knowledge, experience and resources to ensure that French will continue to be a language of civilization and culture in today's world.