

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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MINISTERIAL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT

On December 14 Mme Monique Vézina, the Minister for External Relations, will take part in a meeting in Paris, at the ministerial level, to discuss plans for the Francophone Summit. Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Canada's Ambassador to France, and Canada's "sherpa" will also attend.

The meeting is being held at the invitation of the French Minister of Foreign Relations, and will be attended by the foreign ministers of the countries which would participate in the upcoming Summit. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the agenda, format and other organizational aspects of the Summit. The discussions will review the work of the group of personal representatives (sherpas), of which Canada is a member.

As the result of an understanding with the federal government, the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick will also take part in the meeting.