
News Release

August 25, 1995

No. 147

CANADA SUPPORTS MONTREAL'S BID FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) Paul Martin today announced the federal government's support for the City of Montreal's bid to host the permanent secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In support of Montreal's bid, the federal government has pledged to provide an overall contribution of \$5 million over a five-year period to the permanent secretariat, should a decision be made to locate the organization in Montreal. Funding would be shared equally by the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. It is expected that the permanent secretariat would have an annual operating budget of US\$5 million. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will further assist by working closely with Montreal to promote the bid internationally.

Mr. Ouellet noted: "There are definite advantages to locating the secretariat in Montreal: the financial assistance being offered; Montreal's proximity to the United Nations in New York and international financial institutions in Washington, D.C.; its bilingual and highly skilled work force, as well as its quality of life and high standard of living. Furthermore, it would strengthen the critical mass in the area of the environment in Montreal and have significant benefits for Quebec's burgeoning biotechnology industry."

Mr. Ouellet added that Montreal has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to greet and accommodate visitors from around the world. The cosmopolitan nature of Montreal, as well as the warmth and vitality of its people, make the city the ideal site for the permanent secretariat. Locating the permanent secretariat in Montreal would benefit all Canadians.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada