

## **Examples of Francophone Institutions**

Over the years, the Francophone community has developed various structures and mechanisms for exchange, co-operation and management. In each case, Canadians continue to play an active role.

### **Standing Ministerial Conferences**

#### *Conference of National Education Ministers (CONFEMEN)*

Since its founding in 1960, CONFEMEN has aimed to link education to the economic and social development of its member countries and to share the results of experiments, particularly through action programs. The Canadian delegation to CONFEMEN meetings normally includes representatives of four provinces: Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba.

Canada also maintains contact with the African and Malagasy Council on Higher Education (CAMES) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. CAMES is a special agency of CONFEMEN.

#### *Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (CONFESJES)*

CONFESJES was created in 1969 by the Francophonie's participants, who had a common wish to establish a policy to promote and protect youth. CONFESJES now includes 26 countries. For several years, the organization has focused on training instructors and group leaders through a major annual program. The Canadian delegation to CONFESJES includes representatives of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba.

The heads of state and government of the Francophonie established the Francophone Games when they met in Quebec City in September 1987 for their second summit. CONFESJES was put in charge of the Games, to be held every four years. It, in turn, created an organizing body, the International Committee for the Francophone Games.

The Games were first held in Morocco in the summer of 1989 and were considered successful despite the short time available to organize them. Athletes and artists from 39 countries set 40 national athletic records and produced original and noteworthy artistic works, showing the Francophonie to be dynamic, rich in talent and full of promise.

The second Francophone Games were held in France in 1994. Although delayed by a year, they were a success. More than 2,700 athletes and artists from 45 delegations took part in these athletic and cultural competitions, setting 21 athletic records. The next Games will take place in Africa in 1997.