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OUELLET ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CANADIAN CULTURAL HEAD IN PARIS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the appointment of Émile Martel as Minister (Cultural Affairs) at the Embassy of Canada in Paris.

"This is a key post for Canada in the delivery of our International Cultural Relations Program," said Mr. Ouellet. "Mr. Martel's experience and abilities will be a great asset for us in winning further recognition and increased commercial success for Canada in the cultural field."

Mr. Martel is a career diplomat who joined the Department of External Affairs in 1967. He has served abroad in San José (Costa Rica), Madrid, Mexico City and has had two previous postings to Paris, first as First Secretary (Press) and then as Minister-Counsellor (Culture and Communications). His most recent assignment at headquarters was as Senior Policy Adviser in the Latin America and Caribbean Branch.

A university professor prior to joining the Department, Mr. Martel is also a successful author and poet. He has published eight works of fiction and poetry and has translated works from Spanish into French.

Mr. Martel assumes his responsibilities in Paris at the beginning of September.

Biographical information is attached.

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