

exchanges beyond geographical, ideological, ethnic, religious, cultural and economic frontiers or barriers.

The federal government of Canada and the provincial governments of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba all play an active role within la Francophonie. The same applies to non-governmental Francophone institutions.

But for Canada, the positive impact of its belonging to la Francophonie goes beyond the Francophone population and benefits all Canadians. It is not just a matter of cultural enrichment. All Canadians are likely to gain from their country's expanded participation in social, technological and economic development in the Francophone world.

Canada benefits from expanded bilateral relations with the summit participants, particularly France, with whom it has moved on this issue from a painful diplomatic impasse to full-fledged co-operation. This is yet another council in which it participates with one of its key European allies.

A new international forum has emerged which may assist in energizing the international system. This is one of Canada's contributions to the enhancement of multilateralism in international relations — one of its key foreign policy objectives.

Adapted from an article by Ferry de Kerckhove, Director, Economic and Trade Analysis Division, Department of External Affairs, published in Liaison, a publication of the Foreign Service Community Association.

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