

News Release

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OUELLET ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION AT THE FIRST WORLD FORUM ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a list of prominent international figures who will attend the first World Forum on Physical Activity and Sport, to be held in Quebec City, May 21-25.

In addition to Mr. Ouellet, the list of participants includes UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor, International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, World Health Organization Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima, and World Federation of Sporting Goods Industries President Kihachiro Onitsuka.

"It is my hope that this first-ever world forum will encourage wider participation in sports around the world. It is through physical activity that we can improve health, foster leadership and promote international co-operation and understanding," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Forum will bring together nearly 1000 participants from 175 countries. They will include representatives from governments and national and international organizations, as well as experts in the fields of sports, education, health, physical fitness and the sports equipment industry.

The Quebec City event will give decision makers throughout the world an opportunity to adopt wide-ranging guidelines, common strategies and projects to promote physical activity and sport. Preliminary negotiations, held in smaller forums from June to November last year, led to the creation of regional panels that will continue the work of the Forum.

"I am confident that the World Forum will also serve to showcase Quebec's superb sports facilities and its sophistication and expertise in putting on major international events such as the 2002 Olympic Winter Games," added Mr. Ouellet.



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The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is one of five federal departments that have pledged to support the Forum; today Mr. Ouellet presented a grant of \$125 000 to its President, Mr. Michel Bédard. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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