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A CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that the Government of Canada has decided to make a contribution of \$25,000 to the International Council of the French Language. This further step in the implementation of the Government's policy towards the French Community is particularly appropriate inasmuch as the aims of the Council are the standardization and modernization of the French language, objectives that correspond with a constantly growing need felt both by the Government of Canada and by a number of provincial governments.

Founded in 1967, the Council is a non-governmental international association of linguists, grammarians and men of letters from more than twenty countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Its principal concerns are the standardization of spoken and written French, research into the process whereby new words are created, and lexicographical research generally. The list of its achievements already includes the organization of international seminars, the establishment of a documentation centre in Paris, the preparation of manuals, thesauruses, vocabularies and glossaries, the publication of a periodical dealing with terminological matters, and the translation of a number of scientific works. Some of its manuals are in use in developing countries, particularly in Africa, as basic aids to the teaching in French of technical subjects.

The Council maintains close relations with international bodies such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. In Canada, it already has contacts with the CBC, the Canadian Government Translation Bureau in Ottawa, Quebec's French Language Bureau, the University of Montreal's World Bank and the Académie canadienne-française.