



**XII<sup>e</sup> SOMMET  
DE LA FRANCOPHONIE**  
Ville de Québec · 2008



**October 19, 2008**

## **XII<sup>e</sup> Sommet de la Francophonie**

### **Closing press conference**

#### **Speech from The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada**

Good afternoon everyone,

this 12th francophonie summit has been a great success!

And allow me to thank those who have helped make it so:

- first, the international organization of la francophonie, secretary general Abdou Diouf and the summit's organizers for their outstanding work,

- Quebec city and its citizens, for the warm welcome they unfailingly provide,

- the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, for their valuable cooperation,

- and of course, all of the heads of state and government for their active and effective participation.

Canada has been honoured to host this summit along with Quebec.

We have had constructive discussions on the four major issues of this summit, namely

- democracy and rule of law,

- economic governance,

- the environment, and

- the french language.

We have also committed to increasing the number of francophone countries participating in peacekeeping operations organized under the aegis of international organizations.



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I also invite you to read the Quebec City declaration, which summarizes the many commitments made during this summit.

We have also adopted a key resolution on the french language.

The international francophonie summit has provided the first forum for least developed and developing states and governments to exchange views on the global financial crisis.

Our discussions and deliberations here will be reported at the meeting of the heads of the world's leading economies, which should take place before the end of this year.

Canada supports the countries of la francophonie in the fight against climate change.

And we are aware that least developed countries do not have the same resources for managing climate change and adaptation.

That is why I am announcing today that our government will dedicate \$100 million in aid to those countries that are especially vulnerable to climate change, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

Canada also supports the work of secretary general Diouf and efforts to modernize the organization.

Our government believes that it is necessary to optimize the effectiveness of the aid that la francophonie and its institutions provide to its members.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Canada is proud to be part of the great francophone family.

Our support for the organization of la francophonie is indefeasible.

And i take this opportunity to congratulate madagascar which will host the 13th francophonie summit.

Madagascar can count on the support of canada and the other members of la francophonie in organizing the next summit.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Canada has been honoured to chair the 12th francophonie summit, right here in quebec city, as this magnificent city celebrates its 400th anniversary.

Samuel de Champlain would be pleased to see that the french language is so vibrant in Canada!



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I will now turn things over to the co-host of this summit, the premier of the province of Quebec, Jean Charest.

Thank you.