Canada aids CODOFIL fund

A CODOFIL scholarship fund got a boost recently from the Canadian government.

Jean-Paul Hubert, representing Canada’s External Affairs Department, recently presented a check for $10,000 in Canadian currency to Dr. John Bertrand, CODOFIL vice-chairman, and Gerald Domingue, president of Fondation CODOFIL.

The funds will be used for scholarships either for university students or for French teachers of Louisians wishing to continue their studies in French, in Canada.

“These funds will be deposited in the Fondation CODOFIL, thus allowing us to continue in the scholarship program which has been one of the backbones of CODOFIL’s activities since the early 70’s, but has recently been slowed down by Louisiana’s financial problems,” said Philippe Gustin, director of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana. “It is an investment for Louisiana, allowing either teachers or students to learn more about French and later on, utilizing these added skills for the benefit of Louisiana’s children and students in their education.”

A collaboration between the Canadian government and CODOFIL has been in effect since 1978, at the time when the Canadian Consulate was stationed in New Orleans.

James Domengeaux, president of CODOFIL, and Albert Bechard, then Consul General for the Canadian Consulate, had arrived at collaborative measures in two specific projects.

The first consisted of providing CODOFIL with funds for scholarships for Louisiana students who wished to pursue their studies in the French language. Stipulations for these scholarship were that students had to apply at French Canadian Universities with a preference for the two Acadian academic institutions in New Brunswick (Universite de Moncton) or in Nova Scotia (Universite de Sainte-Anne).

The second project involved funding by the Canadian government of an employee to assist the CODOFIL office with its various activities.

For more information on this scholarship program, write to CODOFIL, 217 W. Main St., Lafayette, La. 70501.

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