



**October 24, 2009**

## **EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE! UMQ CALLS FOR MASSIVE ELECTION TURNOUT**

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– Robert Coulombe, President, UMQ

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Speaking today at a press conference concerning the impact of recent events on the municipal sector, Mayor Robert Coulombe of Maniwaki, president of the Québec Union of Municipalities (UMQ), told reporters, “There’s no lack of debate about the major issues affecting the future of our municipalities. We hope the entire population will inform themselves about the election issues at stake and actively exercise their rights in the municipal elections on November 1.”

Also present at the news conference were UMQ executive vice-president Marc Gascon, mayor of Saint-Jérôme, UMQ board member Lucie Roussel, mayor of La Prairie and chair of the UMQ committee on institutions, and René Soucy, general manager of the City of Thetford Mines and vice-president of the Association des directeurs généraux des municipalités du Québec. The news conference was held the day before the start of advance voting in this year’s municipal elections.

“Voters must show their commitment to democratic institutions,” Coulombe said. “Cynicism and disaffection cannot be adequate responses to the present crisis of confidence.” The UMQ president also reaffirmed the integrity and sincere commitment of municipal elected officials and public servants alike.

Asked for his opinion on the recent revelations and allegations, Coulombe said that “the current electoral context makes it extremely difficult to draw

a fine line between truth and falsehood. I’m sure further investigations will manage to do this, and that’s why it’s important for them to spend the time and effort required. If necessary, a public inquiry might throw a different light on the ongoing police investigations.”

One of the greatest challenges facing the UMQ in the months ahead will be to restore people’s confidence in the municipal sector wherever it has been undermined. “To to this, we have to hope we can mobilize voters to send a loud and clear message that supporting the democratic process matters,” Coulombe said.

Source:

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