



SOMMET SUR LE MILIEU MUNICIPAL
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HÔTEL MORTAGNE, BOUCHERVILLE
AGGLOMÉRATION DE LONGUEUIL

NEWS RELEASE
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SUMMIT ON THE MUNICIPAL SECTOR
UMQ ANNOUNCES “COMITÉ DE SAGES” ADVISORY GROUP

Boucherville, Quebec, March 19, 2011 – At today’s Summit on the Municipal Sector in Boucherville, Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) president Éric Forest, mayor of Rimouski, announced the formation of a “*Comité de sages*” or strategic advisory group made up of five prominent Quebecers: Lise Bissonnette, Claire L’Heureux-Dubé, Claude Béland, Jean-Paul L’Allier and Guy Leblanc. Members of the group will be asked to make recommendations, based on their extensive experience, concerning municipalities of the future.

“I’m very proud that people of their calibre have agreed to take part in this major exercise we’ve launched this morning, together with more than 400 participants – municipal officials, key social and economic players, and citizens – to define the municipality of the future. Their recommendations will be very valuable input to the discussions we’ll be having together,” said Mayor Forest.

Coordination of the advisory group will be handled by former Chelsea Mayor Jean Perras. The group will conduct its work in April and will take part in the *Assises annuelles*, the annual UMQ convention, on May 5, May 6 and May 7.

Biographical notes on Advisory Group members

Lise Bissonnette

Author, journalist, editor, analyst, director, Louise Bissonnette is devoting herself these days to her own writing and research projects, after a long and distinguished career that included top-level management of major Quebec institutions. Her contributions to public debate and her commitment to community have earned numerous honours, including eight honorary doctorates from universities in Quebec, Canada and the United States.

Claire L’heureux-Dubé

Throughout her career, former Madam L’Heureux-Dubé has played a key role in the quest for equality and the advancement of marginalized groups in Quebec and Canada. She is a former judge of the Quebec Superior Court and the Quebec Court of Appeal, and a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, on which she worked to promote the fundamental values of equality, universality and access to justice. Claire L’Heureux-Dubé has received numerous awards and honours, including among others the Touchstone Award (Prix Les Assises) presented by the Canadian Bar Association (2003), the Yves Pélicier Award presented by the International Academy of Law and Mental Health (2002) and the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award presented by the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession (1998). Claire L’Heureux-Dubé was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 2003 and is the recipient of several honorary doctorates.

Claude Béland

Throughout his career, Claude Béland has always been very active in the cooperative movement in Quebec. Having collaborated in its foundation, he went to work for the Fédération des caisses d’économie du Québec from 1971, becoming its chief executive officer in 1979. Under his chairmanship, the Movement undertook a decompartmentalization of financial services and experienced major growth.



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He is now associate professor in the School of Management Sciences, Université du Québec à Montréal, guest lecturer in the Institute of Research on Cooperation, Université de Sherbrooke, and a member of the board of governors of Université Laval. He has been chairman of the board of the Mouvement d'Éducation des Actionnaires (MEDAC) and of the Mouvement Démocratie et Citoyenneté, among other organizations. He is the author of many articles on cooperatives and on economic and social issues. He has also given numerous conferences in Canada and other countries. In 1995, he was also presented with the Communication Award of the Association of American Communicators, to mention only one of many awards and honours.

Jean-Paul L'Allier

A member of the firm of Langlois Kronström Desjardins of Quebec City and Montreal, Jean-Paul L'Allier has been a guest lecturer at Université Laval, where he took part in teaching and research activities in the École supérieure d'aménagement du territoire et du développement régional and in the departments of Political Science, Geography and Information and Communications from 2006 to 2010. He was a member of the Quebec government from 1970 to 1976, holding various ministerial posts during that time: Recreation, Youth and Sport, Communications, Public Services and Cultural Affairs. He was Quebec delegate general in Belgium from 1981 to 1984 and honorary Belgian consul in Quebec City from 1984 to 1988. In 1999 he was elected mayor of Quebec City, where he held office until 2005.

Jean-Paul L'Allier has received numerous honorary titles, including: Honorary Doctor of Laws, Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV (October 2002), Commander of the Ordre de la Pléiade (Ordre de la Francophonie et du dialogue des cultures, March 2003), Officer of the Ordre national du Québec (June 2004) and Vice Chair (January 2011), Honorary Doctorate, Université du Québec (May 2006).

Guy LeBlanc

Since 2005, Guy LeBlanc has been president and CEO of the Bécancour Industrial Park and Port Corporation. He has been chairman of the Quebec Municipal Commission, a former mayor of the City of Trois-Rivières and a municipal councillor of the City of Trois-Rivières. He has been co-chair of the provincial coalition "Les Arts de la Ville" and has served as vice-chairman and chairman of the board of the Union of Quebec Municipalities. He was also founding president of the Corporation de gestion du développement du bassin de la rivière Saint-Maurice.

About the UMQ

Since its founding in 1919, the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) has represented municipalities of every size and in every region of Quebec. The UMQ mission is to promote the fundamental role of municipalities in social and economic progress in every part of Quebec and to support its members in building dynamic, innovative and competitive communities. The UMQ affinity caucus structure, comprising local communities, regional county municipalities, census agglomerations, large cities and metropolitan communities reflects the diversity and unity of municipal life in Quebec. UMQ members represent the voice of close to 5 million Quebec citizens.

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Source: Josée-Maryse Sauvageau

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Information: François Sormany
Director of Communications
Telephone: 514-282-7700, extension 265
Cell: 514-910-7272
fsormany@umq.qc.ca