



**SOMMET SUR LE MILIEU MUNICIPAL**  
**LE 19 MARS 2011**  
**HÔTEL MORTAGNE, BOUCHERVILLE**  
**AGGLOMÉRATION DE LONGUEUIL**

**NEWS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

Report on the first UMQ Summit on the Municipal Sector

## **Five Ways to Build the Municipality of the Future**

**Boucherville, Quebec, March 19, 2011** – Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) president Éric Forest, mayor of Rimouski, has announced an action plan to redefine the role and responsibilities of municipalities as a project to be carried forward by the major workshop on municipalities of the future launched this morning by the UMQ at the first Summit on the Municipal Sector.

This action plan will be based on the values of transparency, trust and openness which have guided the discussions during the summit. “Trust is a two-way relationship. We inspire trust when we trust others. That’s the cement that holds a healthy municipality and a strong community together,” Mayor Forest said.

Among the main features of the action plan are:

- Creation of a model Public Consultations Policy based on practices that will be clearly innovative here in Quebec.
- 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 submit recommendations based on their extensive and varied experience concerning the municipality of the future.
- Ongoing education on ethics and conduct to anticipate and prevent ethical problems (in addition to the current UMQ mandatory professional development program on ethics).
- Essential support for the UMQ Task Force on Youth and Democracy, allowing members to meet with young people to help them better understand municipal institutions and demystify the role of elected officials.
- Showcasing of innovative practices by various municipalities in Quebec, presented on the UMQ website.

Citizens also were given an important place at the summit. They were asked to express their expectations of elected officials and share their own vision of municipalities of the future during a panel discussion among five city councillors and five citizens. The discussions focused on citizen participation and on the best methods of educating citizens about municipal action.



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To extend the process of listening and dialogue, the UMQ invites all socioeconomic groups, citizens and associations to continue thinking about the municipalities of the future and to send in their ideas by April 15. The UMQ will take note of the suggestions received and will review them at the *Assises annuelles*, the annual UMQ convention on May 5, May 6 and May 7, when the goal will be to propose undertakings to build municipalities of the future.

### **Summit on the Municipal Sector**

This first summit on the municipal sector brought together some 400 participants from every region of Quebec. Elected officials, key social and economic players and citizens all took part. Citizen contributions to the discussion were made during a panel on the subject of what they expected of their city councillors. Noteworthy among the themes at the summit, with its focus on municipalities of the future, was an emphasis on innovative practices in governance and management.

### **About the Union of Quebec Municipalities**

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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