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Quebec City drops UMQ membership

Quebec City mayor turns his back on the province's municipalities

The Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) has been informed of the decision by Quebec City's mayor not to renew its membership. The UMQ does not accept the unfounded statements by Quebec City Mayor Régis Labeaume questioning the integrity of the 40 members of our board of directors.

In a meeting of the executive committee this morning, UMQ representatives reiterated their confidence in their president, Mayor Marc Gascon of Saint-Jérôme, who (as readers may recall) was elected unanimously last May as head of the UMQ. In difficult moments like this, we must stand firm together. As members of the UMQ, municipalities have always been able to present a common front in order to preserve the integrity of municipal government. Members of the UMQ executive committee pointed out that municipal cooperation takes place in the UMQ. The mayor of Quebec City has decided to disassociate himself from the municipal sector. He has chosen to isolate himself and turn his back on other municipalities.

The UMQ is proud of its members and representatives, who work hard every day for social and economic progress everywhere in Quebec. For over 90 years, the UMQ has been based on solid rules of governance and an unblemished reputation.

A strong UMQ presence in Quebec City

The UMQ believes Mayor Labeaume does not recognize the efforts the UMQ has taken to have a strong presence in Quebec City. Besides recently opening a new office there, the Assises annuelles, our annual convention and AGM, attended by over 2000 people over 3 days, was held once again this

year in Quebec City, with substantial economic spinoffs for the city. In the past 12 years, the UMQ convention has been held 8 times in Quebec City.

Mayor Labeaume breaks a long tradition of active participation

The UMQ is carrying on the fight on an ongoing basis for all of our members. We depend on their support to benefit and promote the welfare of citizens and residents. Quebec City is no exception, and it has enjoyed the benefits of numerous gains made by the UMQ. Perhaps the most significant of these was the Fiscal and Financial Partnership Agreement in 2006, of which the late Mayor Andrée P. Boucher was one of the signatories. This agreement will have brought Quebec City some \$245 million by 2013, including a National Capital Region subsidy worth \$7.8-million.

Quebec City has also made abundant use of UMQ services on labour relations issues as well as UMQ databases containing strategically important information for the negotiation of collective agreements with municipal employees.

The UMQ is currently negotiating with the government to obtain substantial benefits for municipalities, including reimbursement of QST, transfer of the gasoline tax and adjustment of the deadline for infrastructure projects. These demands emerge from a common will and purpose in the municipal sector. By disengaging from these battles, Quebec City is letting other municipalities down and is turning its back on them despite its status as the National Capital Region of Quebec.

Source:

François Sormany

Director of Marketing and Communications

Telephone: 514-282-7700, extension 265

Cell: 514-910-7272

fsormany@umq.qc.ca