

Chambers of commerce and corporate members on the move

The network of Québec chambers of commerce is an excellent resource for partnership and mutual support. But it's much more. When FCCQ members get involved in political or economic issues that are important to Québec businesses, it makes all the difference. Without the active involvement and support of local chambers of commerce, FCCQ's influence would be greatly reduced.

Moreover, the contribution of FCCQ's corporate members to the economic vitality of the province makes them leading participants in Québec's development. Their involvement is key to bringing issues to light in all major sectors and helping produce written content, especially for committee work. Their participation on a daily basis is invaluable. They are also instrumental in securing sponsorship for FCCQ exclusive events.

FCCQ: Everywhere you need us to be!

The FCCQ also took part in the following parliamentary commissions:

- Act to abolish the Ministère des Services gouvernementaux and government-run organizations (Bill 130)
- Consultation on immigration objectives
- Revision of the Labour Code
- Act to Amend the Mining Act (Bill 79)
- Merger of SGF and Investissement Québec
- Act respecting the Agence du revenu du Québec (Bill 107)

Contributions of our 17 committees

FCCQ positions and visions for the future are proposed and updated by 17 working committees and several ad hoc committees, whose membership includes representatives of the corporate community and chambers of commerce. The input of these working groups ensures that FCCQ positions are realistic and accurately reflect the opinions of the people it represents. These committees are one of the true value-added benefits of FCCQ membership.

2011 MERCURIADES: FCCQ's businesses of the year

Moment Factory (SME), Medial Conseil Santé Sécurité (SME) and Industrial Alliance Auto and Home Insurance (Large Business) took top honours at the 2011 Mercuriades awards. Given the calibre of the nominations, the judges broke with tradition and picked three winners this year—two in the SME category and one in the Large Business category. They join the prestigious Club de l'excellence for their outstanding performance and ability to excel.



Moment Factory (PME)

Medial Conseil Santé Sécurité (SME)

Industrial Alliance Auto and Home Insurance (Large Business)

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With its wide network of more than 154 chambers of commerce, the FCCQ represents more than 60,000 businesses and 150,000 business people involved in all sectors of the economy throughout Québec. The FCCQ strongly supports its members' interests in matters of public policy, thus promoting an innovative and competitive business environment.



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L'EXCLUSIF

FCCQ Member Newsletter - 2010-2011 Annual Report

2010-2011:

Marked by a strong presence and effective action

2010-2011 was a year of action, with a number of topics capturing our attention: entrepreneurship, the new generation of businesspeople, the balance between training and the demand for skilled labour, workplace health and safety, or natural resources and Plan Nord. All of these issues are critical to the growth of Québec businesses and the creation of an environment conducive to our economic development. Not only did we respond promptly to changing economic realities, we took a proactive approach toward a number of important economic matters in Québec. We even raised a number of important issues and opened them to public discussion.

The FCCQ's presence in traditional media and social networks is strong. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. We rolled up our sleeves and worked with our members to push key initiatives further. The work of our 17 committees drove the debates, which in turn helped us find solutions that will shape the Québec of tomorrow. We met with ministers, executives, public servants, stakeholders from multiple sectors and the public to explain our proposals and our vision. FCCQ has decidedly influenced today's decision-makers, whether through parliamentary commissions or private meetings with elected and civil service officials.

This year also marks an important step forward in FCCQ's governance. We created several regional director positions and emphasised chamber of commerce involvement in FCCQ decisions and operations. The Forum des chambres is starting to deliver excellent results, and we intend to pursue this avenue further in the coming year.

Mission

Promouvoir la liberté d'entreprendre, qui s'inspire de l'initiative et de la créativité, afin de contribuer à la richesse collective du Québec en coordonnant l'apport du travail de tous ses membres.

Vision

Positionner la FCCQ comme le regroupement incontournable des intérêts d'affaires sur l'échiquier socio-économique et politique du Québec.



Marie-Huguette Cormier
Président du conseil

Françoise Bertrand
Présidente-directrice générale

Our commitment, our strength!

The Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec works to advance free enterprise that, driven by initiative and creativity, contributes to Québec's collective wealth and cultivates an innovative, competitive business environment.

Backed by its extensive, diverse and powerful network of 60,000 businesses and 150,000 businesspeople, the FCCQ is a strong voice for Québec's entrepreneurial and business community. It takes strategic action to advocate for its members on issues of importance to them, including:

- workforce availability and qualifications
- economic competitiveness, especially from a taxation and regulatory standpoint
- the need to capitalize on our natural resources and competitive advantages
- innovation and R&D
- export diversification
- trade corridors and the free flow of trade with the U.S.
- regional development
- development of industry policies, especially in the biopharmaceutical, aerospace, manufacturing and forest sectors

1 Business growth

In 2010–2011, in keeping with the principles and priorities outlined in its economic vision, FCCQ made its voice heard, loudly and clearly, in various public forums to help strengthen the competitiveness of our business, revive Québec's entrepreneurial spirit and promote economic vitality across Québec.

As a staunch advocate of Québec entrepreneurship since 1901, FCCQ accepted the Québec Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade's invitation to reflect on the concept of entrepreneurship and contribute to the Québec Entrepreneurship Strategy, launched during the FCCQ 2010 annual congress. A key task force was set up to propose solutions for fostering the growth of entrepreneurship in Québec. Fuelled by the participation of member chambers of commerce in ministry consultations, FCCQ submitted a brief at the national entrepreneurship forum on March 1, 2011 emphasizing increased cooperation among stakeholders and greater entrepreneur involvement in the disposition of assistance programs. It also stressed the need to focus our strengths and stop creating one program after another. The strategy is slated for public release in the fall of 2011.

Québec en avant : Balancing the debate

3. Through its various initiatives, including the entirely revamped website quebecenavant.ca, FCCQ seeks to underscore the economic opportunities generated by Québec's major projects and hopes to even out the playing field, not by stifling public debate—quite the contrary—but by making the issues, including economic issues, part of the debate.

FCCQ works with various ministries to encourage open discussion with unique, moderate and carefully documented points of view that introduce measures to encourage competitiveness. It also rallies local chambers of commerce and other employer associations around key issues in order to influence decision-makers. When it comes to defending the interests of its members, FCCQ does not shy away from declaring its support or opposition to any policy. In 2010–2011, for example, FCCQ organized a series of government meetings. Besides a meeting with Premier Jean Charest, working meetings with representatives of over 15 provincial ministries were scheduled.

4. Advocating economic development

EIGHT EFFECTS OF AN INFLUENTIAL RELEVANT NETWORK

2. Entrepreneurial pride

6. Skilled labour (training and management)

Our population is aging. Baby boomers are retiring. New production practices are emerging. People from a wide variety of backgrounds are entering the workforce. These are some of the reasons why labour issues are more critical than ever to Québec businesses. The shortage of skilled labour is one of the biggest economic challenges we face in the short term. The situation is a major concern for businesses and chambers of commerce across the province. FCCQ is therefore fully engaged in this issue.

7. Globalization

The United States and Ontario are, by far, Québec's top two trade partners. In April 2011, the United States alone was responsible for 70% of our exports. Roughly two-thirds of Québec exports are sent to states in the Northeast and Midwest. Trade corridors are the result of a conviction that joint private- and public-sector initiatives are among the key solutions to the numerous challenges associated with globalization and border security. Trade corridors are part of a sweeping movement toward economic cooperation being embraced by cross-border regions throughout Canada and the U.S.

Two initiatives have had a particular impact on FCCQ's efforts in this regard: the organization of the first Ontario-Québec Economic Forum (in conjunction with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce) in Toronto on February 28, and the drafting of a work plan (in conjunction with the Délégation générale du Québec à New York) to prepare for the fifth Québec-New York Economic Summit in Manhattan.

Developing our natural resources

5.

The government of Québec has issued a number of policies and legislative initiatives that will promote and support the development of natural resources. In the interest of our collective economic development, the messages sent to developers must remain positive and support for the development of natural resources must be predictable, transparent and consistent from one end of the province to the other. Numerous efforts in this regard were introduced over the course of the year. The FCCQ is a firm believer in developing clear guidelines for investors to prevent unnecessary setbacks, moratoriums and uncertainties of all kinds, which inevitably drive potential partners elsewhere. At the same time, it is essential that Quebecers benefit fairly and equitably from the development of our resources while remaining competitive.

8. Sustainable development

The FCCQ has been addressing the major issue of sustainable development and will continue to do so. It is important that the voice of the business community be louder to ensure a better balance in the public dialogue on sustainability. Environmentalists and activists of all kinds are particularly adept at using public relations and the media to call attention to their viewpoints. Apart from a handful of major corporations, however, most businesses have neither the time nor the resources required.

Apart from the political issues, sustainable development can also represent a wealth of business opportunities. "Going green" can give companies a competitive edge. An FCCQ committee on green technology has therefore been established to find ways to bring businesses and users together to develop expertise in this field.