Mastering new networks

If Quebec businesses need to venture into new markets, there is certainly a way for us to stack the cards in our favour by making use of the best tools available.

Today new information technologies offer simple, effective and user-friendly ways to reach new customers and increase exports. These tools improve contact, reduce the pressures of time and space, even transform our ways of organizing ourselves, and open new horizons.

In Quebec, 86% of small and medium-sized businesses are connected to the Internet. Of this number, 90% are equipped with a high-speed or very high-speed connection. So Quebec businesses are ready to operate at the Web 2.0 level.

An important lesson that can be drawn from the speakers’ presentations is that doing business in Web 2.0 requires transparency and openness, as well as the ability to change everything that is on the Web will be known in a flash. The age of the Web requires a serious commitment on the part of senior management, because success rests not only on technology but also on mastering interactions and networks. Just as Generation C has forced companies to change how they operate, consumers themselves are pushing these same companies to do business on the Web.

More than ever, businesses that will be successful are those who put innovation and imagination at the core of development. The FCCQ’s 2009 Annual General Meeting proposed new ground to explore and daring new ways to innovate. And the conference did all this while remaining carbon-neutral; the GHG emissions resulting from the event were offset by carbon credits.
More than 350 conference delegates gathered from October 2 to 4, 2009, in the Laurentian town of St. Sauveur to discuss ways of doing business in a new global environment that has been transformed by the emergence of new information technologies.

Throughout an event-filled weekend, conference delegates took part in an array of workshops focusing on Web 2.0, market diversification and globalization, and export. They also had the opportunity to hear several well-respected speakers, including the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade Canada and Minister of the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Pierre-Marc Johnson, lead negotiator for Quebec in talks toward establishing a Free Trade Accord between Canada and the European Union; and France Dionne, Quebec Delegate to Boston.

During the evening ceremony marking the end of conference, the FCCQ, as it does each year, paid tribute to those individuals and chambers of commerce that distinguished themselves in the Quebec network of chambers of commerce.

1 • CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE YEAR
Chambre de commerce et d’industrie de Bécancour
In the past three years, this chamber has been instrumental in advancing the interests of its members. The chamber distinguished itself in particular by the organization of an online job fair, the “On Reconnect” challenge and the Comptoir RH staffing service.

2 • VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD
Pierre Jetté, Chambre de commerce et d’industrie de Mirabel
This award is bestowed on the volunteer who over many years has worked tirelessly on behalf of his or her chamber of commerce. Mr. Jetté has been a board member of his chamber for more than 30 years and has occupied several portfolios.

3 • RECRUITMENT AWARD
Chambre de commerce de la MRC de la Matapédia
This award recognizes the recruitment of new members and the work of the chamber of commerce that increased the ranks of its membership. In the last three years, the membership of the Chambre de commerce de la MRC de la Matapédia has grown by more than 60%.

4 • SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
Carol Daigneau, Chambre de commerce de la Haute-Gaspésie
With this award, the FCCQ recognizes the contribution of Julie Bouchard, who has served the Chambre de commerce et d’industrie de Rouyn-Noranda loyally for 30 years.

5 • JEAN-PAUL-LÉTURDNEAU PRIZE
Monseor Carol Daigneau, de la Chambre de commerce de la Haute-Gaspésie
This year for the first time, the 2009 Mercuriades Awards were handed out during the conference in recognition of exceptional “Contribution to economic and regional development” by a large business and a small and medium-sized business (SMB).

This year for the first time, the 2009 Mercuriades Awards were handed out during the conference in recognition of exceptional “Contribution to economic and regional development” by a large business and a small and medium-sized business (SMB).

Roch L. Dube, past-chair of the Board, presented the awards.

7 • WINNER IN THE LARGE BUSINESS CATEGORY
Beenox
Beenox is now one of the most promising companies in its field and is ranked among the Top 50 best video-game developers in the world. Today it employs more than 75 specialized staff. The company’s games are designed entirely at its studios in Québec City and enjoy international popularity.

8 • WINNER IN THE SMB CATEGORY
Soprema
Soprema

9 • WINNER IN THE SMB CATEGORY
Campor
Campor is an industry leader in technological innovation, research and development, training and recovery processes, and storage management for the handling and transformation of waste matter and used materials.

10 • FINALISTS IN THE SMB CATEGORY

11 • WINNER IN THE SMB CATEGORY
Campor

12 • FINALISTS IN THE LARGE BUSINESS CATEGORY

13 • XEO3 Imagery

This year for the first time, the 2009 Mercuriades Awards were handed out during the conference in recognition of exceptional “Contribution to economic and regional development” by a large business and a small and medium-sized business (SMB).