FINANCIAL AND REAL ESTATE SERVICES
- The collapse of the real estate market and the subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S. have resulted in a lack of liquidity and a financial crisis around the world. Against this backdrop, Canadian and Quebec financial institutions have proved very resilient. During the first half of the year, real estate brokers reported the benefits of stock market growth, low interest rates and a robust job market. By the end of the year, however, the deterioration in consumer confidence and tightened credit conditions brought about a marked slowdown in housing sales.

The FCCQ is Monitoring
- The establishment of a national securities commission
- The TSK Group’s compliance with the commitments made as part of the merger with the Montreal Exchange
- The review of the legal framework applicable to aggressive tax planning

LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES
- Public spending related to the health care system continues to rise.
- Quebec is not immune from the move by pharmaceutical multinationals to restructure. These companies no longer manage to produce enough new drugs to make up for the decline in revenues associated with the loss of protection for their major patents and the arrival on the market of generic drugs.
- The aging of the population, advances in medical technologies and increased spending by health care institutions are exerting growing pressure on the demand for medical equipment.

The FCCQ is Monitoring
- The biopharmaceutical industry development strategy
- The establishment of a National Institute for Health and Social Services Excellence
- The financing crisis affecting biotech firms

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND ELECTRONICS
- The IT systems industry continues to grow, although the shortage of skilled workers remains a major concern, despite the job losses recorded in this industry in 2008.
- As in North America as a whole, Quebec manufacturers of IT and electronics products have continued to experience a decline, as witnessed by many plant closures and restructuring efforts.

The FCCQ is Monitoring
- Tax credits for the development of e-business
- The availability of skilled labour
- The WTO Doha negotiations

TOURISM
- Boosted by the 400th anniversary celebrations, business tourism attracted 22 international events to Quebec City, which in turn has boosted the lodging industry. Spending by foreign tourists, however, decreased.
- The strength of the Canadian dollar in the first half of the year and the tight job market seem to have played in favour of travel agencies, which saw their volume of business increase in spite of the start of the recession at year-end.

The FCCQ is Monitoring
- The impact of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
- The realization of regional ties for the signing of a Canada-European Union “open skies” agreement
- The upgrading of transportation infrastructure

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About the FCCQ
With its extensive network of 162 chambers of commerce, the FCCQ represents more than 40,000 businesses and 100,000 business people involved in every sector of the economy across Quebec. The FCCQ promotes an innovative and competitive business environment through its tireless advocacy on behalf of the interests of its members in matters of public policy.