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Annual General Meeting

During the AGM on Saturday, the chambers of commerce in attendance adopted close to a dozen resolutions that will shape FCCQ public initiatives in the coming year. Among these resolutions was one backing the Davie Yards/SNC-Lavalin joint venture in its dealings with the federal government, as well as another to pressure the government to ease the tax burden of entrepreneurs who sell their business to a family member. The natural resources management plan to provide government and business with the tools required to make effective use of our resources without adversely affecting our communities, was also adopted at the AGM.

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L'Exclusif is available at all times on the Federation's website at www.fccq.ca in the Publications section.

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 - 2011 Annual Convention

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION:

Integrating sustainable development into business

This year's FCCQ convention took place in Victoriaville, considered the cradle of sustainable development in Québec. The four-day event gave attendees an opportunity to discuss solutions for growing their business, creating wealth and doing more to foster an accommodating environment for individuals, businesses and investments in Québec. The hospitality and hard work of the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie des Bois-Francs et de l'Érable were key to the success of the proceedings.

VIP guests

A number of prominent guests were on hand to talk with convention delegates about the critical issue of sustainable development, including Lucien Bouchard, president of the Québec Oil and Gas Association and former premier of Québec; Pierre Arcand, ministre du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs; and Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry and Minister of State (Agriculture).

In the coming years, Québec will have important decisions to make about how natural resources are used and, specifically, about what to do in light of the recent discovery of underground fossil fuel deposits in the province. Sustainable development is key to these discussions, for a harmonious balance between economic prosperity and environmental responsibility is what will make the province an economic force in the 21st century.

To support this position, the FCCQ brought in experts from across the sustainable development spectrum. Through workshops, presentations and even tours of various facilities, participants explored various avenues for prioritizing sustainable development. Visits to Vic Royal, Gaudreau Environnement, Laurentides re-sources and Société Laurentide were very popular, as was the tour of the Victoriaville Centre de formation en entreprise et récupération (CFER), an organization that assists troubled youth and provides job training programs designed to help them develop marketable skills.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE YEAR

Chambre de commerce de Lévis

As the main business network in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, the Chambre de commerce de Lévis played an active role in Célébrations Lévis 2011, developing a special program to shine the spotlight on the Lévis business community and civic leaders. It also contributed to stay-in-school programs aimed at local youth. In 2010–2011, it organized a total of 45 activities. Turnout at these activities was up 13% overall during the year and membership increased by 5% to reach 1,100.

Gala honoured our chambers of commerce

Once again this year, the FCCQ annual convention was the ideal opportunity for paying tribute to chambers of commerce and individuals for their outstanding achievements during the year. Here are the winners for 2011:



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Diane Fellice, Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Laval

The FCCQ Volunteer the Year for 2011 is a woman who has been devoted to the community and her local chamber of commerce for eight years. She has occupied a wide range of positions with the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Laval, becoming chair of the chamber's board of directors last year. She is a keen advocate of training and stay-in-school initiatives and has represented the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Laval on various committees and working groups at the local and regional level.



JEAN-PAUL-LÉTOURNEAU AWARD

Maurice Quesnel, Chambre de commerce MRC Bonaventure

This award is given to a chamber of commerce employee for outstanding performance and achievement. With 16 years of experience as a chamber of commerce executive, Maurice Quesnel has helped raise quality standards within the network. He realizes that we are stronger when we pull together: he has been active encouraging the chambers of commerce in his area to work as a team. And his "Gaspé suppers" are fast becoming a local tradition!



ARTHUR-P.-EARLE RECRUITING AWARD

Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Vaudreuil-Dorion

This award, which is presented annually to a chamber of commerce that has taken a special or unique approach to increasing membership, went to the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Vaudreuil-Dorion this year, for its ongoing efforts and hard work toward attaining its recruitment objectives.



PRIX COUP DE CŒUR

Marie-Josée Denis, General Director, Chambre de commerce du Haut-Richelieu

The floods that devastated the Montérégie region in the spring of 2011 hit the entire province hard, but the repercussions were particularly severe in the Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu area. Marie-Josée Denis, general director of the Chambre de commerce du Haut-Richelieu, reacted to the incident by rallying the local business community to help the victims. The exemplary leadership she showed was admirable and helped get thousands of volunteers to lend a hand in the recovery effort.

Delegates heard a number of panellists address various aspects of sustainable development and several touched specifically on economic development.

During the days leading up to the convention, the focus of which was sustainable development, and throughout the main event, there was no shortage of related topics to explore. The David Suzuki Foundation made a special appearance to share tips on learning from nature to create greener offices in terms of water, energy, waste management, health and transportation.

Participants also had the opportunity to hear a guest speaker talk about the importance of effectively publicizing the sustainable economic development efforts of businesses and organizations such as chambers of commerce. Attendees learned about pitfalls to avoid and received other excellent advice.

Several prestigious speakers took the podium during the convention. **Pierre Arcand**, Ministre du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, outlined the Québec government's vision of sustainable development. He also talked about Plan Nord, the fight against climate change and the implementation in 2013 of a carbon exchange involving a hundred greenhouse gas-emitting businesses.

Christian Paradis, federal Minister of Industry and Minister of State (Agriculture), also addressed participants. Mr. Paradis was on his way to Québec City to announce an agreement on harmonizing the GST and QST. His remarks on economic development and job creation were very well received.

Finally, during his address on Friday at noon, **Lucien Bouchard** urged the Québec government to participate in funding the shale gas industry in Québec to capitalize fully on the benefits it affords. His comments fuelled several discussions during the convention and received several days' worth of attention in the media.

TALKING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Businesses concerned with sustainable economic development

FCCQ took advantage of the event to unveil the results of a survey on Québec entrepreneurs' perceptions of sustainable development – a very relevant topic in this day and age. The survey showed that the vast majority of Québec businesses and executives are concerned about sustainable development. Results emphasized that, when businesses

are aware of available incentives, they take action. As it currently stands, however, few companies know about the programs open to them and have no idea where to look for reliable information. The survey findings are available online on the FCCQ website.

