



10<sup>e</sup> CONGRÈS  
MONDIAL DU LOISIR  
10<sup>th</sup> WORLD LEISURE  
CONGRESS

Press Release  
For immediate broadcast

## World Leisure Congress Québec 2008 **Leisure can Change the World!**

Montreal, September 11, 2008 – Anyone over 40 remembers the promise of a civilisation of leisure, a world where everyone would enjoy more and more free time and would grow up harmoniously by devoting himself to a multitude of sports, leisure activities and artistic disciplines. Since then, globalization has put work back on the agenda. And yet, in developed countries, leisure is definitely an integral part of life for a large number of individuals. It is also the foundation for the life of millions of others on this planet, mainly because of the advantages of new forms of tourism. In fact, leisure is increasingly becoming an important factor for development, thus a powerful agent for change and sharing. Personal growth for some, improving quality of life for others, leisure can change the world! From October 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Quebec City, speakers at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Leisure Congress will testify to this fact.

### **Development through Leisure**

Over 2,500 delegates from 40 countries will come together during this event presided by M. Michel Beaugard and with Mr. Jean-Paul L'Allier, Québec City's ex-mayor, as Honorary Chairman. Global theme: "Leisure and Community Development". Presentations will come under three sub-themes: "Leisure: plurality, identity, solidarity"; "Leisure: public and private space"; "Leisure: prevention, health and quality of life". The numerous outcomes of leisure will be examined: personal development, professional development, collective development, regional development, sustainable development, social economy, education, youth integration, social cohesion, etc.

« This congress will offer a content as rich and as varied as the subject itself. In fact, we will examine the overall conditions in which various leisure activities must take place to have a truly positive impact on communities. We will speculate on ways to support the practice of leisure, of living leisure as consumers or as fans, which is obviously quite different, and finally, on ways to promote participative and associative leisure", explains M. Beaugard.

### The Condition of Leisure in the World

From the opening session, participants in the "panel of the continents" will answer the question: "How do your communities take advantage of leisure for their social, cultural, economic and environmental development?" Members of this international group, presided by Mr. André Thibault, President of the Congress program committee, will also act as spokespersons at the closing session. They are Mr. Dong-Sung Cho, Ph.D., from Korea; Mr. Luiz Octavio Lima de Camargo, Ph.D., from Brazil; Mr. J.A. Francis Lobo, Ph.D., from Australia; Mr. Youssouf Fall, from Senegal; Mrs. Karla A. Henderson, Ph.D., from the United States; and Mr. Jean Viard, Ph.D. from France.

The event will also attract other personalities in the field of leisure, such as Mr. Gaétan Morency, Vice President of Citizenship for the Cirque du Soleil; Mr. Scott Haldane, President and General Manager of Greater Toronto's YMCA; Mr. Chris Rojek, Director of the School of Social Science and Professor of Sociology and Culture at *Brunel University* in West London; Mrs. Linda Caldwell, Ph. D., Professor of Leisure, Parks and Tourism Administration, at Pennsylvania State University; Mrs. Suzanne Lareau, President and General Manager of Vélo Québec; Mrs. Norma Stumbo, Director of *Midwest Alliance in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*; and Dr. Alain Poirier, National Director of Public Health and Assistant Deputy Minister for the General Administration of Public Health in the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

A total of nearly 300 presentations will take place during 110 workshops dedicated to the distribution of scientific research results, a variety of experience reports and to the promotion of better practices in this field. The event will also host an important trade show.

*The Quebec Leisure Council (Conseil québécois du loisir) and the World Leisure Organisation contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of Quebec by encouraging and supporting the practice of leisure activity. They represent leisure organizations while bringing together groups and individuals involved in leisure development for consultation and consensus-building. They defend the rights of all individuals to dedicate time in the pursuit of leisure activities, and strongly support unlimited accessibility.*

[www.loisirquebec2008.com](http://www.loisirquebec2008.com)

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