



Press Release  
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## World Leisure Congress Québec 2008 Reflection on the Global Condition of Leisure And the Winning Accommodations in the World of

Montreal, September 24, 2008 — Over 2,500 delegates from 40 countries will reunite from October 6th to 10th at Québec City's Convention Center for the 10th World Leisure Congress organized by the Conseil Québécois du loisir and its numerous partners. The general theme of this event, chaired by Mr. Michel Beauregard, President of the Conseil québécois du loisir, and whose honorary chairman is Mr. Jean-Paul L'Allier, is as vast as the world itself: "Leisure and Community Development". Presentations will be divided under three sub-themes: "Leisure: Plurality, Identity, Solidarity"; "Leisure: Public and Private Space"; and "Leisure: Prevention, Health and Quality of Life". Therefore, leisure's multiple dimensions and spin-offs will be at issue.

Mornings will be dedicated to conferences and round tables reuniting researchers and known personalities in the field of leisure, amongst others, who will share their research results or their professional experiences in leisure, including Gaétan Morency from the Cirque du Soleil which will actually be performing in Québec at that time, and Scott Haldane from Greater Toronto's YMCA. Both individuals have become experts in the management of individual and collective differences in a leisure-associated context.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH**  
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

### **Panel of the Continents: Leisure and Community Development**

From the opening session, participants in the "Panel of the Continents" will address the Congress' general theme by answering the question: "How do your communities benefit from leisure for their social, cultural, economical and environmental development?" What does the word "leisure" really mean from one continent to another? What role and what kind of space do we attribute to leisure here and there?

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Members of this international group, chaired by **Mr. André Thibault**, professor at the Québec University in Trois-Rivières, will also take on the role of spokespersons at the closing session. They are: **Mr. Dong-Sung Cho**, Ph. D. (Korea); **Mr. Youssouf Fall** (Senegal); **Mrs. Karla A. Henderson**, Ph. D. (United States); **Mr. J. A. Francis Lobo**, Ph. D. (Australia); **Mr. Luiz Octavio Lima de Camargo**, Ph.D. in educational science (Brazil); and **Mr. Jean Viard**, Ph.D. in sociology (France).

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH**  
**9 AM TO 12:30 PM**

**Leisure: Plurality, Identity, Solidarity**

If the statement that leisure can change the world is true, because of its multiple spin-offs, then it also has the ability to divide communities, to diminish the sense of identity, to exacerbate differences and to create conflict. How do we take into account plurality and diversity while preserving identity and solidarity?

**Mr. Gaétan Morency**, Vice-President of Citizenship for the Cirque du Soleil and **Mr. Scott Haldane**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Greater Toronto's YMCA will be the speakers and will both address management of their employees' and their customers' diversity, each in their own multicultural environment, and with all the implied winning accommodations...

This session will be chaired by **Mr. Gilles Pronovost**, Ph.D., emeritus professor in the Department of Leisure, Culture and Tourism Studies at the Québec University in Trois-Rivières. **Mrs. Danielle-Claude Chartré**, Assistant Deputy Minister for the territorial action of the Ministry of Culture, Communications and Status of Women; **Mr. Chris Rojek**, Ph. D. (England); and **Mr. Norberto Tonini** (Italy), President of the International Bureau of Social Tourism (IBST), will also take part in the discussions.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**9 AM to 11 AM**

**Leisure: Private and Public Space**

For several countries, the field of leisure is a privileged sector of citizen volunteer commitment, mainly through associations, a breeding ground essential to the establishment of strong communities. However, leisure can also confine an individual to the simple role of consumer. Therefore, we will question how and under what conditions the practice, administration and organization of leisure promote the establishment of social ties and democratic communities.

The main speaker will be **Mr. Jean-Paul L'Allier**, ex-mayor of Québec City (1989 to 2005), and Québec's ex-minister of Culture and Communications (1970 to 1976). This session will be chaired by **Mr. Louis Jolin**, professor in the Department of Urban and Tourism Studies at the School of Administrative Science at the Québec University in Montreal. **Mr. Bernard Généreux**, President of the Fédération des municipalités du Québec; **Ms. Linda Caldwell**, Ph. D. (United States); **Mr. Abdou Salam Fall** (Senegal); and **Mr. Gérard Beaudet**, Director of the Institute of Urban Planning at the University of Montreal will also take part in the discussions.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**9 AM to 11 AM**

**Leisure: Prevention, Health, and Quality of Life**

It is evident that leisure contributes to the quality of life and is a determining factor for health, as defined by the World Health Organisation as a person's physical, psychological and social ability to interact in their environment and to perform the roles they have chosen in an acceptable fashion for themselves and for the groups to which they belong. How and under what conditions can communities benefit from leisure's strengths to prevent illness, improve health and increase quality of life?

This session will be chaired by **Mr. Réal Lacombe**, Director of Public Health for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of Quebec and founder of the Réseau Villes et villages. **Mrs. Suzanne Lareau**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Vélo Québec; **Dr. Alain Poirier**, National Director of Public Health and Assistant Deputy Minister for Quebec's Ministry of Health and Social Services; and **Mrs. Norma Stumbo**, Ph. D. (United States) will also take part in the discussions.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10TH**  
**10 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Summary, Closing and Québec Declaration**

Members of the "panel of the continents" will reunite for a debriefing regarding the knowledge acquired during the Congress. Afterwards, all participants will be called upon to adopt a common declaration regarding community development through leisure and the conditions they accept to promote in this respect. The event will conclude with the passing of the flag to the representatives of the City of Chuncheon, Korea, host of the World Leisure Congress 2010.

In all, some 450 presentations will take place during more than 200 workshops dedicated to the broadcasting of scientific research results, accounts of varied experiences and the promotion of better practices in the 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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