



10^e CONGRÈS
MONDIAL DU LOISIR
10th WORLD LEISURE
CONGRESS

Press Release
For Immediate Broadcast

World Leisure Congress Québec 2008

Leisure, a wonderful driving force for integration and development (and a 15 billion dollar market in Quebec alone!)

Montreal, October 1st, 2008 – In 2008, do life conditions and daily constraints and obligations favour the practice of leisure? How can leisure activities save our youth from becoming delinquent, protect our adults from illness and save our elderly from deprivation? What is the condition of leisure infrastructures in Quebec and elsewhere throughout the world? Do rural areas still have a future without a quality service in leisure? How do we practice leisure activities that are compatible with sustainable development? Have day camps simply become day care for children? What accommodations have successfully been implemented by the leisure sector? Why should we choose participative leisure over consumer leisure? These questions, and many more, will be addressed by the 2,500 delegates from 40 countries during the 10th World Leisure Congress being held at the Québec City Convention Center from October 6th to 10th, and organized by the Conseil québécois du loisir (CQL) and its numerous partners. The world leisure congresses were initiated by the international organisation, World Leisure.

The event will be chaired by Mr. Michel Beauregard, President of the CQL, and the honorary chairman will be none other than Québec City's ex-mayor, Mr. Jean-Paul L'Allier. The general theme is "Leisure and Community Development".

More Important than Work and Money!

Quebeckers know the value of leisure. A recent survey, carried out by Léger Marketing (*Le Devoir* September 13-14), revealed that leisure and personal passions (18%) is given the most importance after romantic and family life (68%), and far ahead of work (6%) and money and possessions (4%).

Quebeckers Allocate nearly 15 Billion Dollars per Year to Leisure

The last American annual study on this subject established that leisure represents some 2.1 billion dollars in the United States, on a gross domestic product of 13 billion in 2007. During the same year in Quebec, household expenses in leisure represented nearly 10 billion dollars, i.e. more than 12% of their regular expenses. In other words, regardless of the decrease in free time, Quebeckers do treat themselves to leisure activities - allocating, on average, approximately 30 hours per week - and the Quebec economy on the whole has every advantage to continue offering leisure products and services.

Furthermore, the estimated value of public and associative expenses in this sector represent at least five billion dollars; one billion from municipalities, one billion from the Québec government and at least three billion resulting from the various associations and their members, and this does not include the ripple effect on the province's general economy.

"It is obvious that leisure represents an important part of the GDP of developed countries, particularly as it is a field that is very broad, difficult to localize and with infinite economic benefits. No matter how you calculate it, one must remember that leisure is at the root of the two most important industries in the world, culture and tourism. Just in outdoor activities, the Quebec government speaks of 2.4 million outdoor fans whose expenses represent 1.3 billion dollars per year. That said, beyond numbers, this congress will attempt to emphasize the overall impact of leisure on communities, here and throughout the world" stated Michel Beauregard.

30 % of Canada's Volunteers

Without leisure, there is a decrease in social ties, a decrease in sense of belonging, and a decrease in quality of life. Hence the vital importance for governments to invest and to support volunteer and associative empowerment, to develop leisure infrastructures and to consolidate the existing services. Apparently, the population is on top of it; in Canada, volunteer commitment in the field of leisure represents 30% of all volunteering, which means 1 billion dollars in volunteer time. It is in this field that people are the most involved.

In Quebec, the world of public and civil leisure - i.e. non-commercial - is driven and developed by public authorities and several thousand associations and volunteers. More than 15,000 citizen associations, 500,000 volunteers and tens of thousands of employees work in the field of leisure.

450 Workshops Answering Three Main Questions

The five days of the congress will essentially deal with leisure as a driving force for the integration and development of communities throughout the world. Thus, delegates will address the following main questions:

- 1) How do the various national, regional and local communities take advantage of leisure for their social, cultural, economic and environmental development?
- 2) How and why are individuals, civil society (associative and organisational groups) and governments involved in the development of leisure?
- 3) What are the lessons we can learn from all these practices?

A selection of typical workshops is following...

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A SELECTION OF TYPICAL WORKSHOPS:

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

2 TO 3: 30 PM

- **A1** *United Nations Millennium Goals: World Leisure and Civil Society Organizations* – Room: 204B
- **A3** *Discover Camp Project for Disadvantaged Groups and “People Outdoors” Program* – Room: 301B
- **A6** *Health, Safety, and Social Needs of Sexual Minority Youth* – Room: 303A
- **A9** *An Overview of the World Leisure Commission Program* – Room: 205C
- **A10** *Conditions under which Social Economy and Social Tourism Organisation Stay Alive in France, in Brazil and in Quebec* – Room: 206A
- **A14** *Building Leadership Capacity: Strategies and Approaches* – Room: 201B
- **A17** *Sport, Physical Activity and Community Development 1* – Room: 202
- **A18** *Leisure, Inclusion and Social Justice* Room: 204A
- **A19** *Leisure and the Family* – Room: 2105
- **A20** *Spiritual Perspectives on Leisure* – Room: 304A
- **A24** *Volunteers* – Room: 2103
- **A25** *Leisure and Globalization* – Room: 2102A
- **A28** *Tourism and Community Development 1* – Room: 208A

3: 30 to 4 PM

- **B2** *Sustainable Development: Challenges for Leisure and Social Tourism Organizations* – Room: 202
- **B4** *Research on the Social Contribution of Leisure Organizations: Three Cases of Social, Economic and Creative Development* – Room: 205C
- **B7** *Best Practices: Standards, Accreditation, Certification, or Government Oversight of Camps around the World* – Room: 302A
- **B15** *Leisure Education: Building Communities for All* – Room: 206A
- **B17** *Youth and Sport: Preferences and Behaviours* – Room: 201A

- **B18** *Leisure Accessibility – Room: 201B*
- **B19** *Leisure and Socio-cultural Development – Room: 2104B*
- **B21** *Leisure and International Cooperation – Room: 2102A*
- **B26** *Leisure and Community Development 2 – Room: 208B*
- **B28** *Human Resources: Building Strong and Effective Teams – Room: 304A*

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

2 TO 3: 30 PM

- **C1** *Day Camps: A Summer Leisure Program or Child Care Service – Room: 204B*
- **C2** *What is Social Tourism and How is it Different from Mass Tourism? – Room: 206B*
- **C4** *Cultural Leisure as a Vector to Community and Individual Identity Development (Part 1) – Room: 2102B*
- **C5** *Promoting Ethics in Sport and Recreation – Room: 205C*
- **C6** *Priorities in Rural Leisure Development – Room: 207*
- **C9** *World Leisure Commission on Children and Youth: Community and School-based Approaches to Leisure for Under-served Youth – Room: 201A*
- **C11** **World Leisure Commission on Leisure and Later Life: Planning Meeting – Room: 2102A**
- **C13** *Research on the Social Contribution of Leisure Organization: Three Cases that Illustrate Cultural and Environmental Heritage Enhancement – Room: 205B*
- **C16** *Tourism, Development and Community Impact – Room: 302B*
- **C17** *Events and Community Development – Room: 2105*
- **C19** *Leisure and social transformation – Room: 205A*
- **C21** *Leisure and Social Solidarity – Room: 208A*
- **C23** *Travel and Tourism: Participant Perspectives – Room: 304A*
- **C24** *Leisure and Internet – Room: 2103*
- **C26** *Leisure and Youth 1 – Room: 304B*

4 TO 5 : 30 PM

- **D1 Women in Leadership : Influencing Change in Leisure Organizations – Room: 205B**
- **D3 *Imaginative Infrastructure in Leisure and Recreation – Room: 301A***
- **D6 *Social Tourism as a Developmental Tool: Results and Outcomes in Northern and Southern Countries – Room: 206A***
- **D8 *Respecting Community Diversity: Canadian Inclusion Initiatives – Room: 204B***
- **D18 *Leisure, Arts and Culture – Room: 304A***
- **D19 *Loisir et autochtones / Leisure and Indigenous Peoples – Salle / Room: 301B***
- **D21 *Leisure and Social Integration – Room: 2104A***
- **D24 *Complete Access for Disadvantaged People in Montreal – Room: 201B***
- **D26 *Children and Youth – Room: 302A***

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
11: 00 AM to 12: 30 PM

- **E6 *The Quebec Rural Pact as a Strategy to Community Development – Room: 206A***
- **E7 *Leisure and Aging Around the Globe: What the Research can tell us about Experiences of Later Life and Leisure – Room: 206B***
- **E12 *Promotion of Leisure and Health for Children – Room: 201C***
- **E14 *Leisure, Tourism and Rural Communities – Room: 205B***
- **E17 *Leisure and Sport: Risks and Benefits – Room: 208B***

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
11: 00 AM to 12: 30 PM

- **F6 *Community Involment in Bicycle Path Network Development – Room: 2102B***
- **F11 *Leisure, Well-being and Community – Room: 201C***
- **F12 *Sport, Health, and Quality of Life – Room: 208A***

- **F13** *Physical Activity and Health Promotion Initiatives – Room: 208B*
- **F14** *Leisure Lifestyles and Quality of life – Room: 2103*

2 TO 3: 30 PM

- **G3** *The Impact of Prevention Initiatives on Health and Quality of Life – Room: 204A*
- **G4** *Outdoor Leisure Education Models for Community Development – Room: 205C*
- **G6** *The Role of the Performing Arts in Health and Well-being – Room: 207*
- **G7** *Governmental Action Plan (2006-2012) to Promote Healthy Habits and Prevent Obesity – Room: 2102B*
- **G10** *Cities and Social Development: Challenges for Municipal Park and Recreation Services – Room: 206A*
- **G13** *Healthy Cities and Villages Network: A Strategy for Improving Quality of Life – Room: 2105*
- **G14** *Social Tourism and Sustainable Development – Room: 204B*
- **G17** *Leisure Behaviours and Older Adults – Room: 208A*

4 to 5: 30 P M

- **H1** *Leisure, Social Tourism, and Community Development – Room: 202*
- **H2** *Challenges with Leisure and Recreation Infrastructure – Room: 204B*
- **H5** *Promoting Safe Leisure and Sport Practices: The Quebec Model – Room: 2105*
- **H7** *Public and Civic Leisure in Quebec – Room: 204A*
- **H9** *World Leisure Organisation: Enhancing the Human Condition - A New Strategic Initiative 2009-2014 – Room: 206B*
- **H10** *How Leisure Can Facilitate Community Involvement and Volunteerism for Youth – Room: 205A*
- **H15** *Tourism and Market Analysis – Room: 208A*
- **H16** *Gender-based Perspectives on Leisure – Room: 2104B*

Each morning will begin with conferences and round tables. During the afternoons, some 450 presentations will take place during more than 200 workshops dedicated to the transmission of scientific research results, situation reports of various experiences and the promotion of better practices in the field of leisure. The event will also host an important trade show.

Friday morning, members of the "panel of the continents", the opening international round table, will get together to summarise the lessons learned during this congress. Then, all participants will be invited to adopt a common declaration on the development of communities through leisure and the conditions they commit to promote to this effect. The event will come to an end with the passing on of the flag to the representatives of ChunCheon, Korea, host city for the World Leisure Congress 2010.

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

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Source: Conseil québécois du loisir

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