

RESO INFO

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RESO wishes you and yours happy holidays and an excellent 2012!

Véronique Olivier elected as RESO president

At its meeting October 25, the RESO board of directors elected Véronique Olivier as president. She takes over from Gilles Paquette, who held the position since October 2006. Olivier is president of Waveroad Consult, a dynamic Montréal Sud-Ouest firm offering professional services in information technology. She has represented service and new economy enterprises on the RESO board of directors since September 2005 and has been a member of the executive committee since October 2010.

Says Olivier, “As RESO president and company representative, I want to encourage my colleagues in the business community to take advantage of the many services RESO has to offer Sud-Ouest companies and to participate in the governing of this essential tool the community has acquired so that it develops in a sustainable, responsible and equitable way.” She’ll be assisted in her duties by a new executive made up of vice-president Édith Cyr, treasurer Francis Lagacé, secretary Vicente Perez and RESO director general Pierre Morrissette.

Thank you Gilles!

Gilles Paquette, who retired as regional advisor of the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ), retired at the same time from the RESO executive committee, where he had sat as a representative of the unions for nine years, five of them as president. “Throughout these years, the collaboration of Gilles Paquette and the FTQ have been invaluable for RESO. The unions and FTQ representatives have been partners from the very beginnings of the Montréal local economic development movement that was launched in the mid 80s in the Sud-Ouest and in the old industrial districts of Montréal. On behalf of RESO’s executive committee and employees, I would like to convey my very sincere thanks for his inestimable contribution to fulfilling RESO’s mission and for his commitment to promoting local development through his organization,” said RESO director general Pierre Morrissette.

Bain Émard and the adult section of the Georges-Vanier library

RESO has joined in on the actions and mobilization of citizens opposed to the closing of the adult section of the Georges-Vanier library and Bain Émard. The closures had been decided by the borough council after the adoption of the 2012 budget, but thanks to citizen involvement, the Sud-Ouest borough has decided that the two facilities will remain open in 2012 as RESO had requested. In related news, elected representatives will begin consultations on the services offered by Sud-Ouest libraries. RESO will be

taking part in them in order to find meaningful and lasting solutions for the libraries and will also be taking part in the discussions around Bain Énard.

RESO's Semaine de la culture entrepreneuriale: a success

RESO held its entrepreneurial culture week November 14 to 18 featuring a range of different activities, each more interesting than the last. The event kicked off with the awarding of the Jeunes promoteurs prize for young adults aged 18 to 35 who have created their own companies. Winners are: Michèle Bertrand and Charles Pelletier of blvd. agence, in event management, design and production; Sanjay François Sharma of Red Mercury, in video, televisual and multimedia production; Julien Niquet and David Cayer of Brasseurs sans gluten; and Mathieu Fleury of Eau Matelo, which produces a sap-based drinking water from Québec maples. A certificate of recognition was also awarded to Yann Basile Bellavance of Inovae, a firm specializing in the development of technological solutions designed to increase its clients' productivity and reduce their impact on the environment.

Next, a workshop entitled "Profession entrepreneur: How to Start Your Company" attracted a number of participants, all eager to learn the fundamentals of launching a business project. The activity was followed by a bilingual entrepreneurial rally for young people from Saint-Henri and James Lyng high schools, which took place along the various main streets of the Sud-Ouest. The 74-person rally was a great success for the young people, who were welcomed with open arms by store owners, including Liana Lessard of Sweet Lees bakery, who shared her own entrepreneurial journey. Another resounding success was the day of entrepreneurial workshops for young women aged 12 to 20. Organized by the CJE's of Saint-Laurent and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Coopsco and the Réseau des carrefours-jeunesse emploi du Québec (RCJEQ), the event aimed to get young women to consider entrepreneurship as a future choice for their own personal, social and professional development. Last but not least, the social economy breakfasts attracted a number of people, who came to listen to www.william.coop's Jacques Lambert and Martin Grenier speak on "Commerce solidaire Québec," the new commercialization tool in the service of collective enterprises and local development (www.commercesolidaire.com). It helps social economy enterprises increase their purchasing power and strengthen the presence and visibility of their commercial offer.

The week's objectives, which were to encourage the development of an entrepreneurial culture and make people aware of the types of entrepreneurship possible—private, social and student—, were achieved.

All these activities and the assistance provided by RESO to entrepreneurs were made possible by funding from the Québec government, redistributed by the City of Montréal, for the Centre local de développement (CLD) mandate. This expires in March 2012 and, despite the announcement of the new Québec Entrepreneurship Strategy (see article below), the capacity of RESO and other Montréal CDECs and CLDs to offer these services is tied to this funding, whose renewal remains uncertain at this time. RESO therefore invites Sud-Ouest entrepreneurs to remind their MNAs and elected municipal representatives of the importance of maintaining and strengthening resources that support local entrepreneurship in their CDECs.

New Québec entrepreneurship strategy builds on CEDCs and CLDs

With its new Québec entrepreneurship strategy, unveiled last November 15, the Québec government has decided to build on the CEDC and CLD network, of which RESO is a part, to support the creation, growth and transfer of companies. The Québec government has agreed to maintain complete funding for CEDCs and CLDs for at least a year, defer the payback period of the Local Investment Fund (LIF) for three years and add capitalization to the tune of \$10 million. RESO welcomes the news, said RESO director general Pierre Morrissette. “Companies receiving support and coaching by CDECs and CLDs have a survival rate that is considerably higher than the Québec average: 80 percent after three years, and nearly 72 percent after five.” The rate is slightly higher for social economy enterprises.

RESO has also expressed satisfaction with the news that the program *Succession: Arts and Culture, Montréal*, which supports collective entrepreneurship by up-and-coming Montréal artists and creators, is to be renewed. The Strategy also calls for measures to sensitize young people, women, immigrants and cooperatives.

For young people, the Strategy calls for a renewal of the *Défi de l’entrepreneuriat jeunesse* program and maintaining the network of some 100 agents for youth entrepreneurship sensitization, who work from the carrefours jeunesse-emploi. CJESO shares the services of an agent with the CJE of Verdun. Her tasks include sensitizing young people to entrepreneurship in Sud-Ouest schools. The *Fonds étudiant solidarité travail du Québec II*—created in partnership with the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, the Fonds de solidarité FTQ and the Ministère du Développement économique, de l’Innovation et de l’Exportation (MDEIE)—will be doubled to support the creation and maintenance of youth services cooperatives (CJS). The Sud-Ouest already has four of them.

The Strategy also calls for reinforcing the *Québec Entrepreneurship Contest*, particularly its schools component in secondary schools.

Finally, RESO welcomes the fact that the Quartier de l’innovation is one of the new projects supported by the Strategy. This initiative by the École de technologie supérieure (ÉTS) seeks to create an ecosystem conducive to innovation, where housing, work places and nearby services will create a dynamic, inclusive and innovative living environment. The Strategy also calls for increased support for university entrepreneurship centres, such as Centech, ÉTS’s company incubator.

SAQ pas ton camp du Sud-Ouest!

As rumours fly that the Sud-Ouest borough SAQ stores on Monk Blvd. and Centre St. are to be closed, the CSN-affiliated SAQ store and office workers union (SEMB-SAQ), the Regroupement économique et social du Sud-Ouest (RESO), the Comité au Centre du Quartier de Pointe-Saint-Charles (CCQPSC), the Société de développement commercial Plaza-Monk and the Pointe-Saint-Charles community organization Action-Gardien have come out against the closures.

A number of actions have been taken over the past months, including a unanimous resolution by the Sud-Ouest borough council; petitions that have collected over 7500 citizens’ signatures and been submitted by the Conseil des aînés de Pointe-Saint-

Charles to Marguerite Blais, minister responsible for seniors and member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne, and the SAQ board of directors; open letters in the media and representations to the SAQ. A press conference was held in October to launch the campaign “SAQ *pas ton camp du Sud-Ouest*.”

“Ignoring its mandate of public service, and the social and environmental responsibility it claims to follow, the SAQ is subscribing to a logic that is strictly commercial, compromising efforts to revitalize the Sud-Ouest commercially,” said RESO director general Pierre Morrissette.

Other actions are planned over the coming months to ensure that the two branches are kept open. For information: resomtl.com and actiongardien.org.

Cultural quarters

RESO and the Table des acteurs culturels take part in consultation

“If we want citizens to back public support for creation in any lasting way, we must innovate, this time, in the direction of social cohesion: citizen projects, cultural quarters, cultural mediation and other, unexplored, paths that remain to be imagined. I told you of our modest efforts in our quarters. There is a great deal more to do, and we must do it,” said Madeleine Poulin, president of the Table des acteurs culturels du Sud-Ouest and culture representative on RESO’s executive committee, when RESO’s memorandum on cultural quarters was submitted to the consultation of the City of Montréal’s Commission sur la culture, le patrimoine et les sports last October 12.

Poulin read an excerpt from the very eloquent presentation she made on cultural quarters at the Entretiens Jacques-Cartier in Lyon in November 2010. Among other points, she makes a connection between the Sud-Ouest’s cultural initiatives, particularly those in schools, and social cohesion.

When Poulin had finished, RESO director general Pierre Morrissette outlined the Sud-Ouest’s priorities in terms of culture, categorizing them under five main themes: access to, and participation in, culture; retention of artists; promotion of cultural and heritage attractions; consolidation of arts and crafts schools and training centres; and public spaces for cultural activities. The memorandum is available under the publications tab at resomtl.com.

General assembly and forum on education and training at the heart of local development:

RESO receives a strong mandate to strengthen its partnerships

The roughly 200 attendants of the forum on education and training, which RESO held concurrently with its annual assembly last September 28, declared that Emploi-Québec must relax its measures so that adult students whose path to graduation is longer can obtain their secondary school diplomas or prerequisites for occupational training. They also came out very strongly in favour of the Québec government giving RESO the means to purchase occupational training programs, enabling Sud-Ouest residents to qualify for good jobs. And they put a high priority on the efforts made by Sud-Ouest community organizations to get kids to stay in school. “You can be assured that with a mandate this strong, RESO will make the representations required to strengthen its partnerships in training and employment assistance, particularly with Emploi-Québec

and the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM),” said RESO director general Pierre Morrissette.

The forum opened with a speech by CSDM president Diane De Courcy. Noting that a family’s socioeconomic capacity is an important factor in success and perseverance in school, De Courcy stated that the school board must keep close ties with organizations working on behalf of Montréal districts’ social and economic development, as community economic development corporations (CEDCs) like RESO do. “Ideally, we should make sure there is a job for every parent with a child in school,” she said. “It’s possible to join forces—the CEDCs’ expertise in local development, and the school board’s extended network of expertise in training—to help people break the cycle,” she said.

Pierre Morrissette went on to outline the forum’s theme, *La formation et l’éducation au cœur du développement local* (Training and Education at the Heart of Local Development). Among his points was the fact that, with the Sud-Ouest’s job creation outlook suddenly sunny—with the development of the District Griffin projects and the Bassins du Nouveau Havre, and the redevelopment of the CN yards, etc.—, it was vital that Sud-Ouest residents be prepared to work in these jobs, an objective that forum participants also judged a priority.

Recognition awards were handed out to 10 participants in RESO activities and to a participant from Tyndale St-Georges.

At the annual assembly that followed, Morrissette outlined RESO’s activities in 2010-2011 and its prospects for the current year. The activities report is available under the publications tab at www.resomtl.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Free computer courses

RESO invites you to take a computer course: introduction to word processing, Excel and PowerPoint, browsing and searching on the Internet, creating and using an email address, etc. The courses are given Monday to Friday. Contact Maëlle at 514 931-5737, ext. 298.

Discover the École des parents blog!

Information on Sud-Ouest resources for parents, Internet links, kids’ drawings, personal accounts and more at <http://ecoledesparentsreso.blogspot.com/>.

Presentation by the RESO director general to FIESS

RESO director general Pierre Morrissette made a presentation entitled *Gouvernance locale, cohésion sociale et économie sociale* (Local Government, Social Cohesion and Social Economy) at the International Forum on the Social and Solidarity Economy (FIESS) last October 18. He demonstrated that the mode of governance of community economic development corporations (CEDCs), founded on a diversified, inclusive and balanced representation of representatives and stakeholders from local civil society on their boards of directors, encourages the development of the social economy. The text of the presentation is available under the publications tab at resomtl.com. From October 17 to 20, FIESS drew 1300 people from 65 different countries to its Montréal conference. Several RESO staff members played active roles in the event.

Éric Lefebvre, new director of CJESO

Christine Guay, director of the Carrefour jeunesse-emploi du Sud-Ouest, which she helped set up 10 years ago, resigned last August to take a management job at the Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS). Acting coordinator Éric Lefebvre became new CJESO director on September 5. Lefebvre, who has a bachelor's degree in sociology, joined CJESO in 2007 as an employment counselor for Jeunes en action. Before that, he worked as a street worker for Travail de rue action communautaire (TRAC) and at the CRCS Saint-Zotique, two Sud-Ouest organizations.

The Fonds locaux de solidarité FTQ turns 20!

RESO took part in the activities marking the 20th anniversary of the Fonds locaux de solidarité FTQ, originally known as SOLIDE, which took place in Québec City on November 17 and 18. Recapitalization of the fund has been underway for two years; RESO's Fonds local de solidarité will receive \$1 million to support projects by Sud-Ouest companies, according to the priorities of the Local Action Plan for the Economy and Employment (LAPEE).

MEMBERS OF THE RESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Véronique Olivier, Service Industries and New Economy Representative
- Jean-François Aubry, Retailers and Self-Employed Workers Representative
- Cathia Cariotte, Saint-Paul-Émard Community Organizations Representative
- Édith Cyr, Social and Economy Enterprises Representative
- Claude Deveault, RESO Employees Representative
- Véronique Fournier, Sud-Ouest Municipal Elected Representative
- Shannon Franssen, Saint-Henri Community Organizations Representative
- Caroline Gagnier, Representative for Participants in RESO Activities
- Pierre Gauthier, Co-opted member
- Francis Lagacé, CSN Unions Representative
- Julie Lecompte, Institutions Representative (Health, Education)
- Roger Michaud, Financial Institution Representative
- Gilles Paquette, FTQ Unions Representative
- Vicente Perez, Little Burgundy Community Organizations Representative
- Madeleine Poulin, Cultural Sector Representative
- Karine Triollet, Pointe-Saint-Charles Community Organizations Representative
- Manufacturing Companies Representative (to be announced)

Non-voting members

- Pierre Morrissette, Director general
- Guy Biron, Vice President, Strategic Development
- Marguerite Blais, Member for Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne
- Sylvain Richard, Centre local d'emploi (CLE) Director

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