



## **International summit of funeral cooperatives**

### **Event Program**

#### **Thursday, October 4**

- Visit to Magog Caskets.
  - This company, a partner of the Federation of Funeral Cooperatives of Québec, is the only manufacturer of steel caskets in Canada.
  - It exports part of its production to the United States and serves all the provinces of Canada.
  
- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire de l'Estrie
  - The only cooperative in Canada with its own cemetery.
  - Tour of the crematorium and presentation of its eco-cemetery project.
  - Presentation of the sustainable development program of the Quebec Funeral Cooperatives network.
  
- Visit to the Université de Sherbrooke
  - Presentation of the graduate training program of the Institut de recherche et d'éducation des coopératives et mutuelles de l'Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS).
  
- Tour of two student cooperatives.
  - One is one of the first student cooperatives to own a cafeteria service
  - Another offers bookstore, stationery and computer equipment services.

## **Friday, October 5**

- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire J.N. Donais in Drummondville.
  - A successful conversion of a private funeral company to a cooperative
  - Visit to the chapel and crematorium.
  - Presentation of the Quebec cooperative movement.
- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire Maska in St-Hyacinthe.
  - Relocated in August 2012 at a cost of \$2 million.
  - Hundreds of thousands of dollars contributed directly by the members.
  - Most recent renovation project in the funeral cooperatives network.
- Tour of the COMAX agricultural cooperative.
  - Owned by over 1100 members, COMAX is today one of the three biggest farm input supply cooperatives in Quebec, and one of the 25 largest agricultural cooperatives in Canada.
  - Involved in multiple sectors, COMAX co-op employs 200 workers and boasts sales of close to \$200 million.

## **Saturday, October 6**

- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire du Fjord.
  - Features a church which has been converted to a funeral cooperative.
  - Splendid views of the majestic Saguenay River fjord.
- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire de Chicoutimi and the Cimetière St-François-Xavier
  - Tour of the only garden cemetery in the region and visit to the mausoleum.
  - The Coopérative funéraire de Chicoutimi has developed an original cooperation model which includes cemetery management.
  - Presentation of the La Symphonie training program developed by the Federation of Funeral Cooperatives of Québec.
- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire du Saguenay.
  - The largest funeral complex in the Canadian funeral cooperatives network.

## Sunday, October 7

- Opening of the International Summit of Funeral Cooperatives and Mutual Enterprises.
  - Réjean Laflamme, president of the Federation of Funeral Cooperatives of Québec and host of the Summit.
- Speech by Monique Leroux
  - President and CEO of Desjardins
- Presentation of an unpublished study on the importance of funeral cooperatives and mutuals in the world.
  - Michel Lafleur, associate professor and director of the Institut de recherche et d'éducation sur les coopératives et mutuelles de l'Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS)
- Conference on the Canadian funeral cooperatives network
  - Alain Leclerc, CEO of the Federation of Funeral Cooperatives of Québec.
- Conference on the United States network of memorial societies (MS) and funeral cooperatives
  - Josh Slocum, Executive Director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance.
  - Founded in 1930, the MS network includes 90 non-profit organizations specializing in funeral planning.
- Panel: Cooperative training and education: an advantage or a burden for funeral cooperatives and mutuals?
  - Panelists:
    - Josh Slocum, Executive Director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance and co-author of the book *Final Rights. Reclaiming the American Way of Life* (2011).
    - Bernard Lefebvre, cooperative development advisor and manager of the funeral cooperatives academy of the Federation of Funeral Cooperatives of Québec
    - Alain Plouffe, Technical Director, SOCODEVI
  - Moderator: François Fouquet, General Manager of the Coopérative funéraire de l'Estrie
- Conference: "There will be a tribute to the deceased." And then what?
  - Luce des Aulniers, Ph.D. in Anthropology.
  - Author of a book examining the relations between life and death called *Fascination. Nouveau désir d'éternité* (2009).
- Tour of the Coopérative funéraire des Deux rives
  - The largest funeral cooperative in Canada
- Cocktail party and banquet at the Manoir Montmorency.

## Monday, October 8

- Speech by Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co operative Alliance
  - The importance of inter-cooperation for development
- Conference on the business model of the funeral co-operatives in Colombia
  - Miguel Arce Galvis, President of the Los Olivos Network
- Conference on the business model of funeral co-operatives in Peru
  - Juan J. Panta, Commercial Director, SERVIPERU
- Conference on the business model of funeral co-operatives in Costa Rica
  - Zianny Morales, Executive Director, Corporación de Servicios Múltiples del Magisterio Nacional
- Panel: Inter-cooperation among funeral cooperatives: is it working?
  - Panellists:
    - Juan J. Panta, SERVIPERU
    - Larry MacKinnon, Executive Director, East Prince Funeral Cooperative
    - John Eric Rolfstad, Executive Director, People's Memorial Funeral Cooperative (USA)
  - Moderator: François Fouquet, General Manager of the Coopérative funéraire de l'Estrie
- Tabling and adoption of a common declaration
  - Moderator: Michel Lafleur, associate professor and director of the Institut de recherche et d'éducation sur les coopératives et mutuelles de l'Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS)
- Assessment and closing remarks
  - Réjean Laflamme, president of the Federation of Funeral Cooperatives of Québec and host of the Summit.