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“Things are hopping!” I’ve heard people say that many times over the past three years. I’m delighted, because I really want us to create a thriving professional community. But this year, things are hopping more than ever! Real achievements and not just impressions attest to our strength.

- We will create an Order specific to the guidance counselling profession this fall (2010). After having welcomed psychoeducators and shared an order with them for 10 years, we shall each go our own way. This is great news for guidance counsellors who see in this change an opportunity to consolidate their professional identity.
- Under Bill 21 (adopted in June 2009), the Government of Quebec amended the status of our profession, which not only holds an exclusive title, it is entitled to perform shared reserved acts, such as psychotherapy, within a more comprehensive and contemporary field of practice.
- We have worked together in formulating our own vision of what we are contributing to Quebec society through a statement of social relevance, which is one way of confirming the value of this collective identity.
- This year, more than 150 volunteers took part in the Order’s Collective Faction and contributed to projects and events.
- The Order’s membership has slowly but surely started to increase. New members are taking the places of those departing (for retirement). Members who have left are returning and a greater number of recent graduates are joining the Order.
- The Order is doing more to make guidance counsellors heard, through such means as the media component of the Semaine québécoise de l'orientation and through the program it has broadcast for the past year on Radio Ville-Marie. This forum, incidentally, has provided an opportunity to highlight the broad and relevant expertise of some 40 colleagues.
- Because of the positions we have taken, the Government of Quebec has made us a partner in its policy on bringing disabled people into the workforce. Our efforts have been lauded.
- Our campaign within the educational community has allowed us emerge from the shadows and allowed us to be seen as a group with a clear sense of direction. It allowed us to resituate guidance counselling with respect to fundamental personal and social needs.
- We have fortified bonds with our partners: the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec that is involved this year in the Semaine québécoise de l'orientation, the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec with which we share concerns for the optimal use of guidance counsellors, the AQISEP, the Société québécoise de psychologie du travail et des organisations, the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec, the Canadian Education and Research Institute for Counselling and others.
- We have developed a project-based management system with financial partnerships and received over \$90,000 in grants and sponsorships this year, permitting us to follow through on such projects as the

Guide d'évaluation en orientation, the Communauté virtuelle de partage and the Semaine québécoise de l'orientation, without raising membership fees.

- We have confirmed our leadership throughout Canada, as the first jurisdiction to have regulated the profession (many other provinces want to follow suit) and through the active involvement of our scientific community in interprovincial events in which the French voice is not only increasingly heard, but considered by the English-speaking community to represent excellent professional and scientific quality.
- We, the 2,300 guidance counsellors, have provided professional services to tens of thousands of Quebec residents at different times in their lives, enabling them to overcome their problems, to take control of their lives and to build their own destinies within a complex and changing world.

This is our profession today! As a guidance counsellor, you are one of this group. What goes on in your world concerns us all. Your obstacles represent a collective challenge. Your successes and personal achievements help make us strong.

Because our work stands as a personal and collective achievement, the Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec has much to offer to our fellow citizens. This is a solid foundation for protecting the public!