

Re: Establishment of the Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce that on December 8, 2010, following posting in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*, the Quebec National Assembly order-in-council establishing the **Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec** will come into effect.

This will be the culmination of a process aimed at creating separate orders for each of our two professions that began shortly before my arrival, during the presidency of Michel Turcotte, G.C. and that I pursued along with Marcel Renou, Ed.Ps. and then Diane Blain-Lamoureux, Ed.Ps., as well as our managers Renée Verville, G.C. and Martine Lacharité, G.C.

Throughout this difficult task, we relied on the support of the Office des professions, headed by Me Jean-Paul Dutrisac, and the backing of the ministers concerned, Me Jacques Dupuis, Me Kathleen Weil and Me Jean-Marc Fournier, to whom I am all grateful. We have also received moral support from other member orders of the Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec, chaired by Mr. Richard Gagnon, F.Adm.A.

Since early 2007, the Conseil d'administration de l'Ordre, guidance counsellors, psychoeducators and public representatives have joined together in maintaining a common purpose and a determination that have permitted us to meet administrative and legislative requirements and to achieve this result. I would like to thank all of my current and past colleagues on the Board of Directors for their constant and wholehearted collaboration in this effort.

I would also like to underscore the professionalism, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of the head office staff that have had to prepare for this change in the course of such other major projects as our seminar, the Semaine québécoise de l'orientation and the Forum sur l'orientation au secondaire, along with a total reorganization and division of our office space.

You will soon be receiving various news items that will be distributed primarily through our e-bulletin as we move forward. You can, however, still reach us at the same familiar address and phone number.

This major change is the product of a deliberative process and a coordinated effort, as well as the maturation of a structure developed in 2000, particularly in preparation for implementation of Bill 21. With the introduction of the new concept of shared acts, it is no longer necessary for two professions to coexist within a single order to reserve a common act.

Legally and financially, every effort has been deployed to ensure a smooth and equitable transition toward new structures and to pursue friendly relationships with our cotenant and partner, the Ordre des psychoéducateurs et psychoéducatrices du Québec.

With the confusion inherent to an order embracing two professions, I am confident that the Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec will be better placed to protect the public, enhance and ensure the qualification of the guidance counselling profession and thereby confirm social relevance as a response to the real needs of Quebec residents.

I hope this new situation encourages even more new recruits to join our ranks, former colleagues to return and guidance counsellors to continue investing in their own development and in that of their profession.

It is thus with pride and a sense of unity that I extend my greetings and undertake to pursue with you my leadership as president of the Ordre des conseillers et conseillères du Québec.

With best wishes,

Laurent Matte, G.C.
President