

## **One Profession, One Order, One Identity**

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This has been under discussion for almost three years and it has finally happened . . . or almost. The Guidance sector of our Order is returning to its pre-2000 status. Because we are a legal entity, the government must formalize this process by issuing an order-in-council excluding the Order's psychoeducators and creating letters patent for the Ordre des psychoéducateurs et psychoéducatrices du Québec. This fall, 10 years after bringing the psychoeducators on board, we will legally resume our name as the Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec. The last general meeting of the "OCCOPPQ" will be held on September 16, 2010, in Montréal.

Efforts have been deployed to reorganize our offices in preparation for this change. Our facilities will remain in the same building at 1600 Henri-Bourassa Blvd. W. and we will share common spaces (training room, storage, kitchen, etc.) to reduce costs. We have also developed new branding that will appear on promotional tools at the Semaine québécoise de l'orientation (SQO) from November 7 to 13 and that will focus this year on parents. The Fédération des comités de parents du Québec has become a major partner in this event. We are looking forward to solid cooperation from all Quebec guidance counsellors who can attend this turnkey conference for parents. This is now available at the members' section of our Web site (SQO tab) and can be used as is or modified for the needs of different environments.

### **The 2010-2011 Transition Plan**

Our 2010-2011 action plan concerns the transition process and all of the procedures involved in this separation. We must continue to assume our role of protecting the public and completing existing projects, all of which are of great importance. We shall continue striving to promote adoption of the statement of social relevance, finalize the assessment guide (which will be accompanied by a continuing education calendar) and offer it to guidance counsellors in all parts of Québec. We must also complete efforts undertaken under the high school guidance strategy, continue updating and developing the Communauté virtuelle de partage and set up a socio-professional intake and insertion program for new members in conjunction with the universities. There is already much to do, as well as all of our recurring core activities (admission, professional inspection, formulation of the continuing education program and coordination of different work groups).

With respect to communications, we look forward to remaining in touch with you by *cyberbulle*, our existing e-bulletin. However, its design and name must obviously be reviewed to produce a completely new creation this fall. We have decided not to publish the January 2011 edition of our magazine. This will give us a chance to rethink its appearance, name, content and features and often you a rejuvenated, revamped and always relevant journal (to come out in August 2011). The public and membership sections of the Order's Web site will also adopt new looks. We also plan to gradually modify its content and make it a bit more interactive.

## **Bill 21**

The work involved in implementing Bill 21 is already well underway. The Bill's explanatory guide will soon be complete. This guide is primarily intended for employers and different sectors that will be subject to the Bill once it comes into effect. The Forum des répondants, consisting of representatives for employers and professional orders, will lend a hand to ensure that the Bill is implemented as smoothly as possible and that its key goal of protecting vulnerable beneficiaries is observed.

The Conseil interdisciplinaire sur la psychothérapie has begun its work and should finalize regulations for the practice of psychotherapy. We, for our part, must also finalize and endorse regulations allowing the guidance counsellors to conduct assessments of mental disorders, an activity reserved for members of our order and for psychologists.

With implementation of this bill and publication of the explanatory guide, we must lay the groundwork for a communications targeting the public, guidance counsellor employers, our partners and our associates. This plan will let us pursue the educational and awareness efforts already launched by the Office des professions. For you, the guidance counsellors, assuming responsibility for reserved activities, updating your skills and adjustments in your workplaces will pose major challenges. We will be there to help, support you and listen to your needs, by providing you information as quickly as possible and offering you appropriate continuing education activities. We must also set specific guidelines for guidance counselling with respect to the reserved activities.

### **The Order's Strategic Planning**

In March 2010, the guidance sector of the OCCOPPQ's Board of Directors initiated an important strategic planning effort for the 2011-2014 period. A committee, consisting of Laurent Matte, Lucie Lamarche, Josee Landry, Erick Beaulieu and myself were responsible for organizing the effort, identifying the parties to consult, conducting required research and supporting BD members in this process. The timetable provides for adoption of the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan, which will contain major thrusts relating to our mission and values in consideration of the socio-political context and our organizational abilities. This plan must be approved in December 2010 so that we will be able to formulate the Ordre des O.C. du Québec's action plan for 2011-2012.

What remarkable projects to carry out and challenges to meet! We must rely on our ability to manage change and transition. The head office staff and our many volunteer workers are already fully engaged in this effort and are rolling up their sleeves to deliver the goods on schedule and meet established goals for the various projects underway.

Things are moving swiftly . . . please refer to your *cyberbulle* and visit the members section of our Web site regularly to learn about any changes and to monitor the evolution of our different projects.