

# Montreal WORLD

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
NEWSLETTER  
Summer 2008

## A "world of opportunities" in Montréal

"A world of opportunities" was the theme of the First Annual Congress of the International Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (IGLCC), held in Montréal this past April 24 to 26, at the same time as its first Annual General Assembly. Over 150 business leaders from 14 countries got together to discuss economic issues and create strategic partnerships. Montréal International joined ING and IBM as the event's main sponsors.

Among the guests of honour was the Mayor of Montréal, Gérald Tremblay, who received the International Leadership Merit Award on behalf of the City. "With this distinction, the members of the IGLCC wanted to emphasize Montréal's outstanding contribution to the creation of our organization," declared Pascal Lépine, Secretary General of the IGLCC.

It should be remembered that Montréal obtained the IGLCC headquarters in 2006 following a unanimous decision by the founding members. "Montréal's reputation as a city open to the world, the financial backing offered by the different levels of government, the support of Montréal International and the strength of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) business community in Québec and Canada explained this choice," Mr. Lépine added.

Representing 17 chambers of commerce and business organizations in 14 countries, the IGLCC brings together CEOs, entrepreneurs, professionals and LGBT consumers. According to a study recently released by the Chamber, it is estimated that Québec alone accounts for 450,000 LGBT persons, representing a market valued at \$20 billion. [www.iglcc.com](http://www.iglcc.com)

### MONTRÉAL WISHES HAPPY 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO COSPAR!

Welcome to the 2,000 scientific experts from 80 countries who will attend the 37<sup>th</sup> Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) Scientific Assembly!

[www.cospar2008.org](http://www.cospar2008.org)

### PALAIS DES CONGRÈS DE MONTRÉAL

July 13 to 20,  
2008



PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP MERIT AWARD

*Pascal Lépine, Secretary General of the IGLCC (left) and Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montréal (right).*

Montréal is one of eight United Nations specialized agency headquarter cities in the world,

## HIGHLIGHTS

# Unprecedented mobilization for biodiversity

Since its founding in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has generated a broad consensus. One of the world's most ratified international treaties, 191 countries are now Parties to the Convention, allied to promote sustainable development through three objectives: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. Canada, which has shown its commitment from the beginning, has hosted the Convention Secretariat in Montréal since 1996.



ONE NATURE ONE WORLD OUR FUTURE  
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

In May 2008, Convention member states met at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP9). A large Canadian delegation, including representatives from the Government of Québec, the City of Montréal and Montréal International, attended. The Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, the Canadian Minister of Environment, John Baird and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Québec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Gerry Sklavounos, were also in attendance.

With 2010 approaching, the date set by governments to achieve significant progress in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, the international community's attention is increasingly focused on biodiversity protection. This is evidenced by the record number of participants at CoP9, over 5,000 delegates. Through worldwide umbrella groups, various stakeholders joined the event for the first time, such as parliamentarians, private sector representatives, youth, women, athletes and mayors.

Cities and local governments are joining forces to contribute to the protection and promotion of biodiversity. The Mayor of Montréal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay, and the Mayors of Nagoya (Japan), Curitiba (Brazil) and Bonn (Germany) had the opportunity to present to the CoP9 High-Level Segment the position statements of the cities participating in the "Local Action for Biodiversity".

[www.cbd.int/cop9](http://www.cbd.int/cop9)

## NEW IO'S

1

Three new international organizations recently chose to settle in Montréal:

**World Centre of Excellence for Destinations (CED):** established by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a UN specialized agency, the CED's main mandate is to assist the UNWTO Destinations Council in supporting its affiliate/associated members, particularly destinations, in their efforts to foster sustainable development and increase their abilities to generate economic, social and cultural spin-off benefits.

[www.ced.travel](http://www.ced.travel)

2

**International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD):** the movement of coalitions for cultural diversity, which is active in 42 countries and represents over 600 professional cultural organizations, founded the International Federation. Its main mandate is to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expression all over the world, by encouraging effective international dialogue and cooperation in the cultural fields and a better balance in the exchanges of cultural goods and services. The Federation is determined to leverage the legal status of the UNESCO Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions and will promote the widest possible ratification.

[www.cdc-ccd.org/main\\_pages\\_en/IFCCD/federation\\_release\\_en.html](http://www.cdc-ccd.org/main_pages_en/IFCCD/federation_release_en.html)

3

**International Forum of Public Universities (IFPU):** a meeting of some twenty public universities working in different languages and located both in industrialized and developing countries. The Forum meets a need not filled by any existing university grouping. The Forum intends to encourage the expression of the values underlying the mission of public universities in an age of globalization. Based on key themes reflecting the concerns of public universities, the Forum will organize interinstitutional training and research activities, by calling on research professors from the member institutions and their graduate students.

[www.fiup.umontreal.ca](http://www.fiup.umontreal.ca)



making it an ideal location for international governmental organizations.

## PORTRAIT

# FAST in Montréal

FINANCING ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRADE

Financing solutions and financial management tools for small producers of sustainable products such as coffee, cocoa, tea, cotton and other agricultural products, will see a big boost following the 2007 launch of the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST). Montréal is proud that FAST is leveraging the city's advantages as an international hub, as well as its dynamic community of social economy players.

Founded with the support of a broad constituency of key international lenders, producer groups and development-focused NGOs, FAST is an innovative partnership designed to improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the sustainable trade sector.

Beginning in 2006, Montréal International connected with the FAST development team, in order to ensure that Montréal's unique advantages as a headquarters city were well understood. This meant putting forward not only Montréal's strategic geographic location, its competitive cost structures and its track record as a successful international host city, but also linking the presence of a strong cluster of social-economy organiz-

ations and institutions. The process leading to host city selection accelerated quickly in late 2007, and culminated in the decision at the end of the year to open permanent headquarters in Montréal.

FAST's Montréal secretariat will play a key role in pursuing the organization's important mission. These include leading global advocacy efforts, facilitating communications with members and stakeholders, and implementing a series of projects designed to address the financing accessibility gap, involving education, online marketplace, and impact assessment tools. FAST is already up and running in their Montréal office and are actively seeking new members around the globe, across the full range of stakeholder groups.

### FAST

CREATION DATE: 2007

STATUS: INTERNATIONAL  
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

LOCATION: CENTRE DE COMMERCE MONDIAL  
DE MONTRÉAL

WEBSITE: [WWW.FASTINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://WWW.FASTINTERNATIONAL.ORG)



*"As a new international, non-profit organization, the launch of our secretariat office in Montréal was a critical milestone in the establishment of the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST). The guidance and strong support generated from our partnership with Montréal International provided FAST with a firm foundation, enabling us to continue building our role as a leader in the Sustainable Trade Finance sector."*

**Jason Potts**

Member of the Steering Committee  
Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade

### Montréal International

*The result of a private/public partnership, Montréal International receives the combined support of the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (Montréal Metropolitan Community), the City of Montréal and 110 private companies. The organization's mission is to contribute to economic development in Metro Montréal and to enhance its international status. The International Organizations Department at Montréal International is devoted exclusively to relations with international organizations and, among others, offers them hospitality services to assist them and their foreign personnel in settling in the Montréal region.*

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Canada Québec

Montréal

Communauté métropolitaine  
de Montréal