

PIPSC – In the news

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada salutes the birth of the Association of Professional Researchers of Québec and encourages members in the Scientific Research category interested in issues relevant to their field to read the message below and register for the Founding Meeting (at member's own expense) using the link provided.

Launch of the Association of Professional Researchers of Québec (Association des chercheurs(es) professionnels(les) du Québec- ACPQ)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Inaugural Meeting of the Association of Professional Researchers of Québec, May 14, 2004, UQAM Main Campus, Montréal. <http://www.polymtl.ca/carrefour/cms/apercu.php?NoDocument=1660>

Birth of a Profession: Forum on the Identity and the Role of the Professional Researcher

On April 23, 2003, the Founding Committee of the ACPQ, undertook the commitment to honour the results of the ballots conducted on the 3rd and 10th of February regarding the formation of an association of professional researchers of Quebec. Those were unequivocally, in favour of the creation of such an association. We proposed, at that time, to convene a general assembly (Founding Congress) to be held in the Fall.

While planning our first meeting, a unique opportunity presented itself, namely, twinning the Founding Congress of the ACPQ with the 72nd Congress of ACFAS, scheduled to be held at a concurrent time. ACFAS, the "Association canadienne française pour l'avancement des sciences", created more than 75 years ago, is a Québec-based association for the advancement of knowledge (La Société des savoirs), with a long and distinguished history.

After consulting with ACFAS' Governing Council, the latter extended an invitation to hold a satellite event on the Friday of the week of their Congress (May 10-14), set to take place at the main campus of UQAM. Everyone felt that the synergy generated by this arrangement would be mutually beneficial. For the ACPQ, joining this large gathering presented so many advantages that it required amending our initial plan to pursue this venue.

In the intervening year, your Committee has been working to get the ACPQ up and running. Consultations with diverse groups were undertaken. The paper work was submitted and other requirements fulfilled, allowing for the Association to be, officially, registered (under its French acronym of ACPQ) as a not-for-profit entity. Seed funding was raised from far-sighted sponsors to assist our community of professional researchers in moving forward and to allow for our association to begin, in earnest, the long overdue collective undertaking of redressing systemic problems and improving conditions impacting the practice of our profession.

NOW, your Association needs you. For all the good expected from this enterprise to become reality, your participation and that of your colleagues become critical, if not essential. This first meeting will set the tone: it must be vibrant, dynamic and for the numerous "observers", compelling. To achieve this goal, it will require a "full house" of professionals committed to expressing their views, voicing their concerns, hopes and aspirations as well as presenting their ideas, proposals and solutions for making our (your) profession better and more, far more, attractive for the next generation(s). In preparing for this unique occasion, some themes, believed to be relevant for review and debate, are listed below; since these are offered only as cues to guide and fan the debate, please, bring to the fore, any and all other subjects that you feel should be addressed.

SEE YOU at the First Meeting of the ACPQ, on May 14, 2004!

Claude Côté, Ph.D.

President, Organizing Committee

P.S. : Concepts, precepts, notions, questions and concerns:

1. How to cure the deleterious effects of the chronically precarious nature of the professional researcher's status?

2. Proposals on how to protect and share the intellectual property generated by the professional researcher's work?

3. La relève - How to make our profession attractive for the next and subsequent generations: – Do young researchers see a future where their imaginative contributions to knowledge, its meaning, significance and understanding will be celebrated or, merely, treated as a commodity? Do you see a career path open? Can you describe it? Will it suit your professional, personal and, for many, family goals? Will there be recognition of the special entrepreneurial nature of our profession or will you be required to conform to norms dictated by those less exposed to the risk of a research career?

The link below will provide access to the Program of the ACPQ Inaugural Meeting. As a courtesy to those hosting the event, please, register by, simply, replying to comite.fondateur@globetrotter.net via this link:

<http://www.polymtl.ca/carrefour/cms/apercu.php?NoDocument=1660>