



## Québec Entrepreneurship Contest

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **The Québec Entrepreneurship Contest crowned its millionth participant!**

Québec, June 19, 2009 - The National Grand Prize Gala of the 11th edition of the Québec Entrepreneurship Contest was held June 18, 2009 at the Convention Center in Quebec City. This event was presented by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton under the honorary chairmanship of Mr. Daniel Vézina, chef co-owner, and Suzanne Gagnon, co-owner of Laurie Raphaël, a restaurant-workshop-boutique. This was a special year as the Contest crowned its millionth participant.

“Rare are the initiatives that have touched about one out of every seven Quebeckers,” said Natacha Jean, President and Director General. In its 11 years of existence, the Contest has received 52 536 projects put forward by 1 059 464 participants, which makes it the largest event of its kind in the world!

#### **Student Entrepreneurship Division**

In the Student Entrepreneurship Division, 75 357 individuals submitted 2 997 projects. This division encourages the creation of projects that are conducive to the development of entrepreneurial values in the schools, all the way from elementary school to university. Over 20% of the projects in this section are directly linked to sustainable development and 51.4% of the participants are girls between the ages of 6 and 18.

#### **Business Creation Division**

The Business Creation Division is intended for entrepreneurs who are just getting their businesses off the ground. In this segment, 1 473 individuals presented 923 projects, which represents an 8% increase over the year before. Sustainable development accounts for 26.4% of these projects and the number of women entrepreneurs increased by 1.6% compared with last year.

In this 11th installment of the Contest, 76 830 participants submitted 3 920 projects for a total of 52 prizes, including 22 in the Student Entrepreneurship Division and 30 in the Business Creation Division. Added to already existing prizes is the Regional Commitment Prize, awarded to the regional organization that made the biggest name for itself. Nearly \$300 000 in prizes was handed out during the Gala, while \$250 000 had been already awarded in the regions. Over a half million dollars in all was awarded to the participants in this 11th edition of the Contest.

#### **And the winners of the top prizes are...**

This year, the *Défi de l'entrepreneuriat jeunesse Grand Prize* was awarded to Float 4 Interactive. This new Montréal-based business specializes in the development of leading edge technologies in the field of multimedia. These systems make it possible to transform a traditional environment into a veritable interactive experience. In addition to winning the \$20 000 associated with the Grand Prize, the promoters of this new enterprise received the second place Cultural Communities Prize for a value of \$3 000.

Stéphanie Vallée, Parliamentary Assistant to the Québec Premier, presented the Grand Prizes to the four entrepreneurs.

The Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton *Award for Success in Business*, valued at \$10 000, was awarded to La fourmi bionique inc., a five-year-old enterprise that was also a winner in a previous edition of the Contest. This Montréal-based business stood out by virtue of its rapid growth and pronounced success. The prize was handed out by Bernard Grandmont, a business associate and Chair of the Board of Directors of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton. La fourmi bionique inc. specializes in the production and marketing of granola made from local biological ingredients.

Sam Hamad, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, and Serge Cloutier, Executive Vice-President for Cooperative Development and Democratic Governance of the Desjardins Group had the honour of announcing the name of the Desjardins Millionth Participant, the Cirque Alzado, a young business in Granby. As Mr. Cloutier pointed out, *“the Mouvement Desjardins is a proud witness to the Contest’s brilliant success, since we were there from the very beginning. We are deeply committed to the promotion of business development both in the schools and in the business community.”*

The Contest's national organization invites you to **consult the complete list of winners**, which is available on the Contest Web site at [www.concours-entrepreneur.org](http://www.concours-entrepreneur.org)

### **Regarding the QEC**

The Québec Entrepreneurship Contest is intended to develop Québec's entrepreneurial culture by helping new businesses and entrepreneurial projects to get off the ground and secure recognition in schools and the community. The Student Entrepreneurship Division encourages the creation of projects that contribute to the development of entrepreneurial characteristics in the schools, all the way from elementary school through to university. The Business Creation Division encourages entrepreneurs who are just starting their businesses.

This initiative is made possible by the Québec government, its Défi de l'entrepreneuriat jeunesse and by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton.

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