



World Library & Information Congress 74th IFLA General Conference & Council

Québec City – Québec,
Canada, 10-14 August 2008

Libraries without borders:
Navigating towards global
understanding

INVITATION

The Québec City National Committee is pleased to invite you to the World Library and Information Congress 2008: 74th IFLA General Conference and Council, to be held in Québec City, Québec, Canada, from August 10 to 14, 2008.

THEME

**LIBRARIES WITHOUT BORDERS:
NAVIGATING TOWARDS GLOBAL
UNDERSTANDING**

Libraries play an extraordinary role in educating and empowering citizens. They help individuals and communities to become more knowledgeable, aware and imaginative. At the heart of the drive toward global sharing, libraries transcend economic and social disparities. They promote the values of democracy, equality and basic freedom and reject discrimination. Libraries are a passport for crossing all borders, the key to opening all gateways to knowledge. A true hub, libraries seamlessly incorporate information technology. Their heritage mission is to promote the value of their documentary resources, from textual to image, sounds and multimedia resources. In so doing, they touch on disciplines such as archives and museum studies. Libraries are the crossroads for intellectual and cultural diversity, the locus of exchange and dissemination. Libraries are also the best defenders of access to information. More than ever, access to knowledge determines the quality of political, economic and social governance. Workers, students, researchers, parents and teachers alike can, through libraries, grow and develop their own vision of a just society, express themselves, and act.

IFLA

IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. With 1700 members in 150 countries, it is the global voice of the library and information profession.

QUÉBEC CITY, A WORLD HERITAGE TREASURE

The winding, cobbled streets of Old Québec bring history to life at every fascinating turn. This fortress city – the cradle of French civilization in North America – has been called, and rightfully so, a gateway between the Old and New Worlds. Hundreds of cities around the world are as old as Québec, but few share Québec's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage City. This honour was bestowed upon it in recognition of its unique beauty, its painstakingly preserved fortifications and old town, its place among North America's old cities, and its position as the birthplace and heart of French America.

TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION

Québec City's strategic location in the densely populated northeastern part of North America puts it within easy reach of the major trade and research centres. By plane, it is a mere hour and a half from New York City, Boston and Toronto. Montreal is only 40 minutes away. By car, bus or train, the city is less than three hours from Montreal. The train station, called Gare du Palais, is constructed in an impressive turn-of-the-century castle style. It is also used as a modern, functional bus depot.

Quality accommodation is available throughout the city. From luxurious five-star establishments to comfortable guest-houses, Québec City offers a wide variety of hotel packages. IFLA will recommend a series of hotels to help make your stay highly enjoyable.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN QUÉBEC

Québec City's heritage is not all tucked away behind its old stone fortifications. Each neighbourhood reflects how local history was affected by the diversity of its inhabitants.



All these attractions and historical sites underscore Québec City's strategic importance to the North American continent, and the role its museums play in preserving and maintaining Québec culture. Some of these sites were once large private estates long since transformed into public parks and wildlife preserves, while others consist of historical buildings that have been preserved or restored to serve as reminders of bygone areas.

400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF QUÉBEC CITY

Québec City is hard at work preparing to celebrate its 400th anniversary. It will be a time to commemorate past achievements, as well as an opportunity to better understand the present, and to look to the future. For more information: <http://www.quebec400.qc.ca>.

A PLACE OF LEARNING

Universities often drive technological expertise, and Québec City is no exception. The Québec area boasts 170 research centres, 127 of which are directly or indirectly associated with Université Laval, the oldest French-speaking university in North America. Laval University is also recognized for its international profile and every year it welcomes thousands of students from other countries. Other academic institutions in the city include the Institut national de la recherche scientifique and three of its component organizations (INRS-Water, INRS-Georesources and INRS-Culture and Society) and the École nationale d'administration publique, which is the Université du Québec's school of public administration.

SHOPPING

Strolling through the streets of Old Québec, you will be unable to resist the temptation of handycraft stands, the boutiques of renowned fashion designers and the many art galleries and gourmet food stores. It is a real treasure trove! Also nearby for your shopping enjoyment are over 1,000 boutiques in five large shopping centres.

CUISINE

In Québec City, fine dining is an art in the grandest tradition. Your visit to the city will be an unforgettable culinary adventure. Just a few steps from the Convention Centre, Old Québec features a selection of over 100 restaurants for every taste and budget. The metropolitan area boasts over a thousand restaurants for one of the highest per-capita ratios in North America!



Dining takes on a new dimension when an enchanting decor and inviting atmosphere are also on the menu. Québec City's ambiance is truly unique, offering everything from breathtaking settings to romantic hideaways, each one more seductive than the last. Those who are entranced by centuries past will be charmed by restaurants tucked into homes dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Many of Québec's chefs have earned international renown and taken top honours at major culinary events and competitions. And, like Québécois everywhere, they are unfailingly hospitable, greeting diners with warmth and an endearing sense of *joie de vivre*.

THE CONFERENCE VENUE

The Québec City Convention Centre is a state-of-the-art facility located in the heart of Québec City just outside the walls of historic Old Québec. Underground walkways connect it to a complex that includes two major hotels, indoor parking, and a shopping centre.

Convention-goers will love being within easy walking distance of the countless things that make Québec City such a delight — its stores, boutiques, restaurants, museums, nightclubs, and tourist attractions. Also not to be missed are the immense Battlefields Park and Old Québec — wonderful places to explore in any season!

The Convention Centre includes an Exhibit Hall, a Convention Hall, a multipurpose room, and 36 meeting rooms, offering a total public area that can accommodate up to 10,000 participants at a time.

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