

Communiqué

The Social Forum of the Quebec-Chaudiere-Appalaches is Officially Launched!

Quebec City, May 30th, 2002. A Regional Social Forum, inspired by the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, will be held in Quebec City from September 27th through September 29th, 2002 at the CEGEP of Limoilou. This event will reunite hundreds of people and delegates representing various social organizations throughout Quebec and the Chaudiere-Appalaches region, in order to debate the effects of neo-liberal globalization and to discuss possible alternatives in which local social groups would play an important role.

The instigators of the Social Forum would like to invite progressive organizations and those who are interested in alternatives to neo-liberal globalization to register for the upcoming Social Forum. This event will be a great opportunity to discuss strategies of various social groups such as labor unions, feminists, students, environmentalists, just to name a few, in their battle against globalization. The forum will cover and bring together local issues and their possible alternatives in hopes of making the battle for a better world more effective.

For two days, men and women from every horizon will come together to debate, think of and defend their positions on various topics, through roundtable discussions and through a series of workshops. Some of the topics to be covered include: Alternative Politics; Arts and Culture; Education; Stakes for Popular Groups; Women's Groups and the Community; the Environment; Taxes and the Role of the State; Immigration; Housing and Living Conditions; Globalization and North-South relations; Poverty, Health and Social Services and Employment. Participants will be invited to create and adopt resolutions as well as a final declaration, focusing on reviving the spirit of a world created to respond to the needs and aspirations of every human being. Perhaps a never before collaboration of local groups will arise: *another world is possible!*

The contents of neo-liberal globalization of the economy, with its intolerable social consequences, make the need to tighten the ties and convergence not only in the world but in our community as well, more apparent, in order to put a stop to neo liberal globalization, which has enslaved the population at an unstoppable rate over the past several years. Neo-liberal politics have significantly weakened basic public services. Education, health services, welfare, and the environment have been savagely targeted by capitalism, consequently, marginalizing a growing number of the population. Women, in particular, are the first to be effected by unemployment and cuts in social services.

A popular resistance is forming and growing throughout the world, the Women's World March in October 2000 and the mobilization around the Summit of the Americas in April 2001 are just a few examples. The local, concrete realities affect us all in one-way or another, such as the creation of new cities, the development of Beauport Bay, the revitalization of public services or women in poverty. They are all examples of local issues to be discussed.

Despite our differences, or our divergences, one fact remains: The problems and the need to share ideas and solutions. The fight for social justice calls for the largest coalition and mobilization possible for an effective social progressive movement, in order to respond to the needs of the people and the Quebec Chaudière-Appalaches community, for which this invitation and social forum was created. Above all, you should remind: *Another world is possible!*

For more information visit our website (in French) at

<http://www.oqp2001.org/forumsocial/>

or email us at forum@oqp2001.org (French, English, Spanish or Portuguese).

You can also reach us by calling (418) 261-4264 (in French)

Organizations sponsoring this event :

Alternatives, Association générale étudiante du Cégep F.-X. Garneau, Association québécoise pour un contrat mondial de l'eau (AQCME), Association pour une Taxation des Transactions financières pour l'Aide aux Citoyens (ATTAC)-Capitale nationale, CAPMO, Carrefour Tiers-Monde, Coalition régionale des femmes contre la pauvreté et la violence, Collectif régional pour une loi sur l'élimination de la pauvreté, Conseil central de Québec Chaudière-Appalaches de la CSN, Conseil régional Québec Chaudière-Appalaches de la FTQ, Développement et Paix, Ligue des droits et libertés - section de Québec, Opération Québec Printemps 2001 (OQP2001), Syndicat de la fonction publique (SFPQ) région Québec Chaudière-Appalaches, Syndicat des employé-e-s de l'AGEECL-Comité politique Limoilou, Union paysanne régions 03 et 12.