

Hats Off to You!

2007-2008 COMPETITION



Myriam Courchesne
Sheet Metal Work
Centre de formation
en métallurgie de Laval
CS de Laval



TO BE WON:

- Cash prizes ranging from \$2000 to \$5000
- Paid work placements
- Career development trips to France
- Regional prizes of \$500 to \$1000

Register at your educational institution or consult the following Web site: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau





Hats Off to You!

New for 2007-2008 Three new mentorship prizes

A new partner and a new prize:

in conjunction with the OFQJ, the CNRS' Mission pour la place des femmes will be offering a work placement in a laboratory in France.

A new offer of services
proposed by the **Women Entrepreneurial Center of Québec (WECQ)** as part of the MDEIE's Entrepreneurship Prize

Prizes of greater value
(\$2000) offered by the CSN

We would like to thank our partners:

- Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)
- Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ)
- Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST)
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)
- Emploi-Québec (E-Q)
- Fédération des cégeps
- Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec (FCSQ)
- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ)
- Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (MCCCF)
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF)
- Ministère des Transports (MTQ)
- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP)
- Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE)
- Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ)

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For the 12th year in a row

The *Hats Off to You!* competition rewards young women who dare to venture off the beaten track

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) is inviting young women enrolled in vocational and technical training programs leading to traditionally male-dominated trades and occupations to enter the *Hats Off to You!* competition. This competition helps women become familiar with the many career options open to them and provides support for those training for male-dominated trades and occupations until graduation.



Under the direction of the MELS regional offices (see the list at the end of this brochure), the *Hats Off to You!* competition is held throughout Québec, in public and private educational institutions at the secondary and college levels. Regional winners are selected by committees made up of partners from the fields of education, employment and business.

At the provincial level, the competition is coordinated by the Direction de la formation continue et du soutien (DFCS), Secteur de la formation professionnelle et technique et de la formation continue, of the MELS. Provincial winners are selected by committees made up of sponsors and partners from the fields of education, employment and business.



“The mere fact that I don’t have an agricultural background, but have nonetheless decided to pursue my studies in this field, has motivated some women with agricultural roots to take the leap.”

Edith has been actively promoting the field of agriculture to women.

Édith Gazaille,
2006-2007 MAPAQ prizewinner,
Farm Management and Technology,
Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
and provincial spokesperson for
the 2007-2008 competition

How to participate

There are two ways to participate in this competition: at the regional level and at the provincial level. At the regional level, candidates participate by preparing a letter of introduction (see Section 3). At the provincial level, in addition to the letter of introduction, candidates write a short essay answering questions related to the categories in which they are entered. Generally speaking, only regional winners may be recommended by their regional committee to participate in the provincial competition.

Awards ceremony

Cash prizes of \$500 to \$1000 will be awarded in every region of Québec thanks to the financial support of the participating businesses, government ministries and agencies, and unions. These same partners will also be offering provincial prizes of \$2000 to \$5000 for some of the finalists recommended by the regional committees.

The regional prizes will be awarded at an official ceremony to be held in each region of Québec in the spring of 2008.

The provincial gala on May 5, 2008 will mark the grand finale of the competition.

“What the competition promotes is not young women as such . . . but a situation that is far from the norm.” [Translation]

From the research report entitled *Sortir des sentiers battus*

Three good reasons for having the Contest

- 1** **To increase the number of women in programs leading to traditionally male-dominated trades and occupations:** The proportion of women enrolled in vocational training programs is currently 11 per cent; it is slightly less than 20 per cent in technical training. The objective is to attain and, ideally, to exceed a rate of 33.3 per cent of women in traditionally male-dominated trades and occupations.
- 2** **To increase women’s economic independence:** The latest statistics reveal that the average salary for women is less than three quarters that for men, except when they practise a traditionally male-dominated trade or occupation.
- 3** **To provide successful role models:** To encourage women to broaden their career choices and go beyond sexual stereotypes, the Hats Off to You! competition rewards hundreds of women every year—more than 8000 of them in the past 11 years!

Three good reasons to participate

"In addition to providing recognition, the competition favourably affects student perseverance and integration into the workplace." [Translation]

From the research report entitled *Sortir des sentiers battus*

- 1 To obtain recognition for women's efforts:** By rewarding women who opt for a different path, the *Hats Off to You!* competition recognizes that they have a place in traditionally male-dominated training programs.
- 2 To earn a good reputation and win cash prizes:** Former prizewinners acknowledge that their involvement in the competition has had a positive impact on their future plans, employment prospects and . . . pocketbooks!
- 3 To create a network for support and the exchange of ideas:** Taking part in the competition provides an opportunity to forge ties with other students, former prizewinners, workers and teachers.

Objectives

- To recognize women who choose a traditionally male-dominated career.
- To reward their hard work.
- To provide successful female role models.
- To encourage women to opt for a nonstereotyped career.
- To help female students overcome specific problems related to their minority status within a predominantly male group.

New prizes

Two school mentorship prizes will be awarded (one for *Hats Off to You!* and one for the *Excellence in Science Contest*) as well as a mentorship award from among the *cybermentors* of *Hats Off to You!* and *Excellence in Science*. The prizewinners will be randomly drawn and will also be awarded a prize of \$500 that they will receive at the provincial awards ceremony in May 2008 in Montréal.

Cybermentors for the candidates

Candidates can obtain advice on the preparation of their portfolios from previous prizewinners, who function as "cybermentors." How? By contacting them on the MELS Web site at <www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/cybermentores>.

Tips for writing a letter of introduction

A mentor can help you prepare your letter of introduction and can provide you with tips on writing. This help can come from a cybermentor, school staff, parents or friends, in other words, anyone who is interested in helping a candidate succeed.

Don't hesitate to seek advice. Your success may depend on it!



"We can't let ourselves be intimidated by careers in which we are a minority. Differences create diversity, and this diversity adds to the trade."

Myriam Courchesne,
2006-2007 MELS Grand prizewinner,
Sheet Metal Work,
CFP en métallurgie de Laval,
CS de Laval
**and provincial spokesperson
for the 2007-2008 competition**

Section 1 Eligibility Requirements

- Candidates must have attended a public or private secondary school or college in Québec in 2007-2008 and have been enrolled full-time in one of the programs listed at the end of this brochure.
- Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have resided in Québec for at least one year.
- There is no age limit for participating in the competition. However, special eligibility requirements may apply to certain categories, in particular Category 4, Career Development Trips to France. Candidates must therefore carefully read over the eligibility requirements described in this brochure.
- Previous winners are not eligible for this year's competition.
- Candidates may enter more than one provincial category but cannot claim more than one prize.
- In order to be recommended for the provincial categories, candidates must be regional prizewinners. However, for categories 2, 7 and 8, a regional finalist could be recommended if no prizewinners meet the specific criteria for these categories.

Important! Special eligibility requirements may be set by the regional committees. Please contact the person in charge of the competition at your educational institution or your MELS regional office (see list) for full details.

Section 2 Candidate's Portfolio

Candidates must submit the following:

- a duly completed registration form (included in this brochure)
- a letter of introduction of no more than two pages (see Section 3)
- a short one-page essay for candidates who submit their portfolio in a provincial category
- a recommendation from their educational institution (complete the section provided for this purpose in this brochure)
- a copy of their statement of competencies, report card or transcript issued by their educational institution
- No items (objects, photographs, special documents, etc.) other than the documents listed above will be accepted for the purposes of evaluating portfolios.

Section 3 Letter of Introduction

Presentation requirements:

- not more than two pages long
- typed with one-and-a-half line spacing
- printed on white paper (21.5 cm x 28.0 cm)
- margins (top, bottom, left and right) of 1.5 cm
- 11-point Arial font, with full justification of the text.

The letter of introduction must include the following information in order to meet the selection criteria (see Section 4):

1. **Personal history and reasons for choosing a traditionally male-dominated trade or occupation**
 - a) What are the highlights of your personal, academic or working life?
 - b) What motivated you to choose your particular training program or occupation?
2. **Aptitudes and strategies for remaining in a traditionally male-dominated field**
 - a) What aptitudes or personal qualities do you have that will allow you to achieve personal fulfillment in training or in a career where women are in a minority?
 - b) What strategies do you use (or will you use) to help you succeed in school or in a trade or occupation traditionally reserved for men?
3. **Your knowledge of your chosen trade or occupation and career objectives**
 - a) Describe your chosen trade or occupation, the duties involved and the related working conditions.
 - b) What are your goals for the future in your chosen trade or occupation?
4. **Personal commitment**
 - a) Do you think that you have already influenced (or might influence) other women to opt for a career in a traditionally male-dominated occupation, or to remain in one?
 - b) Describe how you did or would exert such an influence and the means at your disposal.
5. **Your reasons for entering the competition**

What are your reasons for entering the competition and why do you believe you should be selected to participate?

Section 4

Selection Criteria

Portfolios will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- submission of a complete portfolio
- quality of the presentation
- compliance with presentation requirements
- clarity of the portfolio documents
- authenticity and persuasiveness of the portfolio documents
- relevance of your personal commitment
- relevance of the reasons for entering the competition
- academic achievement
- favourable recommendation from the educational institution.

Section 5

Application Process and Deadline

1. Candidates prepare their portfolio and submit it to the administration of their educational institution.
2. The educational institution forwards the eligible portfolios to the MELS regional office **before February 8, 2008**. The regional winners are selected by committees under the direction of the MELS regional offices. The regional committees also recommend candidates for prizes at the provincial level (two candidates for each provincial category may be proposed, namely one for vocational training and the other for technical training. Accepted applications will be sent to the DFCS).
3. In March 2008, portfolios in the provincial categories will be assessed by committees consisting of sponsors and partners from the fields of education, employment and business, under the direction of the DFCS.
4. Regional prizes will be awarded at the official ceremony to be held in April 2008, while the provincial prizes will be awarded at the Hats Off to You! gala on **May 5, 2008**.



Hats Off to You!



"The mere fact that I don't have an agricultural background, but have nonetheless decided to pursue my studies in this field, has motivated some women with agricultural roots to take the leap. Often, producers don't see their daughters as leaders."

Édith Gazaille,
2006-2007 MAPAQ prizewinner,
Farm Management
and Technology,
Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-
Richelieu

To find out more about
the MAPAQ and its former
prizewinners, go
to the Web site
<[www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/
chapeau](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau)>

CATEGORY 1

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Services

The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) awards two cash prizes of \$2000: one to the best candidate enrolled in vocational training and the other, to the best candidate enrolled in technical training.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on agriculture, fisheries and food services, answering the following questions:

How will the competencies acquired during your training prepare you to work in the field of agriculture, fisheries and food services?

How are you currently involved in the field?

Candidates must also be enrolled in one of the following programs:

SECTOR 2 : AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

- Aquiculture DVS
- Arboriculture-élagage DVS
- Farm Management and Technology DCS
- Grandes cultures DVS
- Pêche professionnelle DVS
- Production acéricole DVS
- Beef Production DVS
- Production horticole DVS
- Dairy Production DVS
- Hog Production DVS
- Techniques d'aquaculture DCS
- Techniques équine DCS
- Technologie de la production horticole et de l'environnement DCS
- Technologie du génie agromécanique DCS
- Technologie des productions animales DCS
- Transformation des produits de la mer DCS

SECTOR 3 : FOOD SERVICES AND TOURISM

- Retail Butchery DVS

SECTOR 10 : MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- Mécanique agricole DVS
- Marine Mechanics DVS
- Techniques de génie mécanique de marine DCS



"Karine obviously plans on working in a refinery! Both the facilities and the challenges are huge!"

Karine Guilmain,
2006-2007 MDDEP prizewinner,
Chemical Process Technology,
Cégep de Maisonneuve

To find out more about
the MDDEP and its former
prizewinners, go
to the Web site
<[www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/
programmes/chapeau](http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/programmes/chapeau)>

CATEGORY 2

Environment

The Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) awards a cash prize of \$2000 to the best candidate enrolled in vocational training and a paid work placement worth approximately \$5000 to the best candidate enrolled in technical training.

The 12-to-15-week work placement must be a compulsory part of the prizewinner's program or carry credits toward her diploma, further to an agreement between the Ministère and the educational institution. The prizewinner is responsible for making sure that her educational institution will recognize the work placement as part of her program. The prizewinner may opt for a \$2000 cash prize instead of the work placement.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on environmental protection, answering the following questions:

How will the competencies acquired in your training prepare you to work in the field of environmental protection?

How are you currently involved in the field?

Candidates must also be enrolled in one of the following programs:

SECTOR 2 : AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

- Beef Production DVS
- Dairy Production DVS
- Hog Production DVS

SECTOR 6 : CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY

- Assainissement de l'eau DCS
- Conduite de procédés de traitement de l'eau DVS
- Environnement, hygiène et sécurité au travail DCS
- Techniques de génie chimique DCS
- Techniques de procédés chimiques DCS

SECTOR 7 : BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC WORKS

- Civil Engineering Technology DCS

SECTOR 11 : MECHANICAL MANUFACTURING

- Technologie du génie industriel DCS

SECTOR 15 : MINING AND SITE OPERATIONS

- Ore Extraction DVS





"For me, it's not a question of working in an occupation traditionally reserved for men; I'm simply looking to feel fulfilled in my career. My strength of character has enabled me to take my place within the group."

Sophie Poirier,
2006-2007 MRNF prizewinner,
Natural Environment
Technology,
Cégep de Saint-Félicien

CATEGORY 3

Natural Resources and Wildlife

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) awards two cash prizes of \$2000: one to the best candidate enrolled in vocational training and one to the best candidate enrolled in technical training.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on natural resources or wildlife, answering the following questions:

How will the competencies acquired in your training prepare you to work in the field of natural resources or wildlife?

How are you currently involved in the field?

Candidates must also be enrolled in one of the following programs:

SECTOR 7 : BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC WORKS

- Arpentage et topographie DVS
- Civil Engineering Technology DCS

SECTOR 8 : LAND USE PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Protection and Development of Wildlife Habitats DVS
- Techniques d'aménagement cynégétique et halieutique DCS
- Techniques d'aménagement et d'urbanisme DCS
- Techniques du milieu naturel DCS

SECTOR 12 : FORESTRY AND PULP AND PAPER

- Abattage et façonnage des bois DVS
- Abattage manuel et débardage forestier DVS
- Affûtage DVS
- Aménagement de la forêt DVS
- Classement des bois débités DVS
- Pâtes et papier - Opérations DVS
- Sciage DVS
- Technologie de la transformation des produits forestiers DCS
- Forest Technology DCS
- Technologies des pâtes et papiers DCS
- Travail sylvicole DVS

SECTOR 15 : MINING AND SITE OPERATIONS

- Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing DVS
- Exploitation DCS
- Ore Extraction DVS
- Diamond Drilling DVS
- Géologie appliquée DCS
- Minéralurgie DCS



"I would like to do a work placement in France because its public transportation system is very sophisticated. This experience would allow me to compare European operations and innovations to those of North America."

Sandra Mendes Antunes,
2006-2007 OFQJ/
Bell Helicopter Textron
prizewinner,
Transportation Logistics,
Cégep François-Xavier Garneau

To find out more about the OFQJ and its former prizewinners, go to the Web site
<www.ofqj.org>

To find out more about the CNRS or the Mission pour la place des femmes, go to the Web sites <www.cnrs.fr>
or
<www.cnrs.fr/mission-femmes>

CATEGORY 4

Career Development Trips to France

Career development trip—OFQJ

The Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ) awards a career development trip to France. This work placement is awarded to the best candidate in a secondary vocational or college technical training program.

The prize includes the following (subject to certain conditions):

- a cash prize of \$1000
- round-trip air transportation from Montréal to Paris
- a waiver of enrollment fees for the OFQJ program
- assistance in finding a suitable work placement in France
- medical and civil liability insurance
- welcome and the first night's accommodation in Paris upon arrival
- a transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements (see Sections 1, 2 and 3) and:

- be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of the work placement
- have graduated (by June 30, 2008) from one of the programs listed at the end of this brochure
- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- have resided in Québec for at least one year.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page that explains why they wish to take part in a career development trip to France, answering the following questions:

What are your reasons for wanting a work placement in France and what impact do you think this placement will have on your personal and career development?

What would be an ideal work placement and what steps would you take to prepare for this opportunity (e.g. looking up contacts, obtaining information on the area)?

NEW PRIZE: CNRS/OFQJ

Work placement in a lab—CNRS/OFQJ

The Mission pour la place des femmes of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) and the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ) will be offering a work placement in a CNRS lab¹. This work placement will be awarded to the best candidate in a secondary vocational or college technical training program.

A new partner of the Hats Off to You! competition and its counterpart Excellence in Science, the CNRS' Mission pour la place des femmes, in collaboration with the MELS, is also proposing a travelling exhibit entitled *Physique de femmes*. This exhibit will be presented in various regions of Québec in 2008.

The prize

The prize includes the following (subject to certain conditions):

- an allowance (in cash or services) varying according to the length of the work placement, paid by the CNRS
- a waiver of the enrollment fees of \$450 for the OFQJ program, paid by the CNRS
- identification of a work placement in France by the CNRS
- round-trip air transportation from Montréal to Paris offered by the OFQJ
- welcome and first night's accommodation in Paris paid by the OFQJ
- medical and civil liability insurance as well as a transportation allowance for candidates who live far from the departure airport, paid by the OFQJ.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements (see sections 1, 2, 3) and:

- be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of the work placement
- have graduated (by June 30, 2008) from one of the programs listed at the end of this brochure
- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents
- have resided in Québec for at least one year.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page that explains why they wish to take part in a career development trip to France, to a CNRS lab, answering the following questions:

What are your reasons for wanting a work placement in a CNRS lab in France and what impact do you think this placement will have on your personal and career development?

What would be an ideal work placement and what steps would you take to prepare for this opportunity (e.g. looking up contacts, obtaining information on the area)?

¹ The Centre national de la recherche scientifique is the largest public research organization in Europe. It produces and makes knowledge available to the general public and conducts research in all the scientific, technological and societal fields. It comprises 1260 labs set up throughout France and employs 30 000 technicians, engineers and researchers working in various capacities.



“For me, cabinetmaking entails more than designing and making furniture. It also involves cajoling and polishing the wood.”

Annie Turmel,
2006-2007 MDEIE prizewinner,
Cabinet Making,
CFP de Neuchâtel,
CS de la Capitale

To find out more about the MDEIE and its former prizewinners, go to the Web site
<www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

To find out more about the Women Entrepreneurial Centre of Québec, go to the Web site
<www.wecq.ca>

CATEGORY 5

Entrepreneurship

The Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) awards two cash prizes of \$2000 for outstanding entrepreneurship. One prize is awarded to a vocational training student and the other, to a technical training student.

The Women Entrepreneurial Centre of Québec (WECQ) also offers the two prizewinners access to the following professional services: front-line services, coaching and consultation, and mentoring.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page that demonstrates they have an entrepreneurial spirit, answering the following questions:

What are your goals and ambitions with respect to starting your own business?

What personal aptitudes will help you achieve your goals?



Marie-Ève describes her career choice to young women during an “open house” activity. She hopes to give them what she received from other women firefighters: advice and encouragement.

Marie-Ève Grégoire,
2006-2007 CSQ prizewinner,
Fire Safety Techniques,
Institut de protection contre
les incendies du Québec,
CS de Laval

To find out more about the CSQ and its former prizewinners, go to the Web site
<www.csq.qc.net>

CATEGORY 6

Perseverance

The Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) awards two cash prizes of \$2000 for exceptional perseverance in learning a traditionally male-dominated trade or occupation. One prize is awarded to a vocational training student and the other, to a technical training student.

This award recognizes perseverance in the achievement of career goals. It is not designed to reward those who have overcome physical or social handicaps. Perseverance may be demonstrated in a number of ways, for instance by taking an upgrading course, overcoming special obstacles (e.g. being far from one's family, having a baby, family responsibilities, stereotypes), or making lifestyle choices in order to continue their education.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page that describes their perseverance in learning their trade or occupation, answering the following questions:

What obstacles did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

How did you motivate yourself to persevere in pursuing your career goals? Describe your experience.



"Anything is possible if you are disciplined and consistent. When women have confidence, they can overcome sexist barriers."

Gladys Huaman Flores,
2006-2007 CSN prizewinner,
Computer Science
Technology,
Cégep de Rosemont

To find out more about
the CSN, go to the Web site
<www.csn.qc.ca>

CATEGORY 7

Cultural or Native Communities

The Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), in collaboration with the Fédération nationale des enseignantes et enseignants du Québec (FNEEQ) and the Fédération des employées et employés de services publics (FEESP), awards two cash prizes of \$2000 to individuals who describe themselves as members of a cultural or Native community and who have chosen to practise a male-dominated trade or occupation. One prize is awarded to the best candidate enrolled in vocational training and the other, to the best candidate enrolled in technical training.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on the involvement of women from cultural or Native communities in nontraditional trades and occupations, answering the following questions:

As a member of a cultural or Native community, what obstacles have you had to face?

Were you encouraged to fulfill your ambition? If so, how?

What motivated you to choose a nontraditional trade or occupation?



“The more women there are in nontraditional trades and occupations, the more employers will continue to hire. If employers are still reluctant to hire women, they must be afraid of the unknown!”

Nicole Hullen,
2006-2007 FTQ prizewinner,
Automated Systems
Electromechanics,
CFP Pierre-Dupuy,
CS Marie-Victorin

To find out more about
the FTQ and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.ftq.qc.ca/femmes>

CATEGORY 8 Equity

The Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ) awards two cash prizes of \$2000 to candidates who left an unstable job (e.g. part-time, on call, on contract, temporary) to train or retrain, voluntarily and after careful consideration, for a traditionally male-dominated trade or occupation. One prize is awarded to a vocational training student and the other, to a technical training student.

Requirements

Candidates must meet all the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on their personal experience with unstable jobs as well as on their past, present and future experience with union, social or volunteer involvement, answering each of the following questions:

What was your experience like in an unstable job and why did you choose to train or retrain for a traditionally male-dominated occupation?

How will your experience and training help you:

- *take your place within the team*
- *be accepted by the male majority*
- *keep your job*
- *improve your own situation as well as working conditions for women in general?*



"I find my program so fascinating that I'm surprised I'm still one of the few women to have chosen it."

Karine Masson,
2006-2007 MDEIE prizewinner,
Mechanical Engineering
Technology,
Cégep de l'Outaouais

To find out more about
the MDEIE and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<[www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/
chapeau](http://www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau)>

CATEGORY 9 New Technologies

The Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) awards two cash prizes of \$2000: one to a vocational training student and one to a technical training student.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on new technologies, answering the following questions:

In your opinion, what obstacles prevent large numbers of women from going into the field of new technologies?

What are the best ways to encourage young women to opt for a career in new technologies?

Candidates must also be enrolled in one of the following programs:

SECTOR 1 : ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCE AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

- Computing Support DVS
- Computer Science Technology DCS

SECTOR 9 : ELECTROTECHNOLOGY

- Avionique DCS
- Automated Systems Electromechanics DVS
- Installation and Repair of Telecommunications Equipment DVS
- Electronics Technology DCS
- Industrial Electronics Technology DCS
- Computerized Systems Technology DCS
- Applied Physics Technology DCS

SECTOR 10 : MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- Techniques de maintenance d'aéronefs DCS

SECTOR 11 : MECHANICAL MANUFACTURING

- Industrial Machinery Operation DVS
- Moulding Machine Set-Up and Operation DVS
- Industrial Drafting DVS
- Fabrication de moules AVS
- Mise en oeuvre de matériaux composites DVS
- Cable and Circuit Assembly DVS
- Aircraft Structural Assembly DVS
- Aircraft Mechanical Assembly DVS
- Machining Techniques DVS
- Techniques de construction aéronautique DCS
- Mechanical Engineering Technology DCS
- Technologie du génie industriel DCS
- Precision Sheet Metal Work DVS
- Numerical Control Machine Tool Operation AVS

SECTOR 14 : MAINTENANCE MECHANICS

- Mécanique d'entretien en commandes industrielles AVS
- Industrial Maintenance Technology DCS

Hats Off to You!



"I believe that occupational health and safety is a question of common sense, and not simply of following the rules."

Carmen Bujold,
2006-2007 CSST prizewinner,
Welding and Fitting,
Centre d'excellence en
formation industrielle,
CS des Sommets

To find out more about
the CSST and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.csst.qc.ca/jeunes>

CATEGORY 10

Occupational Health and Safety

The Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST) awards two cash prizes of \$2000 each to the candidates who demonstrate the greatest proficiency in implementing preventive measures or using tools designed to prevent work-related injuries. One prize is awarded to a vocational training student and the other, to a technical training student.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on prevention and safety in the workplace, answering the following questions:

What contribution have you made to occupational health and safety (e.g. use of certain methods, use of tools, sharing of knowledge) and how has it helped to raise your coworkers' awareness or improve their working conditions?

How do you see your chosen occupation in terms of occupational health and safety?

How will the knowledge you acquire during training help eliminate the risk of work-related injuries and prevent occupational diseases?



"The guidance counsellor referred me to a Web site that describes all the trades and occupations. I was fascinated by anything related to construction. A few options were particularly interesting, but I chose tiling because of the aesthetic aspect of the work."

Tania Savard,
2006-2007 CCQ prizewinner,
Tiling,
École des métiers de la
construction,
CS de Montréal

To find out more about
the CCQ and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<www.ccq.org>

CATEGORY 11

Construction Trades

The Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ) awards two cash prizes of \$2000: one to a vocational training student enrolled in a program of study leading to a trade or occupation in the construction industry, and one to a student who would like to start a business in construction.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page on construction trades, answering the following questions:

What obstacles have you encountered?

Were you encouraged to pursue your goals? If so, how?

Construction entrepreneur

What are your goals and ambitions with respect to starting your own business?

What personal aptitudes will help you achieve your goals?

Candidates must also be enrolled in one of the following programs:

SECTOR 7 : BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC WORKS

- Arpentage et topographie DVS
- Masonry: Bricklaying DVS
- Calorifugeage DVS
- Tiling DVS
- Carpentry DVS
- Mécanique de protection contre les incendies DVS
- Montage et installation de produits verriers DVS
- Commercial and Residential Painting DVS
- Plastering DVS
- Plumbing and Heating DVS
- Pose de revêtements de toiture DVS
- Pose de revêtements souples DVS
- Pose de systèmes intérieurs DVS
- Preparing and Finishing Concrete DVS
- Refrigeration DVS
- Restauration de maçonnerie AVS

SECTOR 9 : ELECTROTECHNOLOGY

- Construction Electricity DVS
- Installation et entretien de systèmes de sécurité DVS
- Montage de lignes électriques DVS

SECTOR 10 : MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- Mécanique d'engins de chantier DVS

SECTOR 14 : MAINTENANCE MECHANICS

- Elevator Mechanics DVS
- Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics DVS

SECTOR 15 : MINING AND SITE OPERATIONS

- Conduite d'engins de chantier DVS
- Northern Heavy Equipment Operation DVS
- Conduite de grues DVS
- Forage et dynamitage DVS

SECTOR 16 : METALLURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

- Chaudronnerie DVS
- Sheet Metal Work DVS
- Montage structural et architectural DVS
- Pose d'armature du béton DVS
- Serrurerie de bâtiment DVS
- High-Pressure Welding AVS
- Welding and Fitting DVS

Hats Off to You!

Hats Off to You!



"It's important not to be intimidated. Some men find it difficult to take orders from a woman. An aging road infrastructure means that there will be work for us for a number of years to come."

Andrée-Anne Frenette,
2006-2007 MTQ prizewinner,
Civil Engineering Technology,
Cégep de Rimouski

To find out more about
the MTQ,
go to the Web site
<www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca>

CATEGORY 12 Transportation

The Ministère des Transports (MTQ) awards two cash prizes of \$2000: one to a vocational training student and one to a technical training student.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

They must also write a short essay of no more than one page on transportation, answering the following questions:

In your opinion, what is the main challenge in the field of transportation today?

How has your training prepared you to meet this challenge?

Candidates must also be enrolled in one of the following programs:

SECTOR 7 : BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC WORKS

- Arpentage et topographie DVS
- Technologie de la géomatique DCS
- Civil Engineering Technology DCS

SECTOR 8 : LAND USE PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Techniques d'aménagement et d'urbanisme DCS

SECTOR 10 : MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- Mécanique d'engins de chantier DVS
- Mécanique de véhicules légers DVS
- Mécanique de véhicules lourds routiers DVS

SECTOR 15 : MINING AND SITE OPERATIONS

- Conduite d'engins de chantier DVS
- Northern Heavy Equipment Operation DVS
- Conduite de grues DVS

SECTOR 17 : TRANSPORTATION

- Régulation de vol DVS
- Navigation DCS
- Techniques de la logistique du transport DCS
- Techniques de pilotage d'aéronefs DCS
- Trucking DVS



"Everybody is treated equally at our school, there is no discrimination."

Élisabeth Paré,
2006-2007 MELS prizewinner,
Automobile Mechanics,
CFP 24-Juin,
CS de la
Région-de-Sherbrooke

To find out more about
the MELS and the
competition,
go to the Web site
<www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau>

CATEGORY 13

Continuity

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) awards two prizes of \$2000 to students whose first choice of career was one requiring vocational or technical training. One prize is awarded to a vocational training student and the other, to a technical training student.

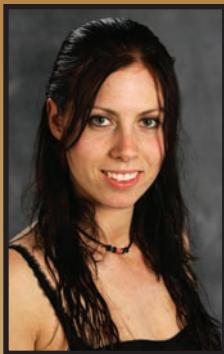
To be eligible for this category, candidates must be 19 years of age or under at the time of enrollment; the previous year, they must have been enrolled in general education in the youth or adult sector or in a vocational training program, and, two years prior, they must have been enrolled in general education in either the youth or adult sector.

The objective of this category is to provide encouragement to young women who have little experience in the job market by validating their choice of vocational or technical training as a first choice.

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3. Only the letter of introduction is required for this category.

The MELS regional committees will verify the portfolios submitted to ensure that they meet the specific requirement, described above.



"It's not easy for women to make their way in the field of construction, but I'm a very determined person."

Nina-Marie Tourigny,
2006-2007 Emploi-Québec
prizewinner,
Carpentry,
Centre Polymétier,
CS de Rouyn-Noranda

To find out more about
Emploi-Québec and its former
prizewinners,
go to the Web site
<[www.emploi.quebec.net/
chapeau](http://www.emploi.quebec.net/chapeau)>

CATEGORY 14

Work Force Integration

Emploi-Québec awards two cash prizes of \$2000: one to the best candidate enrolled in vocational training, and the other, to the best candidate enrolled in technical training.

Requirements

Candidates must be returning to school in one of the traditionally male-dominated programs, most of which offer good job prospects. They must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page, answering the following questions:

- | *How are you going to go about finding a job once you have earned your diploma?*
- | *What will you do to keep your job?*



"I enjoy feeling useful, and I would like to mentor other women in order to support them and help them avoid making certain mistakes."

Valérie Blouin-Trudel,
2006-2007 FCSQ prizewinner,
Fire Safety Techniques,
CFP de Neufchâtel,
CS de la Capitale

To find out more about
the FCSQ,
go to the Web site
<www.fcsq.qc.ca>

CATEGORY 15 Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec Prize to a Student in Vocational Training

*The Fédération des commissions scolaires
du Québec (FCSQ) awards a cash prize of
\$2000 to a regional winner from a school
in a Québec school board for the outstanding
quality of her portfolio.*

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page, answering the following questions:

What steps should be taken to encourage young women and help them gain access to traditionally male-dominated trades and occupations?

What would becoming a winner in the Hats Off to You! competition mean to you? In your opinion, what academic, personal, occupational and social benefits would you gain from this form of recognition?



"I chose an occupation that is also a social and environmental cause. I hope to promote the regions, stimulate the economy and protect resources for future generations."

Marie-Claude Nadeau,
2006-2007
Fédération des cégeps
prizewinner,
Farm Management and
Technology,
Cégep de Victoriaville

To find out more about
the Fédération des cégeps,
go to the Web site
<www.fedecegeps.qc.ca>

CATEGORY 16 Fédération des cégeps Prize to a Student in Technical Training

*The Fédération des cégeps awards
a cash prize of \$2000 to a regional
winner from a public college-level
educational institution for the
outstanding quality of her portfolio.*

Requirements

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3.

Candidates must also write a short essay of no more than one page, answering the following questions:

What steps do you think colleges should take to motivate young women to study in nontraditional fields?

Once young women have earned their diploma, what do you feel would help them to integrate into male-dominated areas of the work force?



"Showing that you know your field is the best way to gain respect. And being a woman allows me to approach certain practical problems from other angles."

Èva Roy-Vigneault,
2006-2007
MELS Grand Prizewinner,
Applied Geology,
Cégep de Thetford Mines

Grand Prizes of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) awards two cash prizes of \$5000—one to a student in vocational training and the other to a student in technical training—for the outstanding quality of their portfolios.

All candidates entered in the 2007-2008 *Hats Off to You!* competition are automatically eligible for the grand prizes. The regional committees will recommend two candidates from among the regional winners.

Candidates must meet the general eligibility requirements in sections 1 and 2, and write a letter of introduction according to the instructions in Section 3. Only the letter of introduction is required for this category.

The excellence of the portfolios will be determined, among other things, on the basis of personal or occupational commitment in promoting traditionally male-dominated careers for women. Commitment is not measured by the number of people contacted, but rather by the quality of achievements.



"This is a perfect trade for me, allowing me to apply my creativity as well as my manual dexterity."

Myriam Courchesne,
2006-2007
MELS prizewinner,
Sheet Metal Work,
Centre de formation en
métallurgie de Laval,
CS de Laval

Programs Eligible for the 2007-2008 *Hats Off to You!* COMPETITION

SECTOR 1 : ADMINISTRATION, COMMERCE AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

- Gestion d'une entreprise spécialisée de la construction AVS
- Computing Support DVS
- Computer Science Technology DCS

SECTOR 2 : AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

- Aquiculture DVS
- Arboriculture-élagage DVS
- Farm Management and Technology DCS
- Grandes cultures DVS
- Pêche professionnelle DVS
- Production acéricole DVS
- Beef Production DVS
- Production horticole DVS
- Dairy Production DVS
- Hog Production DVS
- Techniques d'aquaculture DCS
- Techniques équines DCS
- Technologie de la production horticole et de l'environnement DCS
- Technologie du génie agromécanique DCS
- Technologie des productions animales DCS
- Transformation des produits de la mer DCS

SECTOR 3 : FOOD SERVICES AND TOURISM

- Retail Butchery DVS
- Adventure Tourism DCS

SECTOR 4 : ARTS

- Photographie DVS
- Professional Photography DCS
- Taille de pierre DVS
- Industrial Design Techniques DCS
- Applied arts and crafts:
 - Ébénisterie artisanale DCS
 - Lutherie DCS
- Professional Music and Song Techniques DCS

SECTOR 5 : WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE MAKING

- Cabinet Making DVS
- Fabrication en série de meubles et de produits en bois ouvré DVS
- Furniture Finishing DVS
- Modelage DVS
- Rembourrage artisanal DVS
- Rembourrage industriel DVS
- Techniques du meuble et d'ébénisterie DCS

SECTOR 6 : CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY

- Assainissement de l'eau DCS
- Conduite de procédés de traitement de l'eau DVS

- Environnement, hygiène et sécurité au travail DCS
- Techniques de génie chimique DCS
- Techniques de procédés chimiques DCS

SECTOR 7 : BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC WORKS

- Arpentage et topographie DVS
- Masonry: Bricklaying DVS
- Calorifugeage DVS
- Tiling DVS
- Carpentry DVS
- Découpe et transformation du verre DVS
- Residential and Commercial Drafting DVS
- Northern Building Maintenance DVS
- RV Maintenance and Repair DVS
- General Building Maintenance DVS
- Fire Safety Techniques DVS
- Mécanique de machines fixes DVS
- Mécanique de protection contre les incendies DVS
- Montage et installation de produits verriers DVS
- Commercial and Residential Painting DVS
- Plastering DVS
- Plumbing and Heating DVS
- Pose de revêtements de toiture DVS
- Pose de revêtements souples DVS
- Pose de systèmes intérieurs DVS
- Preparing and Finishing Concrete DVS
- Refrigeration DVS

- Réparation d'appareils au gaz naturel AVS
- Restauration de maçonnerie AVS
- Sécurité incendie DCS
- Technologie de l'architecture DCS
- Technologie de l'estimation et de l'évaluation en bâtiment DCS
- Technologie de la géomatique DCS
- Building Systems Technology DCS
- Civil Engineering Technology DCS

SECTOR 8 : LAND USE PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Protection and Development of Wildlife Habitats DVS
- Techniques d'aménagement cynégétique et halieutique DCS
- Techniques d'aménagement et d'urbanisme DCS
- Techniques du milieu naturel DCS

SECTOR 9 : ELECTROTECHNOLOGY

- Avionique DCS
- Maintenance Electricity DVS
- Construction Electricity DVS
- Automated Systems Electromechanics DVS
- Installation et entretien de systèmes de sécurité DVS
- Installation and Repair of Telecommunications Equipment DVS
- Networked Office Equipment AVS
- Montage de lignes électriques DVS
- Réparation d'appareils électroménagers DVS

- Electronic Audio/Video Equipment Repair DVS
- VCR and Camcorder Repair AVS
- Business Equipment Technical Service DVS
- Technologie de conception électronique DCS
- Electronics Technology DCS
- Industrial Electronics Technology DCS
- Computerized Systems Technology DCS
- Applied Physics Technology DCS

SECTOR 10 : MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

- Automotive Body Repair and Repainting DVS
- Mécanique agricole DVS
- Automobile Mechanics DVS
- Mécanique d'engins de chantier DVS
- Mécanique de moteurs diesels et de contrôles électroniques AVS
- Mécanique de motocyclettes AVS
- Mécanique de véhicules légers DVS
- Mécanique de véhicules lourds routiers DVS
- Marine Mechanics DVS
- Service-conseil à la clientèle en équipement motorisé DVS
- Techniques de génie mécanique de marine DCS
- Techniques de maintenance d'aéronefs DCS
- Sale of Mechanical Parts and Accessories DVS

SECTOR 11: MECHANICAL MANUFACTURING

- Industrial Machinery Operation *DVS*
- Moulding Machine Set-Up and Operation *DVS*
- Industrial Drafting *DVS*
- Fabrication de moules *AVS*
- Diemaking *AVS*
- Mise en oeuvre de matériaux composites *DVS*
- Cable and Circuit Assembly *DVS*
- Aircraft Structural Assembly *DVS*
- Aircraft Mechanical Assembly *DVS*
- Toolmaking *AVS*
- Techniques d'architecture navale *DCS*
- Machining Techniques *DVS*
- Techniques de construction aéronautique *DCS*
- Mechanical Engineering Technology *DCS*
- Techniques de production manufacturière *DCS*
- Techniques de transformation des matériaux composites *DCS*
- Techniques de transformation des matières plastiques *DCS*
- Technologie du génie industriel *DCS*
- Precision Sheet Metal Work *DVS*
- Numerical Control Machine Tool Operation *AVS*

SECTOR 12 : FORESTRY AND PULP AND PAPER

- Abattage et façonnage des bois *DVS*
- Abattage manuel et débardage forestier *DVS*

- Affûtage *DVS*
- Aménagement de la forêt *DVS*
- Classement des bois débités *DVS*
- Pâtes et papiers - Opérations *DVS*
- Sciage *DVS*
- Technologie de la transformation des produits forestiers *DCS*
- Forest Technology *DCS*
- Technologies des pâtes et papiers *DCS*
- Travail sylvicole *DVS*

SECTOR 13 : COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

- Printing *DVS*
- Techniques de gestion de l'imprimerie *DCS*
- Techniques de l'impression *DCS*
- Techniques de production et de postproduction télévisuelle *DCS*

SECTOR 14 : MAINTENANCE MECHANICS

- Horlogerie-bijouterie *DVS*
- Horlogerie-rhabillage *AVS*
- Elevator Mechanics *DVS*
- Mécanique d'entretien en commandes industrielles *AVS*
- Mécanique de machines à coudre industrielles *DVS*
- Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics *DVS*
- Réparation d'armes à feu *DVS*
- Serrurerie *DVS*
- Industrial Maintenance Technology *DCS*

SECTOR 15 : MINING AND SITE OPERATIONS

- Conduite d'engins de chantier *DVS*
- Northern Heavy Equipment Operation *DVS*
- Conduite de grues *DVS*
- Conduite de machinerie lourde en voirie forestière *DVS*
- Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing *DVS*
- Exploitation *DCS*
- Ore Extraction *DVS*
- Diamond Drilling *DVS*
- Forage et dynamitage *DVS*
- Géologie appliquée *DCS*
- Minéralurgie *DCS*

SECTOR 16 : METALLURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

- Assemblage de structures métalliques *DVS*
- Chaudronnerie *DVS*
- Sheet Metal Work *DVS*
- Fonderie *DVS*
- Montage structural et architectural *DVS*
- Pose d'armature du béton *DVS*
- Serrurerie de bâtiment *DVS*
- High-Pressure Welding *AVS*
- Welding and Fitting *DVS*
- Technologie du génie métallurgique *DCS*
- Traitement de surface *DVS*

SECTOR 17 : TRANSPORTATION

- Navigation *DCS*
- Régulation de vol *DVS*
- Techniques de la logistique du transport *DCS*
- Techniques de pilotage d'aéronefs *DCS*
- Trucking *DVS*

SECTOR 18 : FASHION, LEATHER AND TEXTILES

- Cordonnerie *DVS*
- Technologie de la production textile *DCS*

SECTOR 19 : HEALTH SERVICES

- Techniques de denturologie *DCS*
- Techniques de thanatologie *DCS*

SECTOR 20 : SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND LEGAL SERVICES

- Police Technology *DCS*

COLLEGE PROGRAMS IN OTHER FIELDS

- Plongée professionnelle *ACS*
- Transport ferroviaire – Chefs de train *ACS*
- Techniques ambulancières *ACS*

LEGEND

- AVS* Attestation of Vocational Specialization
- DVS* Diploma of Vocational Specialization
- DCS* Diploma of College Studies
- ACS* Attestation of College Studies

IMPORTANT

The list of eligible programs contains new programs recently approved by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. Nevertheless, students enrolled in programs known by their old names are also eligible.

NOTE

The programs in this list were selected on the basis of statistics provided by Emploi-Québec on the number of women employed in those fields. A program is eligible if, according to the National Occupational Classification (NOC), women represent less than one third of the work force in the corresponding trade or occupation.

FRENCH VERSION

A French version is available upon request.

For further information on the *Hats Off to You!* competition or on traditionally male-dominated occupations or trades, visit the following Web sites:

<www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/chapeau> and
<www.inforoutefpt.org/chapeau>, or write to
<chapeaulesfilles@mels.gouv.qc.ca>

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Coordonnatrice nationale

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