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OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2010



Gather. Recognize. Influence.

Le Rendez-vous du Savoir

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Give your event a new twist.



Versatile Spaces



Environmental Technologies



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Give your events a new twist

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When the Palais hosted the Rotary International Convention last June, the largest convention held in the city this past decade, it clearly underscored how committed the Palais is to the success of major international events. [Read more]



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A priority for a team that is constantly on the alert

Because it hosts such a wide range of large events, the Palais des congrès de Montréal offers a brand of security that is very unique. The safety of participants always comes first, and the Palais works closely with the city's police department. The security department is equipped with ultra smart surveillance systems and boasts a feature yet unseen in Canada. [[Read more](#)]

RÉSO: the world's largest underground city, and a world of surprises!

Montréalers can stay dry even on a rainy fall day thanks to their underground city. [[Read more](#)]

***Fall in Montréal* Montréal, a colourful destination**

Green spaces abound in Montréal, making it a dream destination for admiring the fall colours Québec is so popular for. It is also the place for discovering how to enjoy the outdoors. [[Read more](#)]

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Gather. Recognize. Influence. Rendez-vous du Savoir

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This October 20 and 21, the Palais des congrès de Montréal will be hosting a grand première that will further entrench Montréal's standing as a city of higher learning.

Gather. Recognize. Influence. It is the motto behind the very first edition of the *Rendez-vous du Savoir*, and it will undoubtedly be worn as a badge of honour by the participants. They will be many, and from many backgrounds: universities, the business community and the world of politics. Together, they will debate the strategic role higher learning establishments can play in Québec's economic, intellectual and social development.



Jointly organized by the Palais des congrès de Montréal, [Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal](#), [Conference of Rectors and Principals of Québec Universities \(CREPUQ\)](#), [Conférence régionale des élus \(CRÉ\)](#) de Montréal, [Montréal International](#) and [Ville de Montréal](#), it promises to be a truly learned assembly. It will be an opportunity to salute the essential contribution of universities to the creation of knowledge-based societies and to help sustain their influence both nationally and internationally.

The event will include a public conference, a meet and greet cocktail for foreign students, a conference luncheon for the business and academic communities, etc.

The high point of the event will invariably be the Recognition Award Gala on October 21. The Palais organizes this evening annually to thank the individuals it has appointed its Ambassadors, and who are members of the Ambassadors' Club. This year, it takes on a new significance.

"The Recognition Award Gala has always been a prestigious event that brings together nearly 500 influential men and women," reminds us Marc Tremblay, President and CEO of the Palais. "This year, we'll have even more reason to celebrate. We will of course honour our newly minted Ambassadors. We will mark a major milestone: the Ambassadors' Club's 25th anniversary. Finally, we will also pay tribute to 18 Québec university chancellors and five emeritus researchers who have left their mark through their remarkable contributions."

This October, the Palais will celebrate higher learning and the passionate individuals who make Montréal such a magnet for brilliant minds.

To learn more about the [Rendez-vous du Savoir](#).

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Palais des congrès
de Montréal

Give your events a new twist

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Today's Palais is more versatile than ever

As part of its ongoing commitment to providing its clientèle with an ever-wider range of options, the Palais undertook a rethink of its interior. The newly configured Palais, which now boasts a total floor surface of 472 884 pi² (43 932 m²) and 105 separate rooms and venues, ranks Number One in Canada among all convention centres for meeting venues, and becomes the second leading convention centre in terms of exhibition space.



The space that creates the event

In addition to offering more venues with virtually limitless possibilities, the Palais has also rolled out a series of attractive packages, so you can give your events a new **twist**. For banquets and galas, press conferences and product launches, meetings or work sessions, the Palais' scalable venues adjust beautifully to each event, and the new packages allow you to host events downtown, in a unique setting, at fair rates.



Palais' Arabian Nights for an exotic Holiday Season Party

Invite your guests to spend a luxurious evening sultan-style. Let the Palais seduce you with a spellbinding theme for your yearend party.

The Palais will transform itself into a fairytale setting right out of *The Arabian Nights* for the 2010 Holidays. Your guests will be surrounded by lanterns, mosaics and tents as they laze about on soft-cushioned benches. Genies, storytellers, belly dancers and drummers will create an enticingly playful ambiance. The more daring guests will venture into Ali Baba's cave, which will be set up on the heated terrace, and they'll sip hot beverages while admiring the Montréal nightscape. As for the more exotic revellers, perhaps a non-permanent tattoo?

Dare to offer your employees or relatives an evening out of this world. Entertain them with an Arabian Night to remember at the Palais.

[To learn more or to book.](#)

Green, the colour that suits us

Invite your guests to the Palais for a colourful event, but mostly a green event. The Palais is nationally BOMA BESt certified by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA). **BOMA BESt** is an advanced program that recognizes commercial buildings for their exceptional environmental management. The Palais' Level 3 certification signifies the building's superior energy and environmental performance.

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Technology and environment – A sustainable Montréal union

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The 1987 Montréal Protocol signalled the city had arrived on the environmental protection scene. It also gave rise to a robust green technology industry.

Montréal is known worldwide as a green technology hub. Seven international organizations active in this fast-growing field are headquartered here, including the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the [e8 Network of Expertise for the Global Environment](#), and the [International Secretariat for Water](#).



Montréal alone is home to over 60% of Québec's green technology industry, which translates into nearly 500 firms generating economic spinoffs of \$2 billion!

Many world leaders are based in the Montréal region. BPR, Dessau-Soprin, Mabarex, Ondeo Degrémont, SNC-Lavalin and Tecsalt are but some of the firms spearheading areas such as water and waste management, green building, fighting air pollution, industrial services and numerous other specialties.

It is because the Montréal environment is a natural for this blossoming industry. The tax incentives, risk capital, low operating costs and qualified labour add up to a quality-price ratio unavailable elsewhere. Not to mention the research centres specialized in the environment that support corporate research and development:

- [CREDEAU](#) research, development and validation centre for water treatment technologies and processes, a consortium formed by prestigious Montréal universities, which conducts international calibre research, mostly thanks to mobile processing units unique in Canada;
- [CINBIOSE](#) research centre, recognized by the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization for its work with workplace health as well as health and the environment;
- [ESCER](#) centre, which develops tools capable of forecasting climate changes;
- [NSERC](#) Industrial Research Chair in environmental design engineering, which particularly supports the forestry and paper industries;
- [Global Environmental and Climate Change Centre \(GEC3\)](#), a cross-disciplinary research centre founded by six Québec universities to study the processes, modelling and impact of environmental and climate change.

Not surprisingly, the Palais has hosted and will be hosting several events this year related to the environment:

July 29 – August 4, 2010	Plant Biology 2010	American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)	1 500 delegates
September 3-	21 st World Energy Congress	World Energy Council	4 000

18, 2010	"Responding Now to Global Challenges"	(WEC)	delegates
September 17-24, 2010	IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition	International Water Association	3 000 delegates
October 28 – November 5, 2010	26th CanWEA Annual Conference and Exhibition	Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA)	2 000 delegates
August 22-26, 2011	Montréal 2011 — Ecocity World Summit	Ecocity Group	1 500 delegates

Source : [Montréal International](#)



A fine first harvest at the Palais!

No shortage of sustainability ideas!

The Palais roof was transformed into a vegetable garden this summer, and this delighted Wahed Naja, executive chef of Capital Traiteur, the Palais' exclusive caterer. Chef Naja grew 138 tomato plants (three different varieties) and fine herbs. This inaugural foray into urban farming produced 90 kg of tomatoes!

There's no doubt that being green adds even more flavour to the Palais!

In fact, the Palais has started a process to develop a green roof project in collaboration with Montréal's Urban Ecology Centre. To be continued...

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The Palais: it's where major international events happen

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When the Palais hosted the Rotary International Convention last June, the largest convention held in the city this past decade, it clearly underscored how committed the Palais is to the success of major international events.



The 101st Convention of Rotary International drew an impressive 18,000 delegates June 20 to 23, and according to one of the organizers, it was a memorable convention. "The Palais staff are a first class team," readily affirms Robert S. Scott, Rotary International Foundation Trustee Chair. Our visit in Montréal was very enjoyable and our event was a great success on every level."

From the beginning of the bidding process to the end of the Congress, everything has been very well managed. Emily Melton of the World Energy Council was equally enthusiastic during her closing speech in September, after her association held its largest



congress ever with 7,000 delegates. "Both the facilities and the personnel of the Palais were simply remarkable! Our delegates were truly impressed," affirmed Melton.

Well-attended conventions are par for the course at the Palais. Like the Rotary convention and the World Energy Council congress, the International Diabetes Federation welcomed 8,000 delegates in 2009, and the World Water Congress drew 4,000 delegates in September 2010. Next on the Palais' calendar are:

- October 31 to November 3: **Canadian Wind Energy Association's 26th Annual Conference and Exhibition**, 2,000 delegates.
- November 13 to 17: 2010 NTA Annual Convention and 2010 WRTA Expo, 3,000 delegates.
- May 7 to 13, 2011: International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine's **19th Annual Meeting & Exhibition**, 4,500 delegates.
- April 30 to May 6, 2012: **National Festival 2012** (Regional Dance America), 2,500 delegates.
- October 27 to 30, 2012: **AGA et Congrès annuel de l'OIIQ 2012** (Québec order of nurses), 2,450 delegates.
- August 15 to 22, 2014: **17th World Congress of Food Science and Technology – IUFoST 2014**, 1,500 delegates.

"We'll be there. Will you?"

The Palais team will be participating in the following events. Drop by!

Starting	Event	City
2010-10-23	ICCA - Annual Meeting	Hyderabad

2010-11-01	Tourisme Québec - Quebec Day	Ottawa
2010-11-21	Convivium	Château Cartier, Gatineau
2010-12-01	EIBTM - Meeting and Exhibition	Barcelona
2010-12-14	Association Forum of Chicagoland - Holiday Showcase	Chicago
2010-12-16	Christmas Cocktail	Paris

Major international distinctions



ICCA: Montréal, crowned top host city in North America for international associative events



UAI: Montréal, ranked first in Canada and third in North America for international events



AIPC Apex Award: the Palais was the only North American convention centre short-listed as a finalist for the 2010 World's Best Congress Centre award in the world



BOMA BEST: the Palais becomes Level 3 certified for its environmental performance



Energy Savers' Circle: the Palais is a member of Hydro-Québec's large-power business customers recognized for their leadership and outstanding performance in the field of energy efficiency

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Security at the Palais: A priority for a team that is constantly on the alert

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Because it hosts such a wide range of large events, the Palais des congrès de Montréal offers a brand of security that is very unique. The safety of participants always comes first, and the Palais works closely with the city's police department. The security department is equipped with ultra smart surveillance systems and boasts a feature yet unseen in Canada.

"The Palais is the only convention centre in Canada to include a security plan in its customers' contracts," states Robert Charron, who heads the Palais' security department and user services. This enables us to raise the organizers' awareness as to the risks associated with their event, and to provide them with a framework for their security measures."

Events held at the Palais are assessed for their security, capacity and fire risks, based on their history. Participant safety is the Number One priority.

"We calculate risks based on international standards, which enables us to implement the appropriate measures. If the residual risk is high, as is often the case with major international conventions, we set up a command post that links all the police departments (municipal, provincial and federal), the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the security firm hired for the event, and sometimes even the U.S. secret service."

This type of organization requires an overall vision, but also tight planning. "We worked three years on the security system we put in place for the 2010 World Energy Congress that just concluded in September," continues Charron. "The taskforce came up with 70 scenarios based on risks that could occur either individually or simultaneously. We had to deal with two protests daily and some 30 incidents in all, but we were prepared. There's no such thing as luck when it comes to event security; success is tied directly to how well you plan and how effectively you convey your plan."

The Palais team specializes in event security, which is why it always strives to strike the right balance between an event's security needs and the overall conditions it needs to succeed. It's all part of their daily reality.

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RÉSO: the world's largest underground city, and a world of surprises!

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Montréalers can stay dry even on a rainy fall day thanks to their underground city.

Known as RÉSO, Montréal's underground pedestrian network, which is the largest in the world, spans 33 kilometres. It is also directly linked to the city's public transit system, connecting metro stations, train stations and bus lines.

Although originally conceived to allow Montréalers to shop indoors, the underground city has since become an integral part of daily life. Some 500,000 people use it every day, to commute to the office or university, to shop, catch a show, dine out, go to the museum...

The underground city has even become a sort of art gallery. In the middle of winter, it hosts a free exhibit known as *Art souterrain*. The event is part of the Montréal High Lights Festival, and it showcases 100 works of art and as many artists. The underground city converts into a cultural fair, where visitors get to learn about contemporary art through workshops, conferences, guided tours and live performances.



RÉSO at a glance:

- 33 km of passageways
- 190 entry points
- 63 interlinked buildings
- 1,700 boutiques, restaurants and services
- 40 concert venues, theatres and movie theatres
- 9 major hotels
- 17 museums and other attractions
- and the 1 and only Palais convention centre!

For a map of [Montréal's underground city](#).

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Fall in Montréal Montréal, a colourful destination

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Green spaces abound in Montréal, making it a dream destination for admiring the fall colours Québec is so popular for. It is also the place for discovering how to enjoy the outdoors.

If you enjoy walking, Mount Royal is ideal for taking in the colours and communing with nature. The trees form a palette of hues as spectacular as what you'd expect in the Laurentians or the Eastern Townships. Use the [interactive map and podcast tours](#) to explore "the mountain," as Montréalers affectionately call it. You can download them for free, or pick them up at the Smith House, located in the park.

You prefer biking in the fresh air? Saddle a [Bixi](#) bike or rent a bike and ride along our [bike paths](#) from park to park. Choose from the peaceful Maisonneuve park, the charming Lafontaine park, or the lively Laurier park...



If pressed for time, the [Botanical Garden](#) is just the ticket. It is a veritable microcosm of the world in which you will get to appreciate autumn from every angle, thanks to the 30 theme gardens and 10 greenhouses. Also, check out the 12 monumental sculptures by the Taiwanese artist Ju Ming, which will be exposed until December. And the Magic of Lanterns will run until October 31 in the Chinese Garden...

Finally, be sure to stopover in one of the [public markets](#). You will be amazed by the abundance of the harvest season. The rainbow of squashes, pumpkins and apples creates a friendly atmosphere. You won't be able to resist our traditional local products, like homestyle jams and ketchup, or elegant bottles of ice cider – all wonderful gift ideas



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