



The Bicyc 'letter

The newsletter of the Tour of the Americas

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The MAGE UQAC Becomes our First Major Partner

We had been waiting for it for quite a while now. The first that would really trust us and dive in this great adventure that is the tour of the Americas. I was suspecting from the start that it would not come from a place I expected. It is therefore **the Movment of the Student's General Associations of the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC)** that jumps in first. The **\$8 000** that the MAGE allows us will be given in four installments and are assorted with conditions related to the visibility of our partnership inside the university's walls. Again we must greatly salute Pierre Beauregard. His various implications at the university and his hard work as a member of the organizing committee of the tour has made our project look really serious. I wish welcome to the MAGE in our growing family and thank them for showing us their trust !

-Christian Blanchard

A 1000 \$ Donation

Past november 23rd we received a written confirmation that the **fondation Adolphe et Roger Ducharme** will donate \$ 1 000 to the Tour of the Americas. Half of this amount will go to our partner Cyclo North-South. We wish that this generous contribution will inspire other fondations to give us their support wheter it's in Quebec, France or elsewhere. A special thanks to Mr. Jean Ducharme that has responded promptly to our request for support.

Fundraising Activity in Washington D.C.

Ikuko Shimizu has known the project for a long time. From japanese origins, she lives in Washington since 2000 and will soon fly to Dominican Republic for her work. With the assistance of her roommates, she throw a fund raising party for the Tour. We are deeply touched by her initiative that will bring \$130 US in the income budget of the Tour.

414 Bikes Floating Towards Ghana

On november 28 employees of Cyclo North-South (CNS) and many of their volunteers packed 414 bicycles in a container. These bikes are on their way to Ghana in Western Africa where the Maata-N-Tudu organization will take them in charge. This group particularly works for the **emancipation of women**, as many partners of CNS. In the past five years, CNS has provided **11 597** bikes. This year only, 3 328 departed for a new life.

The bikes are collected throughout towns and cities of Quebec from mid-april till the end of october. CNS has collected a record number of 275 bicycles in only one day this fall. And guess what ? This was happening in Christian's hometown, Granby. Congratulations!

Environment

Quebec Turns Green! Must we Believe it?

We have to believe it, but mostly **we have to see to it!** Everyone has to pay attention and participate to this turn. Most of all we have to see that it is not only a political move from the Charest government to brighten its image. The addition of the following article in Quebec's Chart of rights shows ambition; *The right to live in an environment that is healthy and respectful of the biodiversity.* But, we now have to check out so that actions are taken by the government and we, as individuals, have to be ready to act as well because sooner or later we will have to take part in it.

Concrete Help for our Forests

Here is a concrete way to get into the action as consumers and citizen. Greenpeace just launched its campaign that identifies the companies that are still using the standing trees of Canada to make disposable tissues. You can find the green list of companies that are getting their products from recycling at the following address www.kleenexsosforet.com. If we believe Greenpeace, the one to **avoid** that is best known is **Kleenex**. Cascades, a Quebec pioneer in recycling is well ahead.