

## REGIONAL REPORT – QUÉBEC – AUGUST 2008



### Project Management News from Montreal

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#### **PM Profession News**

Vacation time: an opportunity to demonstrate good project planning skills.

It's summer. The beautiful Montreal's weather in this time of the year encourages many professionals to take one or two weeks off to enjoy life with their families far away from their current projects. Even if accompanied by their smart phones, it's true that projects slow down because of the unavailability of different stakeholders.

This is a great opportunity for project managers to show a good planning ability. Not only because many human resources are not available to execute their activities, but, most important, because they don't take their vacations at the same time. Decision-making processes become more difficult and the tasks are executed more slowly.

Project managers: this is the time to show that you know how to plan well your projects! This time of the year brings to the projects new events that must taken into account in the planning (vacations!), some new constraints (the lack of resources) and some new risks (after all, not everybody decides when to stay two weeks far from the company with much time in advance).

Montreal: this is definitely a good time to show proper project planning, especially when the 95°F can easily pull some stakeholders from their projects for a couple of weeks!

### PMI-Montréal News

In the summer, Montréal chapter prepares its activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Some exciting meetings and presentations are being expected and the big “Project of the Year Prize for 2008” is being organized carefully to exceed the highest levels of expectations.



In the fourth edition of the Élixir award, candidates may submit their projects in five different categories:

- **Construction & Engineering**
- **Manufacturing** (Aerospace, Manufacturing & Transportation)
- **ICT** – Information and Communication Technology
- **Life Sciences** (BioPharm, Natural Health products, Medical Instruments, Public Health, Research)
- **Emerging sectors** (Agriculture, Arts and Culture, Professional services, Tourism, others)

For more information on how to participate, please visit:

<http://www.pmimontreal.org/pmi/site/yearproject.jsp>

Many presentations are also scheduled for the upcoming semester. These meetings are open to members and non-members and the first ones are:

- **On September 3rd** – morning presentation: “**Empower your projects**” (with Rudolf Melik, CEO, Tenrox); presentation in English
- **On September 17th** – evening presentation: “**Apprehending and managing project risks**” (with Frédéric Michel, Principal Director, Service counselling, Risk Management and operation enhancement, KPMG); presentation in French.

For more information about these and other events, please visit:

<http://www.pmimontreal.org>

### News from Big Projects in Montreal Region

## **BOMBARDIER**

One of the big news for the local economy – and particularly for those who seek a new job in the engineering and aerospace field – is the decision taken by Bombardier to produce its “C Series” jets in Québec. This 17.5 billion-revenue global transportation company has its head offices in Montreal and this decision will open over 4,000 new direct jobs in the region.

Despite the fact that a global supply chain is inevitable in these days (the central fuselage must be produced in China), many other local companies will be positively affected by this decision as well. Pratt & Whitney, an important company also located in the Montreal region, will be responsible for the engines, which aims to consume 12% less of carburant and to generate less noise.

The jets will start flying only in 2013, but Bombardier has already signed that it wants to serve 50% of the 100 to 149 seat market – a possible threat for Boeing and Embraer, two of its most important competitors.

### **Other News Affecting Projects & PM**

As just mentioned, Montreal is now experiencing the beauty of the summer. During these months (particularly in July), the city is known by its cultural festivals. This is a good opportunity to felicitate the initiative as a whole but also to think about how the project management profession contributes to this endeavor.

We are used to see how project management benefits IT and engineering projects, but when talking about cultural and art-promoting endeavors, we often forget how important the role of a good project management is. Bringing artists from all around the world, dealing with their agendas, taking different non-usual kinds of risks into consideration, negotiating with sponsors, government agencies and private suppliers...

What we conclude is that... Yes, project management has a vital role in these endeavors. Good planning, proper control and a high level of soft skills are more than needed. The good news is that project managers are getting more and more interested in working in these non-traditional fields and these industries are getting more and more interested in taking advantage of the benefits of the project management profession.

Let's enjoy this summer – not finished yet!. I invite you to visit the websites of some of the most important festivals in Montreal and think about the complexity of the management required to make them the success they've been experiencing so far:

The 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the “**Montreal International Jazz Festival**”: the festival, sponsored by companies like GM and Rio Tinto Alcan, account more than \$6 million in ticket sales for the 725 performances, who were held from June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information:

<http://www.montrealjazzfest.com>



The 26<sup>th</sup> edition of “**Just for Laughs Festival**” (100,000 tickets had already been sold two weeks before the festival begin)

For more information: <http://www.hahaha.com/en/festival/10/>



The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of “**Les Francofolies de Montréal**” (from July the 24<sup>th</sup> to August the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the 250 shows promote the French music in the city). For more information:

[http://www.francofolies.com/Francos2008/accueil\\_en.aspx](http://www.francofolies.com/Francos2008/accueil_en.aspx)



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