

## More than 10,000 members strong...and the number continues to grow

Barely seven months since its inception, the GO5 Coalition has more than 10,000 members... and new inscription forms continue to pour in every day. Membership has been on a constant upsurge since July, 2003, a sign that people are open and responsive to the objectives that the Coalition stands for.

Among the formidable support forces are some 30 federal Members of Parliament and provincial Members of the National Assembly from the various political parties. This group includes:

Françoise Gauthier,  
Agriculture Minister

Mario Dumont,  
Leader of the Action démocratique du Québec party

Georges Farrah,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the federal Agriculture Minister

Recruitment efforts will be intensifying in the coming weeks. As a Coalition member, you are invited to help in this task by signing up new members among your family and friends. Forms are still available on the Coalition web site ([www.go5quebec.ca](http://www.go5quebec.ca)).

If each member signs up two people over the next month, our membership will reach 30,000 by April. With three times as many members, we have triple the chance of being heard!

## The Coalition to be active in various Quebec regions

During the months of March and April, information and awareness activities will be organized in a number of Quebec regions, with public figures in attendance at these sessions. The sessions will serve to publicize the Coalition and explain what it is all about: defending Supply Management. The tour of the regions will be conducted in Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Rimouski, Gatineau, Rouyn-Noranda and Chicoutimi. The tour will end with sessions in Quebec and Montreal at the end of April.

## WTO negotiations: few developments but the threat persists

At a meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council on February 11, member nations were unable to reach an agreement on the date of the next ministerial Conference. This session is to be a follow-up to last October's Cancun Conference. While the chances are slim, there is still a possibility this meeting will be held next December. But, whether there is a ministerial Conference or not, the proposals currently on the table are still unacceptable. They imperil the foundation of Supply Management: effective border controls and an administrated pricing system. So, we need to stay alert!

## An international mobilizing of forces

The threats to Supply Management posed by the WTO negotiations not only concern Quebec and all of Canada. Other countries are hoping, as we are, to make known the values and principles that are fundamental to this agricultural model. This is especially true of developing nations. It's why UPA Développement international (UPA DI), an agriculture cooperative organization, is working with some of these countries toward the creation of a widespread movement for fair agriculture. In the coming months, the Quebec GO5 Coalition will be called on to collaborate with UPA DI to establish closer ties with other organizations in the world that share our concerns. The more the movement is broadened and diversified, the more we will be able to get across our point of view!



*A popular movement for a fair agricultural model: UPA DI strives to inform, create awareness and mobilize a large number of countries that are interested in defending the basic values of supply management.*

## Everyone comes out a winner!

Supply Management, a fair agricultural model...

...for consumers

Dairy products sold in Canada cost far less than they do in the United States. This fact was confirmed in the most recent study conducted in December, 2003, by the Quebec Milk Producers Federation. Actually, a basket of dairy products purchased in Montreal was 11% cheaper than the same basket bought in Burlington, Vermont – and this was in spite of the rising Canadian dollar. The 16 studies of this nature that have been conducted since 1996 show that the price of a basket of dairy products is, on average, 18% cheaper locally than our neighbors to the south. And that's without the subsidies that come from the pockets of American taxpayers to bolster the producers!

...and for producers

Supply Management enables producers to get a better share of the price paid by consumers. It also ensures price stability and everyone benefits: producers as well as the companies that buy agricultural products for transformation purposes.

