

## A keen and active membership

*« Becoming a GO5 coalition member is a simple gesture and one that could have a significant impact. I notice how easy it is to get many people around you interested and aware of the situation: the local agri-food sector is a reality that affects just about everyone. I consider it important for people to get involved. »*

This brief message written in the margin of a registration form, clearly illustrates the pride a person feels in routinely signing up as a member. In fact, coalition membership has continued to grow throughout the summer, and the membership ranks are marked by its diversity.

## Many deputies have become members

**Federal deputies** from (Argenteuil/Papineau/Mirabel, Berthier/Montcalm, Frontenac/Mégantic, Joliette, Kamouraska/Rivière du Loup/Témiscouata/Les Basques, Matapédia/Matane, Repentigny, Rivières-des-MilleÎles, Roberval, St-Hyacinthe/Bagot, Témiscamingue, Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Rimouski, Verchères/Les Patriotes).

**Provincial deputies** from (Abitibi-Ouest, Berthier, Frontenac, Joliette, Masson, l'Assomption, Rivière-du-Loup et Rimouski). Many municipalities and towns, as well as mayors, have also become Coalition supporters.

## Help recruit new members

The GO5 coalition naturally encourages its membership to be actively involved in signing up new members. That is why we have enclosed a membership form with this newsletter that you can use if the opportunity should occur to recruit new members among your circle of friends and acquaintances. In the coming months, members will be regularly informed about events and special occasions where they can act on behalf of maintaining a fair agricultural model and a strong agricultural sector that produces quality food products locally and for local consumption.

## Cancun: the opportunity for sustained media activity

The Cancun meeting provided the opportunity to deploy a sustained communications effort with the media. In all, some 20 media representatives solicited interviews with Coalition spokespersons

from September 9-15. This week of intensive activities was capped by the GO5 representatives conducting a media briefing by teleconference.

At this time, UPA president Laurent Pellerin spoke on the Coalition's behalf, declaring: « This extension will provide us with the opportunity to continue to make the other countries aware of the well-founding of our position. It might also prompt negotiators the world over to wonder about the pertinence of wanting to implement regulations that impact 100% of the world's agriculture while the agricultural products trade affects less than 10% of the world's agricultural production. »



Laurent Pellerin, UPA; Laurent Souigny, CEMA; Claude Lafleur, Coop Fédérée; Jean Grégoire, DFC, at a media event broadcast on the Internet from Cancun on September 9.

## WTO ministerial conference setback in Cancun

Officially, the derailing of the 5th WTO ministerial conference in Cancun was attributed to groups of poor countries. The poor countries expressed their exasperation over the lack of openness to their demands on the part of the rich countries. The talks collapsed over the so-called Singapore issues. Agriculture was thus not directly the cause of the breakdown.

## An unacceptable document...

Regardless of who's at fault, the impasse brings both good news and bad. The bad news is that the Cancun discussions leave models on the negotiating table that are simply unacceptable for agriculture, especially for productions under supply management in Canada. There is nothing in the text that allows us to effectively maintain a

protection of our borders against the dumping of subsidized foreign products. Moreover, new models would prevent producers from obtaining a fair share on the Canadian market.

## ...but we gain some time

The good news is that the negotiations are in intensive care and serious discussions will not be resuming before the U.S. presidential elections in November, 2004. That buys some time for Canada to win support for changes that would enable the maintaining of supply management and to promote the benefits that it brings to all partners in the milk, poultry and egg sectors, as well as to

our respective communities. Undoubtedly, the GO5 coalition will be called on to play an active role in this regard.

## Quebec inspires the rest of Canada. Coalitions based on our model will emerge in the other provinces

On October 6 in Toronto, the general managers of provincial and national supply management producers met for a briefing session on the results of the WTO ministerial conference in Cancun. At this time, the Quebec initiative of creating a coalition was presented. The notion of forming coalitions based on the Quebec model elsewhere in the country was very well received. Their implementation should occur over the coming months in order to promote supply management and support the Canadian government in the next round of negotiations.