

## QUEBEC FEATURED WITHIN A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR GERMAN TEACHERS

Quebec was featured on April 9th and 10th, 2010, in Bremen, Germany, as the main subject of a major professional development training program designed for French as Foreign Language teachers in lycées (secondary level institutions) in Bremen and Lower Saxony. Over 250 teachers were able to familiarize themselves with various aspects of Quebec's culture and society. This event was made possible through the collaboration of the Bremen Institute of Canada and Quebec Studies, the Land and City of Bremen—including the government establishment in charge of education and sciences, the Land Institute for Schools—the Lüneburg and Osnabrück School Boards of the Land of Lower Saxony, the French Institute in Bremen, the German Federation of French Teachers, the Association internationale des études québécoises (AIEQ), the Délégation générale du Québec à Munich and the University of Bremen, with its Department of Languages, literature and French and francophone culture. This event allowed 22 workshops offering various format and contents to take place, which were presented by guest speakers from Quebec and Germany. For instance, participants were given the opportunity to test their knowledge about Quebec through a quiz prepared and presented by Ms. Helga Bories-Sawala, Director of the Bremen Institute of Canadian and Quebec Studies. They were also introduced to Quebec based pop band “Les Colocs” and were able to attend workshops that addressed among others, the history of social and political engagement in Quebec, the contemporary theatre in Quebec and a wealth of other topics.

Canada and Quebec enjoy both excellent reputations in Germany, for a number of reasons. According to the Bremen Institute of Canadian and Quebec Studies' website, Canada's ranking internationally in terms of standard of living, the efficiency of its social and education systems, the relatively harmonious integration of newcomers, the guaranteed rights and freedoms for minorities, the anti-discriminatory laws, the importance of tolerance, citizen engagement, pacifism and democracy for Canadians, all these make learning more about Canada quite attractive, as well as its complex colonial French and British history, First Nations heritage, the relations sometimes strained between the Anglophone majority and Francophone minorities—which is in turn a majority in Quebec. And lastly, Canada benefits from one of the most innovative and renowned cultural scene in the world, whether in visual arts, theatre, circus, dance, music or literature. Elements included are drawn from Europe as well as other countries of the Global Village; this result in a uniquely Canadian product, which in Quebec, bears its own distinctiveness.

For further details regarding the Bremen Institute of Canadian and Quebec Studies, visit website <http://www.fb10.uni-bremen.de/bikqs/default.aspx>.