

For Immediate Release

5th Edition of the *24 hours of Science* on the theme: «In the Heart of Biodiversity»

Two renowned biologists are spokespersons in 2010

(Montreal, February 24th 2010) – For the 5th edition of the Quebec *24 hours of science*, two scientists who devote themselves to the conservation of biodiversity will be spokespersons to promote this event that celebrates science throughout Quebec. From Friday noon, May 7th 2010, overnight at the same time, will be held about 200 various activities for youth, families, adults and seniors.

Mrs. Anne Charpentier, holder of two master's degrees in Biology and Museology, is director of the Montreal Insectarium. She was part of the team that designed the original Biodome and also led the renewal of exhibitions at the Biosphère from 2003 to 2005. For her involvement in science museology, she was granted in 2005 the award for Outstanding Contribution from the Canadian Association of Science Centers. The Insectarium is one of the Montréal's Nature Museums which are deeply involved in the celebrations of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, as proclaimed by the United Nations. This museum has an exceptional collection of insects and helps to «accompany humans to better live nature» by raising people's interest in biodiversity and the role of insects.

As for the other spokesperson, the biologist Dominique Berteaux dedicates his research in the field of animal behavior and effects of climate change on biodiversity. He has pursued doctoral and post-doctoral studies at Universities of Sherbrooke, Laval and Alberta before teaching at McGill University. He is now Chair of Research of Canada's Northern Ecosystem Conservation at the University of Quebec at Rimouski, where he also directs the Research Group on the BOREAS northern environments. He sees himself as a science explorer and is always enthusiastic about the richness of all life forms. He is also concerned about the effects of human activities on ecosystems, including the Canadian Arctic. His work has been recognized as Discovery of the Year by the Québec Science Magazine in 2003.

The two spokespersons are strongly concerned by this year's *24 hours of science's* thematic: "In the Heart of Biodiversity. «It reflects both the deep attachment we have developed for other forms of lives, as well as the sometimes harmful effects of humans on biodiversity and the importance of all forms of life for the very survival of Human on Earth.» Life in urban areas, where 80% of Quebecers live, and the lack of contact with nature does not favour among the population awareness of our lifestyle's impacts on the conservation of biodiversity. It is threatened by climate change, invasive exotic species, habitat destruction through pollution and urbanization, as well as by overexploitation of some species or habitats and the pressure of the ever-increasing human population.

The *24 hours of science* Programme that will be available online from April 1st 2010 on www.science24heures.com will include events for everybody's tastes across Quebec. In addition to museums and interpretive centers, many public and private schools, laboratories, research centers and hospitals, scientific leisure associations offer various interesting activities, which are, for the vast majority of them, free of charge. Some last only an hour, others, all night. This event is truly a celebration of science to which everyone is invited. It is organized by Science for All, the Quebec network of scientific and technological culture.

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For information and / or interviews with spokespersons:

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