



PRESS RELEASE
TO BE PUBLISHED ON JUNE 17 2009

THE MRC D'ARGENTEUIL IS PROUD TO HONOUR ITS GRADUATE FIREFIGHTERS

Lachute, June 17 2009 – It is with great pride that the MRC d'Argenteuil officially presented diplomas to 76 firefighters who successfully completed the Firefighter 1, Automobile Extrication and Officer 1 courses. Ceremonies were held on June 15 at the Saint-André-d'Argenteuil Town Hall for the firefighters of Saint-André-d'Argenteuil, Brownsburg-Chatham and Lachute, June 16 at the Gore Community Hall for the firefighters of Gore, Mille-Isles and Wentworth and June 17 at the Grenville Town Hall for the firefighters of Grenville, Grenville-sur-la-Rouge and Harrington.

Under the honorary presidency of the MRC's warden Mr. Daniel Beaulieu, the director general of the *École nationale des pompiers du Québec* (ENPQ), Mr. Michel Richer presented more than 84 diplomas to firefighters of the MRC d'Argenteuil, under the watchful eyes of their families and elected officials.

The MRC d'Argenteuil presented its framework project for fire safety coverage in accordance with Article 20 of the Fire Safety Act to the minister of Public Health, Mr. Jacques Dupuis who issued the Certification of Compliance for the framework in August 2005. As of that date, the MRC is in the implementation phase of the measures to reach the 8 objectives of its framework for safety coverage. These measures include the upgrading of training for firefighters and officers of the 9 Fire Safety Services of the MRC d'Argenteuil, which is a critical issue. Thus, the MRC entered into an agreement on September 11 2006 with the ENPQ to manage the training on its territory. The MRC d'Argenteuil can now offer training sessions accredited by the ENPQ according to the demand and need of member municipalities.

"Because of this initiative from the MRC d'Argenteuil and its member municipalities, firefighters are now better equipped to face the dangers presented by their trade" said Mr. Beaulieu.

Mr. Richer hopes that other MRC's will follow the lead of the MRC d'Argenteuil: "Numerous unfortunate accidents will be prevented when these measures are applied throughout Québec, explains Mr. Richer." "The ENPQ strongly encourages such initiatives – remember that the lives of our firefighters and of all our citizens are affected."

Mr. Sylvain Modérie, Fire Safety Coordinator for the MRC d'Argenteuil and responsible for the application of this agreement mentioned that because of this agreement, it is now easier for firefighters of local municipalities to receive the proper training in order to carry on their trade safely.

-30-

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