



Gaston Huot Receives Peter Bennett Award 2011



Gaston Huot, president of Réseau de l'Informatique Municipale du Québec (RIMQ), has been honoured with the 2011 Peter Bennett Award.

Credited as being instrumental in ensuring the participation of Quebec municipalities in MISA/ASIM Canada through RIMQ, Huot was presented with Canada's highest municipal IT award May 16 during the Lac Carling

Congress in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Huot serves as the director of information technology for four municipalities on the south side of the St. Lawrence River opposite Montreal: Boucherville, Brossard, Saint-Bruno and Saint-Lambert. He has been a leader in establishing a unique partnership among those municipalities since voters decided several years ago to reconstitute their cities, which had formerly been amalgamated.

Huot has led many projects that have transformed service delivery for his municipalities and has been an innovative influence in Quebec's municipal IT association. President of RIMQ since September 2010, he has been a member of the RIMQ board of directors for 15 years, including two terms as vice president

Huot was a founding member of MISA/ASIM Canada in 2006 and is a consistent advocate for, and supporter of, MISA/ASIM Canada within Quebec. He has helped to develop MISA/ASIM Canada's strategic plan and is the francophone editor for Municipal Interface.

"In all cases, Gaston has made a substantial contribution in ensuring that the interests of Quebec municipalities and the francophone community are represented in MISA/ASIM Canada and other forums, while at the same time embracing a larger vision of how municipalities from all parts of Canada can work together," Maurice Gallant, president of MISA/ASIM Canada, said in making the award presentation.

Highlights from Huot's 35-year career in public-sector IT include:

- Prix Quebecois Hommages 2001 for Brossard Interactif, described as the first client-service Web portal in Quebec;
- GTEC Distinction award for Brossard Interactif;
- GTEC Distinction award for Clic Brossard, a virtual business centre, developed in partnership with the Brossard business community;
- Negotiated an agreement with a private-sector provider to implement a life events portal for Brossard, the first such project in Quebec;

- Developed and established a program to implement wi-fi access in 27 public buildings and 20 public spaces within his municipalities;
- Developed an architecture for a fibre-optic network connecting locations throughout Longueuil.

“In all of these activities, Gaston has displayed outstanding leadership and a spirit of partnership, respect and collaboration that is found in only a few,” Gallant said. “These characteristics are the very essence of the Peter Bennett Award, and there isn’t a more deserving recipient than Gaston Huot.”

The Peter Bennett Award is presented to an individual making an outstanding contribution to the Canadian municipal IT community and to the MISA/ASIM Canada mission and objectives, while exemplifying Peter Bennett’s spirit of demonstrated leadership combined with humour and humanity. Bennett, a municipal IT pioneer from Winnipeg, died in 2005.