

Mutualism and Cooperation

SSQ Foundation

Questions addressed to us by our readers:

- Can you provide any information about the SSQ Foundation?
- Which organizations have benefited from its intervention?
- How can I make a request for assistance to the Foundation?

These are all very interesting questions about the SSQ Foundation, and I am very pleased to be able to provide the answers to these questions as follows.

SSQ Foundation

Some of you must think that the SSQ Foundation is some kind of phantom entity, as we don't hear much talk about it. Well, that may be true, but there is actually a good reason... the Foundation is presently in a period where it is raising capital. Therefore, it is not currently carrying out any operations because in order to be able to intervene effectively, it must first raise enough funds to support organizations seeking assistance with the income it realizes through investment of the funds raised.

In actual fact, to date the only intervention the Foundation has carried out has been offering part of the *Maison SSQ*'s facilities to the organization *Pignon Bleu* for its use (located in the Saint-Sauveur district of Quebec City).

The SSQ Foundation was created in 1996 by SSQ, Life Insurance Company Inc., which gave itself approximately ten years to raise the capital required for the Foundation to be able to function on its own. The goals of the Foundation were established at the time it was created, namely :

- to provide encouragement and financial support to charitable organizations;
- to raise funds and collect donations, legal bequests and other contributions—and to effectively manage these contributions to fulfil the first goal.

Each business component of SSQ Financial Group is a member of SSQ Foundation and, as such, makes an annual financial contribution to its efforts to raise capital.

Donation policy of SSQ, Life Insurance Company Inc.

Given the above, it follows that organizations receiving financial assistance from SSQ Financial Group actually receive these funds directly from SSQ, Life Insurance Company Inc. The latter is committed to donating 1% of its net earnings after taxes to charitable donations. An official donation policy was developed (available on our intranet site) establishing guidelines for the distribution of donations to various different sectors: