

Mutualism and Cooperation

Cool... An article about the CJSSQ

What is the CJSSQ? That's what many of our readers have been asking us! So, not wanting to step down from a challenge, we decided to find out and managed to get an interview with two of SSQ's most well-known personalities who, respectively, are none other than the "creator" and the sponsor of the CJSSQ – **Ève Giard**, Corporate Secretary and Director of Corporate Communications, and **Yves Demers**, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Reflets SSQ: Good morning, Ève. Where did the idea of creating the CJSSQ come from?

Ève: The first time I heard about YSC's - youth service cooperatives – was when studying for my Masters in cooperative development and management. These types of co-ops are formed in the summer by groups of young people, and they are mainly organized by individual municipalities or neighbourhoods. When I started working for SSQ, I was looking for a concrete, practical way to promote co-ops, and I had the idea of creating a YSC within SSQ itself, involving the children of SSQ employees.

CJSSQ means "Coopérative Jeunesse SSQ", the SSQ Youth Cooperative. It's a co-op made up of children of SSQ employees for the summer period. These young people will be responsible for everything involved in getting the co-op off the ground, from A to Z. They'll be responsible for forming a board of directors, deciding the services they'll be offering to SSQ employees, organizing promotions, sales and even managing their own work schedules.

What does this project aim to achieve, and who will be a part of it?

My first objective was to promote the cooperative way of thinking. But this project now has all kinds of other objectives, such as to:

- Encourage young people to become more aware of their capacities and collective responsibility;
- Enable them to adapt to their surroundings and influence others through their needs and ambitions;
- Encourage young people to develop leadership skills and the ability to work autonomously;
- Promote values such as solidarity, fairness and democracy;
- Etc.