FISM

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Magiques
International Federation of Magic Societies

FISM Newsletter

No. 156 – JANUARY 10th, 2025

To all Presidents of the FISM member societies and Delegates in the General Assembly

Dear President, Dear Friend in Magic,

It's a pleasure to keep you informed on our latest developments and projects.

FISM WCM 2028

The application of Québec City, Quebec, Canada, to organize the FISM World Championships of Magic in 2028 gave rise to a site inspection. I am pleased to share with you hereinafter the report of this visit.

Best regards,

Andrea Baioni
International President

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Site Inspection Report

Québec City, Canada, December 4th-7th, 2024

Inspector: **Andrea Baioni**, FISM International President

Attending: **Peter Din,** FISM International Vice President

Purpose: Evaluation of Québec City's facilities and services for hosting the FISM World Championships of Magic in 2028

At the request of: **Renée-Claude Auclair,** President of the Club de Magie du Québec

Hosts: During the visit, the delegation was hosted by Renée-Claude Auclair, President of the Club de Magie du Québec and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, and Pierre Hammon, co-organizers of the bid for Québec City. They were also joined by:

- Mr. Jocelyn Guertin, Sales Manager, U.S. and international markets, Québec City Convention Centre
- Mr. Martin Genest, Artistic Director
- Mr. Philippe Dupont, Sales Manager, International Market, Québec Destination affaires
- Mr. Sébastien Theriault, Delta Hotel Marriott, Senior Sales Executive
- Mr. Yan Lapointe-Bourassa, Sales Coordinator, Hôtel Manoir Victoria
- Mrs. Claudine Paradis, Hilton Québec, Account Manager
- Mr. Simon Lachance, Coordinator, the Palais Montcalm
- Mr. Steve Labrie, General Manager, the Diamant Theatre

The site inspection was well-organized. We visited the Québec City Convention Centre which hosted the FISM WCM 2022 (you can find the report of the site inspection in our FISM Newsletter 38.)

The Québec City Convention Centre

The Québec City Convention Centre remains an excellent venue for the FISM World Championships. It is a state-of-the-art facility equipped with advanced technological systems and modular spaces for competitions, gala shows, dealer's rooms, banquets and lectures. A significant improvement from the 2022 event will be the optimization of spatial layouts to enhance the participant and visitor experience.

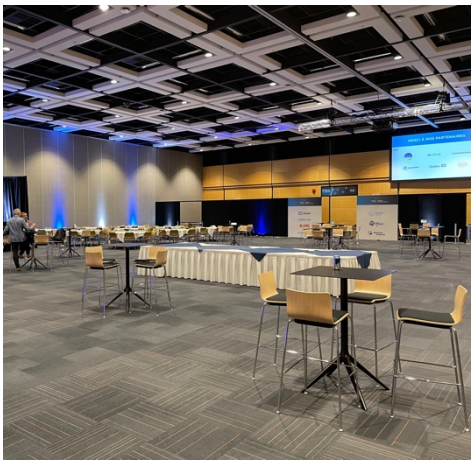




Specific highlights include:

- A theatre accommodating 2,400 people for gala performances.
- A close up competition theatre seating 1,200 attendees, equipped with tiered seating and superior audiovisual systems.
- A dealer village designed to house 120 stands, creating a lively and interactive environment close to the main theatre.

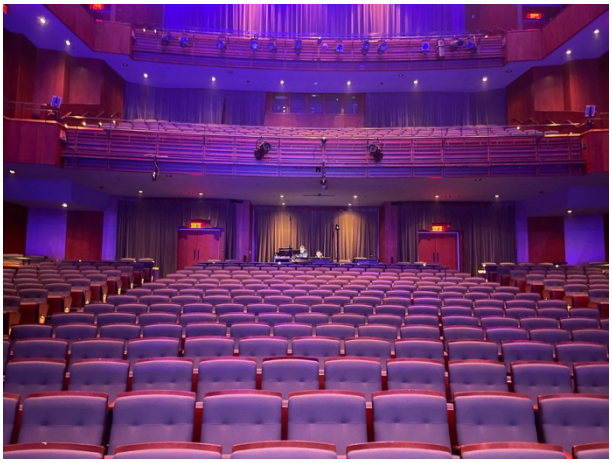




The organizers plan to enhance the participant experience by structuring spaces to create an intimate and friendly atmosphere.

Proposals also include potential use of venues like the Palais Montcalm and the Diamant Theatre and for specific events for laymen or Out-of-Convention events.





Québec City

Québec City, located on the Saint Lawrence River, offers a unique blend of North American and European cultures. Known for its social life, the city combines a village-like atmosphere with a bustling urban setting. With a population of over 550,000 inhabitants, the city hosts numerous festivals and cultural events throughout the year that make the streets come alive. Québec City is recognized as one of the safest cities in North America.

Time zone

The city operates in the Eastern Standard Time zone (UTC/GMT -5 hours).

Currency

The currency in Québec is the Canadian dollar (CAD). As of November 2024, the exchange rate was approximately 1 EUR = 1.46 CAD and 1 USD = 1.33 CAD. International credit cards are widely accepted across the city, and ATMs are readily available for cash withdrawals in Canadian dollars. Tipping is customary in Québec; a 15-20% tip is generally expected at restaurants, while hotel staff and taxi drivers usually receive smaller gratuities depending on the level of the service provided.

Climate and temperature

In July, Québec experiences average daytime temperatures between 18°C and 25°C, occasionally reaching as high as 34°C during heatwaves. While rainfall is possible, it is an ideal month for outdoor activities.

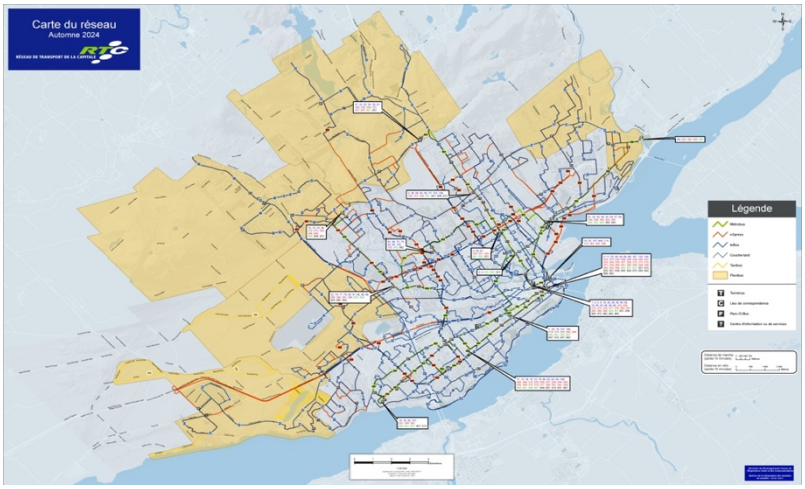
Language

French is the official language, but most residents are bilingual and fluent in English, which makes communication easier for international visitors.

Transportation

Québec City is easily accessible through Jean Lesage International Airport, which offers direct flights from major cities such as Paris and London during summer. The airport is a 20-minute drive from the downtown area, with transport options including buses (approximately $3.50 CAD) and taxis (about $25.00 CAD).

U.S. customs clearance is now available at the Québec City Airport, facilitating smoother international arrivals. The organizers are working closely with the customs authorities to ensure seamless entry for attendees.



Other information

Québec City follows the metric system, making it convenient for international visitors familiar with this standard. The electrical voltage is 120 volts at 60 Hz, and type A and B sockets are used. Visitors should bring appropriate adapters if necessary.

Public offices and banks typically operate from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Some branches may extend their hours on Thursdays. Shops generally open between 9:30 AM and 10:00 AM and close at 9:00 PM from Monday to Friday. On weekends, most stores operate between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

HOTELS

Québec City offers a wide range of accommodations within a 15-minute walk from the convention centre. Over 3,000 rooms are available, with prices ranging from $62.00 CAD for budget options to $200 CAD for mid-range hotels. According to booking.com data for November 2024, there are approximately 350 hotels listed in Québec City, offering a variety of accommodations. Additionally, there are several Bed and Breakfast options, with prices starting around $50.00 CAD per night for budget-friendly stays. The organizers have established agreements with the following hotels to offer favorable rates for congress participants:

- Hilton Québec: adjacent to the convention centre, offering premium services
- Delta Hotel Marriott: just a block away for those preferring familiar hotel chains
- Hotel Manoir Victoria: a charming, well-located option with excellent service

The delegates stayed at the Delta Hotel, which is directly connected to the convention centre via a tunnel. Since 2022, several meeting rooms and some guest rooms have been renovated, and the lobby has been relocated from the first floor to the ground floor. The hotel offers a good breakfast and an excellent bar. Current rates for the Delta Hotel start at approximately $180 CAD per night.

SUPPORT

The organizers are assured of the support and sponsorship of the administrative and government authorities.

During the site inspection the delegates FISM met the authorities, in particular:

- Mr. Jocelyn Guertin, Sales Manager, U.S. and international markets, Québec City Convention Centre and
- Mr. Philippe Dupont, Sales Manager, International Market, Québec Destination affaires.

Conclusion

After assessing the cultural richness of Québec City, the facilities offered by the Québec City Convention Centre, and the support extended by local authorities and businesses, Québec City has given us every necessary guarantee to be considered as a worthy candidate to organize the FISM 2028.

The organizers will specify their final and best choice in their Bid Book during the General Assembly in July 2025.

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