

# Members' Guide to the Québec Centre for Biodiversity Science (QCBS)



## Introduction to the QCBS



Launched in February 2009, the QCBS is a strategic **research network** comprised of researchers and their students from eight Quebec universities, a public organization, and a governmental department. The centre is funded by FQRNT as well as several university partners.

The **objective** of the QCBS is to foster the emergence of an integrated science of biodiversity within Québec by facilitating new collaborations amongst researchers and with private and public sectors of Québec society concerned about biodiversity, and by providing training in biodiversity science at all levels of university education.

The QCBS research axes and themes provide a network structure that initially clusters researchers around three **core axes** representing active fields in biodiversity science.

**Axis 1: Discovering biodiversity** 🌍

**Axis 2: Linking biodiversity to ecosystems** 🌍

**Axis 3: Management and adaptation to biodiversity change** 🌍

Within each research axis are three to four research **themes**. Each axis has a scientific coordinator, and each theme has a theme leader. These researcher clusters facilitate collaboration and training in the short term.

The QCBS team and funding opportunities foster the creation of new links. Over time, the network of collaborations that emerges within and between axes is expected to depart from the initial 'seed' structure. The QCBS is therefore also a **dynamic social network** that is fostered by our communication tools and opportunities.

## Who comprises the QCBS?



The heart of the QCBS is its network of **members** 🌍. There are currently 76 QCBS researchers. Non-member collaborators 🌍, who come from academic institutions within and outside of Québec as well as government institutions, are also involved in QCBS research.

The several hundred **students and postdocs** of QCBS researchers are also members of the QCBS and are invited to take advantage of the resources described below.

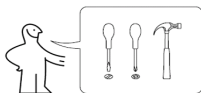
The **QCBS staff** includes

- Andrew Gonzalez, Director
- Philippe Auzel, Coordinator, who oversees the Centre's ongoing activities
- Helen Elina, Administrative Associate

Three **Research Professionals** 🌍, who help develop collaborative research, contribute to student training, facilitate network development, and participate in outreach:

- Annie Archambault, Research Professional for Axis 1
- Guillaume Larocque, Research Professional for Axis 2
- Jessica Levine, Research Professional for Axis 3
- Several undergraduate and graduate work-study students provide web, translation, and research support.

## Communication tools



The **QCBS website** ([www.qcbs.ca](http://www.qcbs.ca) 🌍) is a comprehensive source of information about research projects, funding and training opportunities, the members, and relevant news.

The **QCBS monthly newsletter** 🌍 provides timely information about research, funding and training opportunities, events of interest, and happenings in the QCBS office.

The **Biodiv Forum** ([www.qcbs.ca/forum](http://www.qcbs.ca/forum) 🌍) is a resource for the QCBS community. The restricted access forums exist to promote the exchange of information and documents among members of Working Groups and Seed Grants.

Le Beagle is the **QCBS blog** ([lebeagle.tumblr.com](http://lebeagle.tumblr.com) 🌍) on all topics related to biodiversity science. Comments and contributions from QCBS members are invited in English or French.

## Resources for QCBS researchers



**QCBS team:** A major role of the QCBS Research Professionals is to help members develop collaborative biodiversity science research. Interested in initiating a new research project in biodiversity science? Contact the Research Professional(s) for the Research Axis(es) with which the project is most closely associated for assistance (e.g., identifying potential collaborators and funding sources and organizing meetings).

**QCBS research network:** The primary resource for a QCBS member is the network itself. Members are encouraged to contact each other to pursue new research projects.

**Funding:** Two types of grants are available to foster new collaborative research. Calls for applications are announced in the newsletter and on the QCBS website.

**Working Groups:** QCBS working groups provide one to two years of funding to facilitate new research between QCBS researchers. There is one call for Working Groups per year, with applications due on March 1, though members may contact the QCBS if an opportunity arises at a different time. Amount: up to **\$10,000 per group per year**.

**Seed grants:** QCBS seed grants are intended to catalyze new research initiatives by providing funding to develop research projects and seek larger funding from other sources. There is one call for Seed Grants per year, with applications due on April 30, though members may contact the QCBS if an opportunity arises outside of this cycle. Amount: up to **\$5,000 per project**.

## Resources for students and post-docs



**Funding:** Two types of awards are available for QCBS students and post-docs:

**Excellence awards:** QCBS student excellence awards provide funding to support participation in training workshops and courses and travel to conferences. Awards are offered three times per year, with application deadlines of March 1, September 15 and December 15. Amount: up to **\$2,500** per award.

**International internships:** FQRNT international internships are available for graduate students wishing to participate in an international internship. Between 2011 and 2014, four awards will be offered for QCBS students. The application deadline is March 1. Amount: up to **\$15,000**.

**Summer school:** Open to all QCBS graduate students and postdocs, the QCBS Biodiversity Science Summer School provides a high-level overview of concepts, methods and questions related to many aspects of biodiversity science. Excellence Awards can help offset the cost of the summer school.

**Training workshops:** Beginning in spring of 2011, the Research Professionals will start offering a variety of training workshops focused on methods in biodiversity science such as programming in R and GIS, which will be announced on the website and in the newsletter.

**Biodiversity course database:** The QCBS team is developing a database of Québec courses in biodiversity science, which will be accessible through the website when complete.

## Annual symposium



Each fall the QCBS hosts a three-day **symposium** for its members and students, other researchers, government, the private sector, NGOs, the media, and other interested citizens. The symposium includes presentations, panel discussions, opportunities for students to present their research, as well as unstructured time for networking.

## Contact us



**QCBS Director:** Andrew Gonzalez

**Administrative or financial questions:** Philippe Auzel or Helen Elina

**Research-related questions,** news to share: Annie Archambault, Guillaume Larocque, Jessica Levine (Axis 3)