

A clear vision for the future of the PBUQ

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Quebec university libraries (*Bibliothèques universitaires du Québec* (BUQ)) have been working together for the past 55 years. In 2017, the Shared Services Platform (SSP) project and the grant from the Ministry of Higher Education that supported it, allowed the BUQs to bring this collaboration to an intensity never seen before, under the auspices of the *Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire* (BCI). The BUQs have expressed their desire to continue this collaboration and even expand it to other areas.

In winter and spring 2022, the ad hoc working group on the governance of the *Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec* (PBUQ) analyzed different scenarios for a new governance model for the PBUQ to ensure it can fully and effectively fulfill its mission. On June 10, the report of the working group was submitted to BCI's Board of Directors, consisting of the heads of the 18 universities.

During this session and in light of the report's recommendations, the Board of Directors decided that the PBUQ will be constituted as an entity and will be attached to an academic institution that will provide administrative services to the PBUQ and act as its agent. The choice of the institution will be announced in the coming weeks. The PBUQ will no longer be administratively attached to the BCI. The details of the governance of this entity will be defined in the coming months.

The objective is to prepare for this transformation by May 1, 2023, and to do so, four main action areas have been identified:

1. The signing of an agreement between the PBUQ and the appointed institution, to firmly anchor this relationship.
2. The drafting of PBUQ bylaws and regulations, including its new governance, to give it the means to collaborate effectively.
3. The consolidation of the support team, to support the many shared services and projects.
4. The migration of BCI staff, tools and current activities to the appointed institution, for an effective start-up on May 1, 2023.

Over the next eight months, we will communicate with you again about these major changes. In the meantime, the PBUQ continues to operate, committees and working groups remain active, and the various processes related to our common services remain the same.

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