

## ÉCOF rises from the ashes

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Early in the morning on January 16, 2004, the building in Trois-Rivières that housed ÉCOF and about a dozen community groups was ravaged by fire.

Luckily, there was no one in the building when an overheated electrical thermostat melted and burned, sparking the fire that spread quickly.

ÉCOF's third floor offices were destroyed and the organization lost everything -- incorporation papers, accounting, computers, and files.

"One can never replace all the work of many years... 10 years of action," said Caroline Lachance, following the fire. "[But] the reassuring thing is that ÉCOF was built by the potential of people who work there much more than by materials and papers. We will roll up our sleeves and rebuild."



"It's a tragedy, but we have already moved on to the rebuilding stage and are working to relocate very quickly."

Caroline and the staff at ÉCOF are busily preparing for the national CED conference they are hosting in Trois-Rivières from May 19 - 22, 2004.

We offer ÉCOF and its partner organizations our support and solidarity and very best wishes as they rebuild.

For more on ÉCOF, see their website at [www.ecof.qc.ca](http://www.ecof.qc.ca) or read the latest Caledon paper on this innovative organization [here](#).



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