



**Chambre de commerce
du Montréal métropolitain
Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal**

November 17, 2004

Mr. Claude Dauphin
Member of the Executive Committee
City of Montreal
275 Notre-Dame Street East, Suite 1.110
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1C6

Dear Mr. Dauphin:

On behalf of its some 7,000 members, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal was deeply interested to learn of plans to build a commuter train station on the Montreal-Blainville line in the Acadie-Chabanel area.

For the Board of Trade, this area of the city is a major employment hub for the metropolis since it is home to more than 1,000 companies providing employment for almost 20,000 people in various sectors of activity. The clothing industry alone accounts for 500 companies employing more than 11,000 people. And this sector faces strong international competition.

According to the Board of Trade, the construction of a train station would improve the competitiveness of this economic centre by increasing the mobility of workers in this sector and that of residents in the Montreal-Blainville corridor from the Laval and North shore regions. In addition, such an infrastructure would help attract new investors, making this strategic sector of the city – located near important road axes and major infrastructures such as the central market (Place des maraîchers) and the Acadie industrial park - more innovative, competitive, and diversified. Such a project would also encourage neighbouring stakeholders as well as the various levels of government to implement structuring projects aiming to redevelop this destructured area.

For all of these reasons, particularly because of its value as an economic lever, the Board of Trade believes the construction of a train station within the Acadie-Chabanel area would be a success factor promoting both the competitiveness and the diversification of companies in this economic centre and the redevelopment of the sector.

Please be assured that the Board of Trade shares the city's concerns regarding the economic vitality of the Acadie-Chabanel sector.

Best regards,

Benoit Labonté
President and CEO