



**Chambre de commerce
du Montréal métropolitain**

Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal

July 21, 2004

The Honourable Ralph E. Goodale
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Minister:

On behalf of the 7,000 members of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal and myself, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election as MP for the Wascana riding and the renewal of your mandate as Finance Minister, and to extend our best wishes for your success.

The Board of Trade's primary mission is the economic development of metropolitan Montreal. Through its representations and many specialized services offered to the greater business community, the Board of Trade aims to help make companies more competitive, primarily through innovation and improved productivity.

As the largest private organization in Quebec devoted to economic development, the Board of Trade is naturally interested in many issues, including the renewal of urban infrastructures, public transit, housing, health care, and the funding of cities. In this regard, we are pleased to enclose a copy of the Policy statement for the development of the City of Montreal issued by the Board of Trade in March 2002, presenting five major points the Board of Trade considers vital to the development of Greater Montreal.

In pursuing the objective of increasing the prosperity and competitiveness of metropolitan Montreal and its companies, the Board of Trade would like to assure you of its full and entire cooperation as a contributing and responsible player. In this spirit, the Board of Trade will maintain its tradition by forwarding to you a series of recommendations related to the next budget, for which you will be responsible, by next January. The Board of Trade would also be delighted to welcome you to its forum so that you may share with the business community your objectives regarding the management of Canada's public finances.

Once again, Mr. Minister, please accept our warmest congratulations.

With highest regards,

Benoit Labonté
President and CEO

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