



**Chambre de commerce
du Montréal métropolitain**

Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal

July 21, 2004

The Honourable James Scott Peterson
Minister of International Trade
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 Willowdale riding and the renewal of your mandate as Minister for International Trade, 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, both within Canada and in international markets.

The economic success of Quebec and metropolitan Montreal – the source of 70% of Quebec exports – is closely tied to that of their companies in export markets. It is with a view to promoting this success that the Board of Trade – through its service branch the World Trade Centre Montréal – offers a full range of services enabling it to support the export efforts of hundreds of Quebec companies each year. The Board of Trade would thus be delighted to explore with your department any form of cooperation allowing it to further expand the scope of its activities.

As the largest private organization in Quebec devoted to economic development, the Board of Trade is naturally interested in many other 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.

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

With highest regards,

Benoit Labonté
President and CEO

Encl. 1