



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

September 1, 2005

Mr. Jean J. Charest
Premier of Quebec
Honoré-Mercier Building
835 René-Lévesque Boulevard East, 3rd floor
Quebec City, Quebec G1A 1B4

Dear Mr. Premier:

The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal accords the utmost importance to the sound governance of metropolitan Montreal. As such, I would like to share with you our serious concerns about certain orientations that your government may adopt with respect to the composition of the Agglomeration Council of the Island of Montreal.

In this regard, I would like to let you know that I regularly communicate with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions, Nathalie Normandeau, sharing with her our concerns and the details of our thinking process. Because of the important role it will play, we consider the Agglomeration Council a major issue both for the development of the Island of Montreal and for the democratic will expressed by its citizens. We also believe that this Council should serve the best interests of the agglomeration and must therefore function equitably for everyone.

As Cabinet is about to make major decisions that will have a decisive impact on Montreal's future, I would like to briefly reiterate the rationale behind our position and the firmness of our convictions.

First, we believe it vital to respect the informed choices made in the referendums of June 20, 2004, by the citizens who decided to uphold the mergers as well as by those who opted for demerging. The Board of Trade thus opposes any derogation from the spirit of Bill 9 (and its follow-up legislation, Bill 75) that runs counter to the information conveyed to the electorate during the referendum campaign. We believe that if it is fitting in a democracy to give citizens a voice, it is necessary to respect that voice. For us, this means that the parameters in effect when a vote is taken should not be changed after the fact.

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That said, beyond the technical arrangements that enable our democratic institutions to function, the real issue at hand here is the future of Quebec, whose prosperity is directly tied to the full and sound development of Greater Montreal. And in order to give Montreal the means required to create wealth and maximize its potential, we must not allow it to be hobbled by decision-making authorities that carry within their genetic makeup the DNA of paralysis.

We hope you share our views on the need for an efficient governance structure.

With highest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabelle Hudon'.

Isabelle Hudon
President and CEO

c.c. Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions
Gérald Tremblay, Mayor, City of Montreal