

New budget allocation for Québec religious heritage restoration efforts

Montréal, October 6, 2009 – Christine St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, today announced a new budget allocation to fund religious heritage restoration in Québec. The grant awarded to the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec for fiscal 2009–2010 is \$23,285,000. This new funding will allow the restoration of 126 religious heritage buildings across the province. The announcement was made in the presence of Conseil President Michel Lavoie and Auxiliary Bishop of Québec Msgr. Paul Lortie.

Of this amount, \$3,285,000, spread over three years, has been earmarked for major work on the Carmelite monastery in Montréal, including restoration of the masonry, the roof structure, the parvis and the interior architecture of the chapel.

This financial aid aims to support initiatives to restore buildings that are part of Québec's religious heritage, as well as the furnishings, works of art and organs inside them. Since 1995, the Government of Québec has invested \$222 million in this sector, and this initiative has spurred additional private investment of nearly \$100 million. This in turn has enabled the maintaining of, and in fact an increase in, the presence of religious heritage buildings among Québec's tourism attractions. Today's announcement is a major show of support for the many local communities that are dedicated to safeguarding their religious heritage.

"For the past 14 years, the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec has nurtured a partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women that speaks to the Government's willingness to work with communities and encourage them to take greater ownership of their heritage," Mr. Lavoie said, adding: "The decentralized collaborative infrastructure established by the Conseil is an avant-garde approach and we are more than satisfied with its impact on religious heritage."

The Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec is a province-wide non-profit organization. Its mission, is, among other things, to support and promote conservation and enhancement of Québec's religious heritage.

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