

2011–2012 budget appropriation for Québec religious heritage restoration efforts

Montréal, November 8, 2011 — Québec’s Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, Christine St-Pierre, today announced a new budget appropriation to fund religious heritage restoration efforts in the province. For fiscal 2011–2012, the grant awarded to the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec is \$14 million. This new funding will allow 83 restoration projects all across the province to proceed. The announcement was made in the presence of Conseil President Michel Lavoie and the Auxiliary Bishop of Québec, Msgr. Paul Lortie.

“For the past 16 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. “The Conseil employs a highly progressive, decentralized collaborative infrastructure, and we are more than pleased to see how it is benefiting religious heritage.”

During 2011–2012, \$12,959,440 of the grant amount will go toward the restoration of 74 places of worship and other religious buildings dating from before 1945 and deemed to have significant heritage value. A further \$665,560 has been earmarked for restoration of organs, artworks and furnishings inside those buildings.

This financial aid supports initiatives to restore buildings that are part of Québec’s religious heritage, as well as the furnishings, works of art and organs inside them. The Government of Québec has invested \$254 million in this area since 1995, and its initiative has spurred additional private investment of nearly \$100 million. This in turn has enabled the maintaining of, and indeed an increase in, the number of religious buildings on the list of the province’s tourist attractions. Today’s announcement is a major show of support for the many local communities that are dedicated to safeguarding their religious heritage.

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

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