

– For immediate release –

Supplementary budget appropriation granted for Québec religious heritage restoration efforts

Montréal, December 21, 2011 – Christine St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, has announced a supplementary budget appropriation to fund religious heritage restoration efforts in Québec. The extra amount awarded to the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec is \$2,464,982. This new funding will allow 20 more projects all across the province to go ahead. The announcement was made in the presence of Conseil President Michel Lavoie and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Montréal, Msgr. André Tiphane.

“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.”

The total granted to the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec for fiscal 2011–2012 is \$16,464,982. Of that amount, \$15,424,422 will go toward the restoration of 94 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, works of art 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 pipe organs inside them. The Government of Québec has invested \$257 million in this area since 1995, and its initiative has spurred additional private investment of \$122 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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