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Pre-budget consultations, 2010-2011

Membership of the Advisory Committee on the Economy and Public Finances

Québec, November 17, 2009 – The Minister of Finance, Raymond Bachand, today announced the membership of the advisory committee on the economy and public finances. This panel of independent experts will advise the Minister throughout the pre-budget consultations that will be held until mid-February. Along with the Minister, the panel will examine the best approaches to resolving the issues raised during the consultations.

The committee is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Robert Gagné, Director of the Centre for Productivity and Prosperity and professor at HEC Montréal's Institut d'économie appliquée. The other members of the committee are Claude Montmarquette, professor of economics at the Université de Montréal and President and CEO of CIRANO, Pierre Fortin, professor of economics at UQAM, and Luc Godbout, professor in fiscal policy at the Université de Sherbrooke.

As part of its mandate, the committee will, in particular, propose ways for implementing measures to ensure economic growth and funding of quality public services accessible to all:

Concerning the economy, it will:

- examine the course of actions to be taken to accelerate the recovery and ensure that Québec's economy remains competitive and creates wealth in the medium and long term, taking a particular account of the impact of demographic changes and the need for economic development to benefit all regions;
- in this regard, specify approaches to focus on in order to improve productivity, both in the private sector and the public sector;

Concerning public finances, it will:

- examine the list of actions to favour a return to return to balanced budgets as stipulated by 2013-2014 and bolster public finances in the medium term, while:

- ensuring funding of quality public services, particularly in health care and education;
- securing adequate and renewed infrastructures for Québec;
- reducing the debt burden, already too heavy, for future generations;
- creating the leeway needed for the development of a competitive economy.

The committee's work will extend from November to next February, i.e. until the preparation of the next budget.

This committee is part of the government's initiative to involve the public on the choice of means to return to balanced budgets by 2013-2014 as well as on the broad economic policies Québec should focus on, as it emerges from recession, to fully develop the potential of its economy and thus create the wealth necessary to maintain the quality of public services, on the basis of the values all Quebecers hold dear.

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Source: Catherine Poulin
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MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCES

Robert Gagné (co-chairman)

With a doctorate in economics from the Université de Montréal, Mr. Gagné is a professor at HEC Montréal and the director of the Centre for Productivity and Prosperity. He specializes in applied econometrics, industrial organization and public policies. In recent years, Mr. Gagné was Chair of the Task Force for the Resource Regions and the New Economy and was Co-chair of the Council of the Federation Advisory Committee on the Fiscal Imbalance. In 2002, he was appointed a regular member of the Centre interuniversitaire sur le risque, les politiques économiques et l'emploi (CIRPÉE) and, since 1999, has been a Fellow of the Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations (CIRANO). He has focused on researching issues relating to business productivity, resource optimization and issues relating to the transportation sector.

Pierre Fortin (member)

Pierre Fortin holds a doctorate in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's in mathematics from the Université de Montréal. He is professor emeritus in the economics department of the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM). His research focuses chiefly on economic growth, monetary and budgetary policy, social policy and the economy of Canada and Québec. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and of the science council of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. He has been President of the Canadian Economics Association, a member of the panel of economic advisors of the Minister of Finance of Canada and senior economic advisor to the Premier of Québec.

Luc Godbout (member)

Luc Godbout holds a doctorate from the Université Paul-Cézanne-Aix-Marseille III. He is currently associate professor at the Université de Sherbrooke. He specializes in taxation and public finance. In recent years, in particular, he was a member of the working group on Task Force on Tax Assistance for the Resource Regions and the New Economy, in addition to collaborating in the Commission on the Fiscal Imbalance. He is also a researcher with the Research Chair in Taxation and Public Finance of the Université de Sherbrooke. He conducted studies in particular on the impact of the aging of the population on Québec's public finances. Since 1996, he has co-directed four books published at les Presses de l'Université Laval. Lastly, Mr. Godbout writes a monthly column "Les finances publiques sous la loupe" in La Tribune newspaper.

Claude Montmarquette (member)

Claude Montmarquette holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago. He is professor emeritus and currently holds the Bell - Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec Chair in experimental economics at the Université de Montréal. He is President and CEO of the Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations (CIRANO) where he heads the public policy research group. Claude Montmarquette has been a guest professor at many foreign universities and is a regular participant at a large number of conferences and seminars around the world.