



Press Release

NEW ERA OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CITY REGIONS, FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

MAYORS PROPOSE SPECIFIC COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS FOR EACH BIG CITY

(Montréal, Friday June 11th 2004 / CNW - Telbec) – At the closing ceremony of the National Forum on the Economic Growth of Big Cities in Canada, the 22 big city mayors adopted a declaration proposing comprehensive partnership agreements among other governments and each big city. In these new comprehensive partnerships, the 22 big city mayors invite other orders of governments to:

- Recognize the important role of cities in the sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the provinces and the country as a whole
- Recognize the need to accelerate the development of Canada's city regions without increasing the tax burden of citizens so that city regions may improve their competitive position in comparison to other North American regions
- Specify, as early as 2005, within current jurisdictions : (1) the policies, the programs and the priority issues for each city region, particularly in terms of infrastructure affecting competitiveness and attractiveness; (2) the sums of money to be invested by each partner, and; (3) the planning, coordinating, financing and monitoring mechanisms that will be set up to reach the objectives
- Provide cities with a share of revenues that grow with the economy that reflect the wealth created by cities and enable them to reinvest in the competitiveness and attractiveness of their communities

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the initiator of the National Forum on the Economic Growth of Big Cities in Canada, Mr Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal and Chairman of the Montreal Metropolitan Community, indicated that : "This new partnership is founded on the idea that city regions, as economic engines of the country, can create new collective wealth that will, in turn, generate the revenues needed to maintain and improve our communities".

The mayors of Canada's big cities would like the 2005-2006 federal and provincial budgets to include financial measures reflecting these agreements. They call on business, labour and community stakeholders coming, in particular, from education, social, cultural and environmental sectors to help implement this "new deal" marking the transition of city regions, provinces and Canada into the new millennium.

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