



Communauté métropolitaine  
de Montréal

## *Press Release*

### **National Forum on Economic Growth of Big Cities in Canada**

#### **Priority issues facing Canadian city regions**

**(Montréal, June 4 /CNW Telbec)** - To mark the National Forum on Economic Growth of Big Cities in Canada, which is being held in Montreal June 9-11, the Montreal Metropolitan Community is issuing a list of the priority issues facing Canadian city regions.

To ensure the prosperity of city regions and their citizens' quality of life, eight priority issues have been defined: infrastructure improvements, public transit, housing, human services, education and training, support for immigrants, culture and environmental protection.

During the National Forum on Economic Growth of Big Cities in Canada, the mayors of these cities and various business and community representatives will have an opportunity to meet and discuss what should be done to optimize spending and address these concerns in the short term before costs soar even more.

#### **Spending estimates continue to climb**

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering calculates that repairs to the country's civil infrastructure networks (primarily roads, water mains and sewers) will cost \$57 billion. Furthermore, without more or less immediate appropriate action, this amount could reach more than \$110 billion by the year 2027.

In terms of public transit, the Canadian Urban Transit Association estimates that Canada's systems will require \$21 billion in infrastructure spending for the period 2004-2008.

Finally, according to the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, one out of five households still cannot afford decent housing.

These are just some of the highlights presented in the document outlining the priority issues facing Canadian city regions. To consult the document in its entirety, visit the MMC Website at: <http://www.cmm.qc.ca/bc22/documents/documents.html>

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