



Communauté métropolitaine
de Montréal

Press Release

National Forum on Economic Growth of Big Cities in Canada

CMM issues special edition of *Economic Newsletter* outlining statistical portrait of Canada's 22 big cities

(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 Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal is issuing a special edition of its *Economic Newsletter* outlining a statistical portrait of Canada's 22 big cities (the BC22).

Using indicators such as the urbanization, employment, the unemployment rate, income levels, percentage of income spent on housing, the number of homeowners and tenants, types of dwellings, education levels, population, immigration and population density, the newsletter presents the principal characteristics that these cities have in common and those which differentiate them.

The BC22 – Some highlights

The newsletter notes that, during the 1990s, Canada's big cities experienced a boom in both population and economic activity. The census metropolitan areas encompassing the BC22 now represent over 57% of the country's population and produce the bulk of the nation's wealth with 62% of Canadian employment. The metropolitan areas of Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal account for half or more of their respective provinces' GDP.

In terms of population, these big cities boast a higher percentage of young adults than the rest of Canada: 20-39 year-olds represent over 31% of their population, while this percentage is 26% in the rest of the country. The big cities are also culturally diverse, as they are more affected by immigration, the bilingualism associated with the country's two official languages and the presence of Aboriginal residents. In terms of immigrant population, Toronto is ranked first among the BC22 with immigrants representing just under 50% of its population, while the city of Montreal is ranked sixth, with 28%. In addition, nearly 58% of all Canadians with university degrees live in the country's 22 big cities.

When it comes to housing, the newsletter notes that big city inhabitants tend to live in dwellings that minimize land use (apartment towers, row houses, duplexes and triplexes) and that Canada's three biggest cities (Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto) boast the greatest percentage of tenants (as opposed to homeowners).

These are just some of the highlights presented in this special edition of the Montreal Metropolitan Community's *Economic Newsletter*. To consult the full version, visit the MMC Website at:
<http://www.cmm.qc.ca/bc22/documents/documents.html>

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