



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate communication

### **MOBILIZATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

#### **THE FIRST PROJECT ON AN EXISTING BUILDING : MOISSON MONTREAL**

**Montreal, Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – Moisson Montreal will have a high-performance, less expensive and more environmentally-friendly building thanks to an initiative of the "Coalition énergie et construction durable" (CECD).

"By completing this project, which will serve as a model for others, the CECD achieves two objectives : first, that of raising awareness at the different levels of government and in the owners and managers of buildings as to the importance of serious investment into improving existing buildings, which are generally not energy efficient; and second to allow a social-minded non-profit organization to benefit from the results of such a project in terms of energy savings, reduction of greenhouse gases and reduction of its operation costs." This is what Linda Wilson, President of the CECD declared from the outset this morning at a press conference.

The partners in this project, as well as the spokesperson for Moisson Montreal, Laurent Paquin, presented the concept for an innovative construction project which should be carried out in the next few months. The project, once completed, will significantly reduce the building's energy bill, increase the productivity of Moisson Montreal activities and offer safe and comfortable installations to its staff.

The project, using integrated design, mobilized a great number of partners. Mrs. Wilson wishes to salute and thank the roughly 30 people making up the team of experts who donated their time for the first phase of this project, that of the development of the preliminary concept.

"We are very impressed by the extent of mobilization which occurred in the construction industry for the renovation of our building. The reduction of our energy costs and the optimization of our operations will allow us to more adequately respond to the 130 000 people in need every month," emphasized, with enthusiasm, Alain Lamanque, CA, President of the Board of Directors of Moisson Montreal.

A first : the energy upgrade of Moisson Montreal's building involves an initiative based on integrated design.

Moisson Montreal's building dates back to 1954. As was noted by Mr. Richard Lebel, manager of the project : "Moisson Montreal's building is a good example of the state of Quebec's housing stock."

By proposing an integrated design, the CECD forced a close collaboration among all the participants, from Moisson Montreal to the professionals, the architect and engineers, the



entrepreneurs, sub-contractors and suppliers to bring this project to fruition. This is a first with respect to the retrofit of an existing building.

"By sitting all the participants around the same table, this multidisciplinary approach allows us to study all the possibilities and to evaluate the costs associated with acquisition, operations and waste disposal. This method ensures that the client's needs are met at the best possible cost," declared Mr. Lebel.

"The first phase gathered a team of experienced experts (energy advisers, architects, engineers, manufacturers, construction entrepreneurs and management software designers) and resulted in an extremely interesting and positive proposition, environmentally- and financially-speaking, as well as proposing innovative solutions to Moisson Montreal," indicated Mr. Lebel. The evaluation of efficiency will be performed for at least three years after the completion of the project so that it can be demonstrated adequately.

Mr. Jacques Lagacé, engineer and Vice-President of the CECD pointed out, "The simulations have already demonstrated that if we were to be limited to rental improvements and the work needed to bring the building up to code, the energy bill would have increased by 78%. By having energy efficiency as our primary objective, the reduction in energy consumption could be greater than 40%!"

### **The next steps of the project**

The calendar for completion will be comprised of four phases spread over 18 months : the preliminary concept (phase 1), the plans and estimates (phase 2), the search for subsidies and calls to tender (phase 3), and, finally, execution of the work (phase 4). The first phase is now complete; the second began a few weeks ago. The actual work will begin before the end of the year.

Mrs. Wilson indicated, "I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to call upon those in the construction industry who wish to participate, on a volunteer basis, in the achievement of this project, keeping in mind the laws, collective agreements and standards in force in the construction industry."

"We are very much aware that there is still a lot left to do to change mentalities toward protecting the environment. We salute the partners in the project who contributed to the evolution of our way of construction. We sincerely believe that these new practices will spare our planet and improve the quality of life of future generations," concluded the spokesperson for Moisson Montreal, humorist Laurent Paquin.



## **Roles of the CECD and Moisson Montreal**

It must be emphasized that the "Coalition énergie et construction durable" (CECD), created approximately two years ago, is a group of people in construction and building management whose goal is to emphasize the economic and environmental advantages of energy efficient practices with the perspective of sustainable development.

Moisson Montreal is a non-profit organization. It recovers and freely distributes foodstuffs and essential products all year long to support groups on the island of Montreal. By distributing every month approximately 750 000 kilograms of foodstuffs to 189 organizations which help 130 000 people, Moisson Montreal is the largest food bank in Canada.

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