



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 18th, 2011

Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc. holds Fall Business Meeting at the Moncton Press Club

MONCTON – Downtown Moncton Centre-ville inc. (DMCI) held its Annual Fall Business Meeting at the Moncton Press Club this morning.

DMCI Executive director Anne Poirier Basque, who acted as M.C. for the event started by thanking the DMCI Board of directors for their vision, leadership and expertise in their respective fields. Mrs. Poirier Basque made a point of naming each one of them as they bring strength and value to our organisation.

DMCI President Louis Léger gave a presentation on the importance of having a healthy downtown. He emphasized that downtown may only be 1.1% of the city's land mass, however the downtown area represents 7% of the overall tax base of the City. Therefore DMCI contributes 6 times its land mass in property tax revenue to the City. Approximately 20% of businesses in all of Moncton operate downtown. The 15 000 employees who come to work downtown everyday represent about 43 % of the entire Moncton work force. Having said that, Mr. Léger stated that downtown has not been growing at the same level as the remainder of the City. Mr. Léger concluded by saying: "We can't take our downtown for granted, we need to work together to ensure that we continue to have a prosperous downtown". Mr. Léger also spoke on the urgency and importance of having a multi-use Downtown Centre, and he reminded the guests about DMCI's commitment in continuing the transformation of St. George Street. Mr. Léger also elaborated on the idea of having on-street parking in the downtown area. He said: "DMCI and the City of Moncton have met numerous times to discuss this matter. On-street parking would definitely help ground floor retail merchants by allowing convenient and timely access".

Guest speaker for the event was the Honorable Sue Stultz; Minister of social development, Minister responsible for seniors, housing and community non-profit organizations. Her presentation focused on the development and growth of the downtown region in recent years. According to Minister Stultz, this has been very evident with many exciting multi-million dollar projects for Downtown Moncton. Minister Stultz stated: "It takes entrepreneurial spirit and innovation to make these major projects take life, for example, there's the new courthouse, the Peace centre, the Aberdeen cultural centre, the new ANBL store on Vaughan Harvey, the new bridge to Riverview and the extension of Vaughn Harvey and Assumption Boulevards". Minister Stultz expressed gratitude to DMCI for playing an important role, an essential role, in making these initiatives become a reality.

DMCI also submitted its proposed budget for the Business Improvement Area Levy for 2012. The Business Improvement Area Levy for 2012 will, once again, be a fixed rate of 0.16 per \$100 assessment.

Business and property owners, downtown employees and the general public were present.

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