

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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Jim Flaherty

Montreal (QC), April 10, 2013 — It is with great sadness that we have learned today of the sudden passing of Jim Flaherty. Mr. Flaherty was an exceptional Minister of Finance, a great man of politics who was completely devoted to the service of our country for more than 20 years. It is a great loss for the financial world. The Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group, Monique F. Leroux said, "Speaking for myself and on behalf of the Board as well as the entire Desjardins Group, I offer our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones."

Throughout his long career as Minister of Finance, Desjardins Group maintained a very positive and close relationship with Mr. Flaherty and his team.

"Mr. Flaherty acted as finance minister during one of the most challenging periods of our country's financial history. We were able to appreciate his great gifts whenever we were called upon. His availability at the right times and his ability to adjust to the complex reality of a different but cooperative financial group were greatly appreciated. We recognize that it is largely thanks to him that our economy performed so well during the recent financial crisis", adds Monique Leroux.

About Desjardins Group

[Desjardins Group](#) is the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and the fifth largest cooperative financial group in the world with assets of \$210 billion. It has been rated one of Canada's top 100 employers by Mediacorp Canada. To meet the diverse needs of its members and clients, Desjardins offers a full range of products and services to individuals and businesses through its extensive distribution network, online platforms and subsidiaries across Canada. The group has one of the highest capital ratios and [credit ratings](#) in the industry. It is considered as the fourth safest and strongest bank in North America according to *Global Finance* magazine and *Bloomberg News* respectively.

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Source (for journalists only):

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