

**The MNBAQ Foundation receives a \$500,000  
financial contribution from Desjardins Group**

**Quebec City, March 11, 2016** – The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ) Foundation would like to thank Desjardins for a \$500,000 financial contribution announced today at the Museum.

“The MNBAQ is a leader in the art scene in Quebec City and the province. The Museum has become emblematic of Quebec’s dynamic, creative identity thanks to its collection of Quebec art, the projects it undertakes and its reach in the community; it’s the driving force behind the city’s new arts and culture neighbourhood,” says Marie-Huguette Cormier, Senior Executive Vice-President of Marketing, Communications and Cooperation at Desjardins Group. “The Museum’s volunteer actions line up perfectly with Desjardins’s own fundamental values.”

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Foundation Director Annie Talbot thanked Desjardins for the support. “We commend Desjardins, as well as Chair of the Board, President and CEO Monique F. Leroux, who is an honorary patron of our major fundraising campaign. Not only have our honorary patrons demonstrated real commitment by securing the backing of their organizations, but they’ve also promoted philanthropy to major economic players in Quebec and endorsed the Museum’s major project, the construction of the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion.”

**A show of appreciation: The Desjardins lounge**

In recognition of Desjardins’s contribution to help fund the expansion, the Museum has named a lounge area in the new pavilion after Desjardins. It’s an exceptional space for volunteers, visitors and members alike. The name is a show of appreciation and a nod to all the important volunteer efforts invested in the Museum.

The Desjardins Lounge is adjacent to the Foundation Sandra et Alain Bouchard Auditorium and the Passage Riopelle from CGI, putting it right in the heart of the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion and linking the new building with the existing structure.

Line Ouellet, Director and Chief Curator at the MNBAQ, is pleased by the announcement, highlighting the important role that volunteers play in day-to-day operations and in promoting awareness. “Our 150 volunteers often greet our visitors and are generous with their time, giving thousands of hours to the Museum. They make a real contribution to helping us make our dreams come true and they’re an indispensable part of our team. We want to thank Desjardins for recognizing their contribution, and we want to add our own sincere gratitude for everything they do.”

Desjardins and the MNBAQ have also announced that from now until May 23, 2016, Desjardins members can receive 50% off the second regularly-priced ticket for *A Private Passion: Modern Art in Quebec*, from the Pierre Lassonde Collection.

### **About the Fondation du Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec**

The Foundation's primary mission is to spearhead the Museum's major fundraising campaign for the construction of the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion. Over the long term, the Foundation works to enrich the Museum by soliciting funds that will go towards expanding the Museum's collections, diversifying exhibitions and making educational and cultural activities more accessible.

### **About the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec**

With a collection of Quebec art dating back 400 years, the MNBAQ will become a focal point for cultural discovery and dialogue when the Pierre Lassonde Pavilion opens on June 24, 2016. The world-class addition has a unique architectural design and will almost double the Museum's existing floor space. The MNBAQ will use it to exhibit art and design from 1960 to the present, including contemporary, decorative and Inuit art.

In anticipation of the opening of the new pavilion, the Museum is presenting *A Private Passion: Modern Art in Quebec*, from the Pierre Lassonde Collection, until May 23, 2016. Not only does the exhibition represent a unique opportunity to delve into an immersive collection and explore works that are rarely on display, it also provides some insight into Pierre Lassonde, an exceptional collector and an important philanthropist.

### **About Desjardins Group**

[Desjardins Group](#) is the leading cooperative financial group in Canada and the sixth largest cooperative financial group in the world, with assets of \$248.1 billion. It has been rated one of the Best Employers in Canada by Aon Hewitt. 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. Considered North America's strongest bank according to Bloomberg News, Desjardins has one of the highest capital ratios and credit ratings in the industry.

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