



COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE
Pour diffusion immédiate

Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec / Merrill Lynch Economic and Financial Journalism Award

PRESENTATION OF 2005 AWARDS

First Prize: Richard Dupaul - La Presse
Marie-Ève Cousineau - L'Actualité
Marc Gauthier - Radio-Canada
Career Achievement Award: Claude Picher - La Presse

Montreal, February 7, 2006 – Last night saw the presentation of prizes for the ninth edition of the prestigious **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec / Merrill Lynch Economic and Financial Journalism Award**. This competition recognizes the importance of the work of francophone and anglophone journalists who contribute to Quebec's economic life on a daily basis. The ceremony climaxing the 2005 competition was organized by the *Association des économistes québécois* and took place in Montreal at the business offices of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

A \$10,000 prize was awarded to Richard Dupaul of La Presse for the excellence of his report entitled « *Boom Asiatique, congestion sur les quais* ». Marie-Ève Cousineau of L'Actualité received a prize of \$5,000 for her article entitled « *Le Lesotho joue sa chemise* », and a third prize of \$2,500 was given to Marc Gauthier for his Radio-Canada report entitled « *Pollution à vendre* ».

In addition, the jury gave the 2005 Career Achievement Award to Mr. Claude Picher, columnist at La Presse. This award, to which ASDEQ has added a \$5,000 cash prize this year, recognizes the outstanding contribution made by Mr. Picher to the advancement of economic and finance journalism in Quebec over the past 40 years.

In opening the ceremony, Luc Vallée, 2005-2006 President of ASDEQ and Vice President and Chief Economist of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, spoke of the great vitality of the competition, for which some fifty journalists had entered this year – a record number. Also present were Guy Savard, Merrill Lynch Canada Inc.'s Vice-Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Board for Quebec Operations, and Henri-Paul Rousseau, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. They expressed their considerable pride in being associated with a competition that honours the excellence and professionalism of Quebec journalists.

The jury of the **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec / Merrill Lynch Economic and Financial Journalism Award** was this year made up of the following: Charles A. Carrier, General Director of ASDEQ; Claude Masson, economist and former professor of economics at Laval University; Pierre Bergeron, former manager of the newspaper Le Droit; Claude Beauchamp, journalist and former host of the program *Capital Action* on the RDI network; and Thierry Watine, professor in the department of information and communications at Laval University.

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec is a financial institution that manages funds primarily for public and private pension and insurance plans. As at December 31, 2004, it held CA\$102.4 billion of



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net assets. The leading institutional fund manager in Canada, the Caisse invests in the main financial markets as well as in private equity and real estate.

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading financial management and advisory companies, with offices in 36 countries and total client assets of approximately US\$1.6 trillion, at the end of 2004. As an investment bank, the company is a leading global underwriter of debt and equity securities and strategic advisor to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals worldwide.

The Association des économistes québécois is the principal organization bringing together economists in Quebec and is dedicated to the professional advancement of its approximately 500 members. Its primary objective is to foster awareness of, and knowledge about, the field of economics. ASDEQ is a dynamic association, open not only to economists but also to anyone interested in economic and financial issues. The association is becoming increasingly recognized as a vital participant in today's great economic debates.

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Useful links:

- Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec / Merrill Lynch Economic and Financial Journalism Award: www.prixdejournalisme.com
- Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec: www.lacaisse.com
- Merrill Lynch: www.ml.com
- Association des économistes québécois: www.asdeq.org