

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**PRESENTATION OF THE LAUREATES OF THE CAISSE DE DÉPÔT ET
PLACEMENT DU QUÉBEC – MERRILL LYNCH, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
JOURNALISM AWARD**

Sophie Cousineau - La Presse
René Lewandowski - l'Actualité
Danny Braün - Enjeux
Jean-Paul Gagné - Les Affaires

Montreal, January 13th 2005 – For an eighth consecutive year, the Association des économistes du Québec (ASDEQ) presented yesterday the laureates of its economic and financial journalism award. The 2004 edition of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec – Merrill Lynch, Economic and Financial Journalism Award was a success as about 40 media representatives submitted their candidacy.

The award ceremony, held at the the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec business office in Montreal, offered the opportunity to Jocelyn Boisvert, Associate Executive Manager of ASDEQ, Guy Savard, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Board for Quebec operations at Merrill Lynch, and Henri-Paul Rousseau, President of the Board of Directors and General Manager of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, to present a total amount of \$17,500 in prizes.

A 10,000 \$ prize was awarded to Sophie Cousineau of La Presse newspaper for an excellent article entitled « *Bye-bye jobs! C'est moins cher en Chine* ». René Lewandowski received 5,000 \$ for « *Bye-bye boulot ? Attention, danger!* » published in l'Actualité magazine. Finally Danny Braün was awarded 2,500 \$ for « *Les Évasions Barbares* », a story aired on "Enjeux" (Radio-Canada).

The jury also acknowledged the exceptional contribution to the development of economic journalism in Quebec of Jean-Paul Gagné, Editor of weekly Les Affaires, by awarding him the «Prix Carrière».

Jury for the 2004 edition was composed of Charles A. Carrier, General Manager of ASDEQ, Claude Masson, Economist and former Professor of Economics at Laval University, Pierre Bergeron, former General Manager, Réseau des cégeps et des collèges francophones du Canada and Le Droit newspaper, Miville Tremblay, Director, Bank of Canada and finally, Florian Sauvageau, Professor, Department of Information and Communication and head of a Graduate degree program in economic and financial journalism at Laval University.

Since 1997, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec – Merrill Lynch, Economic and Financial Journalism Award honors the work of media representatives who play a significant role in Quebec's economic life by delivering high standard, rigorous, fair and accessible economic and financial information to the public.

About ASDEQ

With approximately 500 members, ASDEQ is the most important association of economists in Quebec. To broaden and enrich the professional development of its members, as well as to support economic knowledge are amongst ASDEQ objectives.

About the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec

The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec is a financial institution that manages funds primarily for public and private pension and insurance plans. It holds \$89.4 billion of 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.

About Merrill Lynch

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading financial management and advisory companies, with offices in 35 countries and private client assets of approximately US\$1.5 trillion. As an investment bank, it is a leading global underwriter of debt and equity securities and strategic advisor to corporations, governments, institutions and individuals worldwide.

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