

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL DINNER & AWARDS

APRIL 28, 2011



Honouree Biography



MONIQUE F. LEROUX

Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer
Desjardins Group

Since March 29, 2008, Monique F. Leroux has been Chair of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group. As elected President, she represents all Desjardins caisses and leads the largest cooperative financial group in Canada and the sixth largest in the world, with assets of more than \$175 billion. Drawing on the strength of its caisse network in Québec and Ontario, and its subsidiaries across Canada, Desjardins Group offers a full range of financial products and services to its 5.8 million members. Desjardins specializes in wealth management, life and health insurance, property and casualty insurance, personal services, and business and institutional services. Ms. Leroux also chairs the Boards of Directors of the Caisse centrale Desjardins, Desjardins Trust and Desjardins Venture Capital, in addition to presiding over the Desjardins Group Management Committee.

As CEO, Ms. Leroux reorganized the entire caisse support structure including the Desjardins Fédération, Group subsidiaries, and business units with the objective to improve the cohesiveness within Desjardins Group and relationship with the caisses. Under her leadership, Desjardins Group experienced growth by consistently applying business practices that focus on its members' interests and needs and by relying on prudent and rigorous management practices. The Tier 1 and total capital ratios are amongst the best of the industry which helped Desjardins rank 26th amongst the World's 50 safest banks by Global Finance. Desjardins Group completed a series of securities issues worth CA\$4.2 billion in Canadian, European and U.S. markets in 2010 providing an even better financing diversification.

From August 2004 to her election as President, Monique F. Leroux held the position of Chief Financial Officer of Desjardins Group. In this capacity, Ms. Leroux sat on the Desjardins Group Strategic Management Committee and was responsible for the establishment of the overall financial framework of the Group and its components. She sat as an observer on the Board of Directors of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec and as a representative of the Group's management on the boards of all subsidiaries.

Prior to this nomination, Ms. Leroux was President of Desjardins Financial Corporation and Chief Executive Officer of its subsidiaries, namely Desjardins Financial Security, Desjardins General Insurance Group, Desjardins Trust, and Desjardins Asset Management. Under her leadership, the Corporation and

its subsidiaries achieved significant business growth in the Canadian market and a notable improvement of their financial performance.

Before joining Desjardins in 2001, Ms. Leroux held the position of Senior Executive Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer at Quebecor inc. As such, she was in charge of the organizational and operational development of the company and its subsidiaries and served as a member of the Board of Directors of numerous Quebecor Group companies. Prior to that, Ms. Leroux held the position of Senior Vice-President, Québec Division at RBC Royal Bank. She was responsible for all the bank's activities in Québec and, more specifically, for managing the Personal Financial Services and Business Banking sectors. She also held the position of Senior Vice-President, Finance, at the head office of the Royal Bank Financial Group.

Previously with Ernst & Young, Ms. Leroux has also been Managing Partner of services to the Québec financial industry, and Managing Partner in charge of auditing and consulting for national and international companies. Member of Ernst & Young's Strategy Committee for the corporate and large business sectors, she also served as Managing Partner of the firm's Sales, Marketing and Prospecting Group for Eastern Canada.

Her expertise and accomplishments in the areas of management, finance, accounting and governance have been widely acknowledged, including an honorary doctorate from Université du Québec à Chicoutimi in April 2010 and a Fellow of the Ordre des comptables agréés du Québec (chartered accounts in Québec) and of the Society of Management Accountants of Québec. In 2010, Ms. Leroux was featured in *Les Affaires* as they paid tribute to daring entrepreneurs and business people ("Les Audacieux"), and she was also named one of *25 Transformational Canadians* by the *Globe and Mail*, CTV and *La Presse*. In the same year, she was also awarded the *Prix Réalisations* (achievement award) by the Réseau des femmes d'affaires du Québec (Québec business women's network). She was also named *Business Woman of the Year 2008* by the Consumers' Choice Institute, *Personnalité de l'année 2008 (person of the year 2008)* by *Les Affaires*, *Personnalité de la Francophonie économique* by the Canadian chapter of the Forum francophone des affaires and in 2007, *Female CFO of the Year* by CFO Canada. She is the recipient of the *2007 Leadership Award* from the Association of Québec Women in Finance and has been recognized as one of the top 25 financial personalities in Québec by *Finance et Investissement*. In 2008, after receiving three nominations for the Top 100 of Canada's Most Powerful Women Award,, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Toronto-based Women's Executive Network.

A highly experienced director, Ms. Leroux is currently a Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of the International Confederation of Popular Banks (CIBP), a member of the Board of Directors of the European Association of Co-operative Banks and of the Conference Board of Canada. She is also a member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum, the Industry Canada Research and Development Review Expert Panel, the HEC Montréal Council of Governors, the Governing Board of Montréal International and the Catalyst Canada Advisory Board. She has also been Director of several private and public corporations and institutions, including Rona, Université de Montréal, HEC Montréal, Société des alcools du Québec, Fiera Capital, the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board and the Groupe SIPAREX in France. Ms. Leroux is currently a member of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and the Founders' Council of the Québec Global 100 network.

Moreover, Ms. Leroux is very involved in her profession and in the community. She has been President of the Ordre des comptables agréés du Québec and Governor of the Canadian Institute of Chartered

Accountants. She also generously lends her time to a host of charitable organizations. She is, for example, acting as President of the Canada Summer Games to be held in Sherbrooke in 2013.

Under her leadership as CEO, Desjardins Group's impressive cooperative and financial performances were recognized with the following awards, to name just a few: rated as one of Canada's 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures of 2010 according to Waterstone Human Capital; winner in the social responsibility category of the *Prix québécois de l'entreprise citoyenne* (Québec corporate citizenship awards) organized by Korn/Ferry, National and *L'actualité* magazine; and Canadian winner of the Bank of the Year 2010 title, awarded by British magazine *The Banker*.