



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CNW CODE 01 + WEEKLIES**

2008-2009 Budget

**Start of Prebudget Consultations
on the Theme of Québec's Prosperity**

Québec, January 28, 2008 – The Minister of Finance, Minister for Government Services, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Monique Jérôme-Forget, today announced the start of prebudget consultations with “Fostering Québec's Prosperity” as theme. The consultations will be held over the coming weeks with representatives of the business community, unions and various organizations. The general public is invited to take part in an online consultation on the website of the ministère des Finances du Québec.

“Québec's prosperity remains a central issue. Our quality of life and our capacity to fund public services depend on it,” Minister Jérôme-Forget pointed out. She encourages people to read the discussion paper on the economic challenges facing Québec: dealing with a more demanding international environment, maintaining the vitality of the domestic market and boosting productivity.

According to the Minister, the government plays an essential role in creating an environment that fosters economic development. “Following its efforts to manage spending rigorously, make the tax system competitive, reduce the debt burden and improve public infrastructures, the government now intends to focus on the main factors that contribute to improving productivity. Steps must be taken to maintain economic growth and stimulate wealth creation,” she added.

Online consultation

The online consultation of the ministère des Finances starts Monday, January 28 and continues until Monday, February 11, 2008. Anyone interested in participating is asked to visit: www.finances.gouv.qc.ca

- 30 -

Source: Catherine Poulin
Press Relations Officer
Office of the Minister of Finance,
Minister for Government Services,
Minister responsible for Government Administration
and Chair of the Conseil du trésor
418 643-5270
514 873-5363