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Tax Assistance for the Resource Regions and the New Economy: the Task Force Chaired by Robert Gagné Is Set

Québec, June 27, 2007 – The Task Force on Tax Assistance for the Resource Regions and the New Economy has been formed and can begin its activities. The Minister of Finance, Minister for Government Services, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Monique Jérôme-Forget, has announced that the task force chaired by Robert Gagné, professor and head of the Institut d'économie appliquée at HEC Montréal, will also have Luc Godbout and Guy Lacroix as members. Messrs Godbout and Lacroix are respectively associate professor with the department of accounting and taxation at the University of Sherbrooke and professor with the department of economics at Laval University.

Robert Gagné expressed satisfaction that the other members of the task force were appointed so quickly. "We have received a substantial mandate and can now get down to work," he noted. Within a few days, Mr. Gagné will release a discussion paper to open the period of consultation.

Ms. Jérôme-Forget confirmed the implementation of the task force last May 24, when she tabled the 2007-2008 Budget Speech.

The task force will thoroughly study two categories of tax assistance, namely:

- tax assistance granted to manufacturing businesses in the resource regions;
- tax credits intended for sectors of the new economy.

It will make recommendations to the government on the best approaches to take concerning the territories and sectors of economic activity concerned.

The task force, whose report is expected by December 2007, will be supported by a team from the ministère des Finances headed by Luc Bilodeau, director of developmental measures of the economic and fiscal policies sector.

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