

# Statement of Management's Responsibility for Financial Information

Bank of Montreal's management is responsible for presentation and preparation of the annual consolidated financial statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") and all other information in the Annual Report.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") and the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") in the United States, as applicable. The financial statements also comply with the provisions of the *Bank Act* and related regulations, including interpretations of GAAP by our regulator, the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada.

The MD&A has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of securities regulators including National Instrument 51-102 of the Canadian Securities Administrators ("CSA") as well as Item 303 of Regulation S-K of the *Securities Exchange Act*, and their related published requirements.

The consolidated financial statements and information in the MD&A necessarily include amounts based on informed judgments and estimates of the expected effects of current events and transactions with appropriate consideration to materiality. In addition, in preparing the financial information we must interpret the requirements described above, make determinations as to the relevancy of information to be included, and make estimates and assumptions that affect reported information. The MD&A also includes information regarding the impact of current transactions and events, sources of liquidity and capital resources, operating trends, risks and uncertainties. Actual results in the future may differ materially from our present assessment of this information because future events and circumstances may not occur as expected.

The financial information presented elsewhere in the Annual Report is consistent with that in the consolidated financial statements.

In meeting our responsibility for the reliability of financial information, we maintain and rely on a comprehensive system of internal controls and internal audit, including organizational and

procedural controls and internal controls over financial reporting. Our system of internal control includes written communication of our policies and procedures governing corporate conduct and risk management; comprehensive business planning; effective segregation of duties; delegation of authority and personal accountability; careful selection and training of personnel; and accounting policies which we regularly update. This structure ensures appropriate internal control over transactions, assets and records. We also regularly audit internal controls. These controls and audits are designed to provide us with reasonable assurance that the financial records are reliable for preparing financial statements and other financial information, assets are safeguarded against unauthorized use or disposition, liabilities are recognized, and we are in compliance with all regulatory requirements.

We, as Bank of Montreal's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, will certify the Bank of Montreal's annual filings with the CSA and the SEC as required in Canada by Multilateral Instrument 52-109 (Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings) and in the United States by the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act*.

In order to provide their opinion on our consolidated financial statements, the Shareholders' Auditors review our system of internal controls and conduct their work to the extent that they consider appropriate.

The Board of Directors, based on recommendations from its Audit and Conduct Review Committees and its Risk Review Committee, reviews and approves the financial information contained in the Annual Report, including the MD&A, and oversees management's responsibilities for the presentation and preparation of financial information, maintenance of appropriate internal controls, management and control of major risk areas and assessment of significant and related party transactions.

The Shareholders' Auditors and the Bank's Chief Auditor have full and free access to the Board of Directors and its committees to discuss audit, financial reporting and related matters.



**F. Anthony Comper**  
President and Chief Executive Officer



**Karen E. Maidment**  
Senior Executive Vice-President  
and Chief Financial Officer

Canada  
November 29, 2005