

# MILLIONS OF GOOD REASONS

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Money working for people

# 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

# FOR THE DESJARDINS GROUP PENSION PLAN

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

2006 Highlights	3
Summary of the Plan	3
Message from the Committee Chair	4
Members of the Retirement Committee	5
Financial Performance Review of the Desjardins Group Pension Plan (DGPP)	6
2006 Asset Allocation and Risk Budget	9
Summary of Actuarial Valuation as at December 31, 2006	10
History of the Plan's Returns and Interest Paid on Contributions	10
Integrated Risk Profile of the Desjardins Group Pension Plan (DGPP)	11
Implementation of the 2006 Business Plan	11
Financial Statements	12
Governance	14
Administrative Organization	15

# **2006 HIGHLIGHTS AND SUMMARY OF THE PLAN**

# 45,246 REASONS TO PERFORM WELL...

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006 TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 45,246 Retirees 6,379 Deferred pensions 3,614 Active participants 35,253

# **2006 HIGHLIGHTS**



#### **OVERALL RELIABLE AND SUSTAINED PERFORMANCE**

With a return of 15.2%, the DGPP ranks in the 11<sup>th</sup> percentile of the universe of major pension funds for the year and in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile over four years.

Detailed analysis on pages 6, 7 and 8.

#### **FINANCIAL STABILITY**

The results of the December 31, 2006 actuarial valuation clearly show the financial stability of the DGPP. The capitalization ratio is 103.6%. The solvency ratio is equal to 98.8%, in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile of the Aon reference universe.

Details on page 10.



#### NET ASSETS OF \$5.2 BILLION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006

With an increase in assets of 752 million dollars in 2006, the Plan's net assets as at December 31, 2006 amount to **5.2 billion dollars.** The DGPP **ranks 11**<sup>th</sup> among private pension plans in Canada.



# **CHANGES IN THE PLAN'S NET ASSETS**

\$2.16 billion increase in net assets over 4 years.



## **SUMMARY OF THE PLAN**

- The Desjardins Group Pension Plan is a defined-benefit plan. This means that the promised pension is based on the salary earned and the credited years of service.
- When combined with the Québec Pension Plan (QPP) benefit, the Desjardins Group pension is equal to 2% of the average salary of the five highest-paid years for each credited year of service. The pension is indexed annually after retirement, based on increases in the Consumer Price Index, up to a maximum of 3% per year.
- The normal retirement age is 65. Early retirement is permitted beginning at age 55, with an actuarial adjustment calculated on the basis of age and years of service.
- Each participant's contribution is equal to 3.7% of his or her salary, up to 50% of the maximum pensionable earnings (MPE). A different rate (7.4%) applies to the part of the salary that exceeds 50% of the MPE. In 2007, 50% of the MPE is equal to \$21,850.
- The Desjardins Group Pension Plan is a generous plan compared with the median plan in Canada, notably with regard to the indexing of retirees' benefits up to a maximum of 3% per year, the pension credit based on the average salary of the five highest-paid years, and the 85-point rule without an actuarial adjustment.

# **MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

#### Background

The Plan's results for 2006 are exceptional. Nothing in the context surrounding pension plans at the start of the year even hinted at such results. Expectations for stock market returns were muted and interest rates remained very low, offering nothing to enhance the solvency of defined-benefit pension plans. In addition, the industry was anxious about the amendments to pension plan legislation that the government of Québec was to announce during the year.

#### Overall reliable and sustained performance: a return in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile over 1 to 4 years

On behalf of its 45,246 participants, we have reason to be proud of the Plan's performance. Owing to a return of 15.2% in 2006, the Plan is in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile of the pension plan industry for the second year in a row, at the 11<sup>th</sup> percentile rank to be exact. It exceeds the median of the universe of pension funds by 1.9%. While the Plan had achieved its highest ranking ever in 2005, at the 18<sup>th</sup> percentile rank, it reaches new heights in 2006. Over two years, the Plan ranks at the 6<sup>th</sup> percentile. It also reaches the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile over three and four years.

The Plan's assets topped 5 billion dollars in 2006, finishing the year at 5.2 billion dollars, an increase of 752 million dollars compared with 2005. Over four years, the increase in value is 2.16 billion dollars, or 70%. The Plan's performance is not due to chance. It is due to the Retirement Committee's three-year strategic plan, the opportunities seized after elimination of the 30% limit on foreign content, the selection of high-performing partners and the implementation of the Plan's 2006 risk budget through the addition of new mandates and through transactions totalling 1.3 billion dollars for the year (2.7 billion dollars over the last two years).

#### Financial stability of the Plan: a level of solvency also in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile

The actuarial valuation of the Plan done as at December 31, 2006 clearly shows its financial stability and allows the contribution rates to be established for the next three years. The capitalization ratio is 103.6% and the solvency ratio is equal to 98.8%, in the 1<sup>st</sup> quartile according to the Aon index, which puts the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile rank at 94.5% and the median at 85%. The current contribution formula generates sufficient amounts to fund the Plan. By keeping a close watch on market assumptions and monitoring the Plan's financial status on a daily basis, it was possible to manage the issue of low interest rates that have been affecting the solvency of pension plans for the past four years.

On December 13, 2006, the government of Québec enacted Bill 30, which aims, in particular, to make the pensions promised in a defined-benefit plan more secure, by prohibiting any use of surpluses that would take the plan's solvency ratio below a minimum level (approximately 107%). The DGPP is one of very few plans in Canada to have a funding policy (in force since 1999) and one of this policy's existing objectives is to maintain a minimum surplus, the amount of which will now be adjusted to comply with the requirements of the new Act.

#### Stronger governance

To maintain sound management with respect to governance of the Plan, the 2006 business plan provided, in particular, for the implementation of integrated risk management. The integrated risk profile developed confirms that the Plan is properly managing risk. This tool allows periodic assessment of the Plan's overall risk, and an action plan for managing each of the risks has been drawn up.

In addition, a continuing training program for members of the Retirement Committee and its sub-committees has been put in place.

#### A value-added business plan

The implementation of the 2006 business plan and its 44 initiatives organized around five main orientations has given the Pension Plan 324 million dollars in added value. The 2007 business plan, for its part, includes 39 initiatives that should also contribute to the Plan's overall encouraging and sustainable performance.

#### Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Pierre Leblanc, representative for the employers, for his contribution to the Retirement Committee, which he left in 2006, and I would like to welcome his successor, Serges Chamberland.

I also wish to thank all the members of the Retirement Committee, the Chief Financial Officer of Desjardins Group, and the Desjardins Group Pension Plan Executive Department for the excellent results and the achievements in 2006.

#### **Denis Paré, Chair**

Juie and

# MEMBERS OF THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE

#### **REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE EMPLOYERS**

DENIS PARÉ<sup>1,3</sup> notary Committee Chair President, Estrie Council of Representatives



ODETTE BRETON

General Manager,

La Sablière

Caisse populaire Desjardins



Committee Vice-Chair President, Est de Montréal Council of Representatives

THOMAS BLAIS <sup>3</sup> Committee Secretary President, Caisses populaires de l'Ontario Council of Representatives



# SERGES CHAMBERLAND 1,3

President, Saguenay -Lac-St-Jean – Charlevoix – Côte-Nord Council of Representatives







of Representatives

#### **REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

SIMON GARNEAU Director, Investments **Desjardins Venture Capital** 

**EXTERNAL MEMBER** 





MICHEL MICHAUD General Manager, Caisse populaire St-Charles sur le Richelieu

CLÉMENT ROBERGE<sup>1</sup> Adm.A. Vice-President, Finance Division - Network Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec





**REPRESENTATIVES OF RETIREES AND PARTICIPANTS ENTITLED TO A DEFERRED PENSION** 



NORMAND DESCHÊNES<sup>2</sup> Retiree from Desjardins and President, Association du personnel retraité de la Fédération Desjardins

**OBSERVERS** 

YVON LESIÈGE **Retiree from Desjardins** 





General Manager, Caisse populaire Desjardins de East Angus

1 Member of the Investment Committee

REYNALD-N. HARPIN<sup>1</sup> CFA Investment Consultant Corporate Director

- 2 Member of the Audit. Professional Practices and Compliance Committee
- Approved by the Board of Directors of Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec



# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE DGPP

For the second year in a row, the Plan's total return reached unmatched heights. The return of 15.2% in 2006 and the 11<sup>th</sup> rank achieved in the Russell/Mellon universe of Canadian pension plans continue the progress made in the preceding year, when the return had reached 14.4% and earned the Plan the 18<sup>th</sup> rank in the same reference universe. Obtained as a result of a global asset allocation strategy, this performance is sustained and reliable for the Plan participants. Once again, real estate was the best asset class. The gradual divestment of Canadian stocks in favour of foreign securities as well as the addition of new asset classes, such as emerging markets equity, also proved profitable. Over the last five years, the Canadian equity market had outperformed the other major stock markets, but in 2006, the international markets and the emerging markets were the star performers, with returns of 26.3% and 32.1% respectively.

The following illustration presents the performance of the main asset categories that make up the portfolio of the Desjardins Group Pension Plan.



\* Return for less than one year

# **CONVENTIONAL INVESTMENTS**

#### Canadian bond portfolio outperforms the Scotia McLeod Index

Scotia Mcleod Index 4.19	ò

At the start of the year, fears of higher interest rates prompted forecasters to exercise caution with regard to the bond market. The first quarter proved them right, since long-term rates rose nearly 60 points, but the U.S. Federal Bank's decision to stop its rate increases sent a "buy" signal to the market and interest rates dropped back to where they were at the start of the year. As a result, the Scotia McLeod bond index produced a return of 4.1%. The Plan's portfolio, for its part, posts a return of 4.5%, or 40 basis points more than the reference index, owing in part to the strong contribution of emerging markets debt allocation, which generated a return of 16%.

#### Canadian equity portfolio beats the S&P/TSX Index

DGPP 18.5%	
Canadian stock exchange	17.3%

For the fourth year in a row, the Canadian stock exchange recorded significant growth, with a return of 17.3%. While last year the main driver was oil, this year precious metals such as gold take over, along with the technology and health care sectors. At the beginning of 2006, the Investment Committee confirmed the decision not to include income trusts in the reference index used by the Plan's Canadian equity managers. Following the recent decision by the federal government to tax income trusts, these vehicles felt the wrath of investors, who dumped them in a massive sell-off. Since these securities were almost absent from the Plan's portfolio, relative performance benefited greatly, with a return for all investment strategies of 18.5%, or 1.2% more than the Canadian stock market.

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE DGPP

#### **U.S. equity portfolio**

DGPP	10.4%	
S&P 500 Index	15.7%	

The preceding year, despite the good performance of the U.S. economy, the stock market had remained weak. In 2006, U.S. securities showed renewed vigour, posting an overall increase of 15.7% for the S&P 500 Index in the context of an economic slowdown. The telecommunications and utilities sectors stood out, posting the best results. Nevertheless, the strategies applied by most of the Plan's managers were not as successful as they had hoped, with the result that the return obtained in 2006 is 10.4%. It should be noted that value stocks clearly outperformed growth stocks.

#### Good performance by international equity portfolio

DGPP	24.6%	
EAFE Universe	26.3%	

On the world's major stock markets, international stocks show one of the best rates of return, an impressive 26.3%. Propelled by European securities and the weakness of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the Euro, securities in the EAFE (Europe, Australasia and Far East) universe achieved very good results. The Plan's portfolio, for its part, did well, posting 24.6% despite lagging 1.7% behind the reference index.

#### **Global equity portfolio**

DGPP (return for less than one year)	17.7%	
Index return (MSCI World) for the period	18.3%	

A new strategy was implemented during 2006. It consists of giving mandates in global equity instead of mandates in U.S. equity and international equity. With a potential of more than 2,000 large-cap securities, global markets offer opportunities for greater diversification that can bring higher returns for less risk. Two firms – AllianceBernstein and Acadian – were given mandates in this asset category. Since its initial investment last June 30, this portfolio has generated a return of 17.7% (35.4% annualized), or 0.6% less than the return of an index (MSCI World) for the same period.

#### **Emerging markets equity portfolio**

DGPP (return over less than one year)	17.5%	
Index return (MSCI EM) for the period	16.75%	

A new addition to the Plan's asset classes in 2006, the emerging markets equity portfolio has stood out by offering a solid performance since it first came on the scene, with a return of 17.5% (37.8% annualized). Bear in mind that, in 2006, emerging markets took first place in the equity category, with a return of 32.1%. This dazzling performance is not unrelated to the soaring prices for certain commodities. Two managers were hired during the year to manage this new asset class: DGIA, through its multi-management fund, and William Blair.

# **ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS**

Alternative investments include real estate, private investments, hedge funds and currency hedging. Like the largest pension funds, the Plan relies increasingly on alternative investments to enhance its returns. This asset class therefore went from 16.5% of the portfolio in 2005 to 21.2% in 2006. It should reach 28.5% by the end of 2007. With a return of 22% in 2006, alternative investments add overall sustainable value while reducing the portfolio's risk level.

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE DGPP



Given the optimistic expectations for real estate, the 2006 strategy was to increase the relative weight of this asset class. It went from 7.7% of the pension fund's total assets at the end of 2005 to 11% at the end of 2006. This strategy proved highly profitable, as the return for this asset class in 2006 was, once again, spectacular, continuing the solid performances recorded in the preceding years. The flow of capital and the appetite of institutional investors kept the already strong demand at a high level, at the same time strengthening the basic factors supporting the valuation levels.

The DGPP's real estate portfolio generated a return of 30.8% in 2006; by comparison, the return had been 26% in 2005 and 19.5% in 2004. This year, once again, real estate is the best asset class for the DGPP, owing to significant positive performances in all investments in the following sectors: offices, shopping centres, industrial properties, residential properties, hotels, homes for seniors, and student residences. Also, a position was executed in the publicly listed real estate securities market that provided an extraordinary return of 44%. Transactions resulting from new partnerships will add value over the coming years to a portfolio that is highly diversified both geographically and by sector.



Repositioning of the portfolio continued with a view to improving investment diversification, in particular through additions in the infrastructure sector. The relative weight of the leveraged buyouts sector was also increased. This sector aims for current returns in the long term and an overall return of 8.5%. Investments in leveraged buyouts and in venture capital provided excellent returns of 20.3% and 17.7% respectively, surpassing the average of world stock market indices. After the strong growth in 2005, the infrastructure sector took a break this year, with a return of 5.1%, but provided a compound annual return of 10.3% over three years. Overall, the Plan's private investments portfolio, one-third of which is invested in infrastructure, provided a return of 14.4% in 2006.

#### Hedge funds

DGPP 12.2% 90-day Treasury bills 3.9%

Hedge funds are still a good alternative to bonds in a context of very low bond rates or possible increases in these rates. Throughout the year, the Plan increased the weight of asset allocation hedge funds. The asset allocation multi-strategy funds provided the best return, 17.53%. With a total return of 12.2%, the hedge funds exceeded their long-term target, which was to provide an absolute positive return of 4% above inflation. The added value in 2006 even exceeds the Canadian Money Market Index by 8%.

#### **Currency hedging**

In 2006, the Plan continued its strategy of partial hedging in the U.S. equity portfolios and full hedging in the hedge funds, the foreign bonds portfolio and the real estate portfolio.

# 2006 ASSET ALLOCATION AND RISK BUDGET

For the second year in a row, asset allocation had a major impact on the Plan's total return. The risk budget, the tool used to establish the Plan's target asset mix, yielded concrete results, with \$124 million in value added to the 2006 business plan. The strategies that came out of this process were the following:

- Reduce the Canadian equity portfolio by 3%, to reach a target of 26%
- Maintain the target for the Canadian bond portfolio at 27.5%
- Use the maximum limit in real estate to reach 11%
- Revise the strategy for the hedge fund and asset allocation portfolios, resulting in an allocation of 40% and 60% respectively in these funds
- Introduce the following new asset classes:
  - Global equity, with a weighting of 4%
  - Emerging markets equity, with a weighting of 2.5%
  - Commodities, with a weighting of 2.5%

Investments were made during the year in the new global equity and emerging markets asset classes. As for commodities, the Investment Committee considered their prices too high and decided not to invest in that asset class. This proved to be a wise decision, since the GSCI, the reference index for commodities, suffered a significant setback of 15.1% in 2006.

# **CHANGES IN ASSET MIX**



# SUMMARY OF THE ACTUARIAL VALUATION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2006

The DGPP is in excellent financial health, as the actuarial valuation done as at December 31, 2006 clearly shows. Its capitalization ratio is 103.6% and the solvency ratio is equal to 98.8%, within the 1<sup>st</sup> guartile of its universe of Canadian pension funds.

The solvency ratio indicates the extent to which a plan can meet its obligations in the event of termination. In this regard, the DGPP is in a very strong position, since, according to the Aon index, the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile rank is 94.5% and the median, 85%. The capitalization ratio, for its part, is used mainly to establish the Plan's contribution strategy, since valuation on this basis assumes that the Plan will continue to exist. The Plan's current capitalization ratio, greater than 100%, reflects the comfortable situation of the Plan.

Until 2009, the employee and employer contribution rates will remain the same as they were in 2006. The next actuarial valuation must be submitted to the Régie des rentes du Québec by December 31, 2009 at the latest.

The following tables show the changes in the Plan's financial position since January 1, 2004.



# Financial position of the Plan

# HISTORY OF THE PLAN'S RETURNS AND INTEREST PAID ON CONTRIBUTIONS

The annual rate of interest paid on employees' contributions is equal to the Pension Plan's rate of return on the adjusted value of the assets, less investment expenses. This rate applies from the April 1 that follows until March 31 of the following year. The adjusted value of the assets takes into account a five-year amortization of the difference between the market value of the assets and the expected value of the assets (i.e. in relation to increases in the Consumer Price Index plus 4%).





# INTEGRATED RISK PROFILE OF THE DGPP

In 2006, the Desjardins Group Retirement Committee defined the Plan's integrated risk profile. The development of this management tool will enable the Retirement Committee to assess the overall risk of the Plan and keep it at an acceptable level. The risk profile will also be useful in establishing action plans and risk indicators. Action plans are incorporated into the 2007 business plan. The method used allowed alignment with Desjardins Group's integrated risk management tools and approach. The profile includes 30 risks; the main ones are listed below in descending order of importance.

LIST OF THE PLAN'S MAIN RISKS		
	PLAN RISKS	DG RISK CATEGORY
1.	Volatility of financial markets	Market risk
2.	Solvency deficiency	Business risk
3.	Insufficient liquidity in certain asset classes	Liquidity risk
4.	Faulty investment policies or strategies	Strategic risk
5.	Plan design	Business risk
6.	Policies and decisions regarding human resource management	Business risk
7.	Capital deficiency	Business risk
8.	Unfavourable changes in accounting or Canadian Institute of Actuaries standards	Business risk
9.	Reliability of actuarial assumptions	Business risk
10.	Risk of default by an insurer	Credit risk
11.	Risk related to pension expense	Business risk
12.	Retention of expertise and succession planning	Operational risk
13.	Management of suppliers and partners	Operational ris

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2006 BUSINESS PLAN**

Listed below are the main 2006 business plan initiatives that generated an added value of \$324 million for the Plan. The Desjardins Group Pension Plan Executive Department carried out transactions totalling \$1.3 billion (\$893 million in investments and \$410 million in divestments). Thirty new products or mandates were added to the portfolio.

	MAIN INITIATIVES AND RESULTS
1.	Facilitate achievement of the required capitalization and solvency ratios     Capitalization ratio of 103.6%     Solvency ratio equal to 98.8%
2.	Manage the date of submission of the next actuarial valuation December 31, 2006
3.	Put in place the new 2006 asset allocation = \$124 million in added value
4.	Put in place new investment strategies to increase diversification <ul> <li>\$1.3 billion in transactions</li> </ul>
5.	Actively manage risks related to the Plan's assets
6.	Introduce integrated risk management for the Plan <ul> <li>Definition of the DGPP's risk profile</li> </ul>
7.	Provide effective support for committee management Overall satisfaction rate of 98%

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE OF DESJARDINS GROUP PENSION PLAN

The enclosed financial information is drawn from the consolidated financial statements of The Desjardins Group pension Plan as at December 31, 2006, on which we have expressed an unqualified opinion this day.

In order to better comprehend the financial position of the Pension Plan and the consolidated in net assets available for benefits, the financial information should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements.

-Ablabot Grand Shorton S.E.N.C.R.L.

**Chartered Accountants** 

Lévis February 16, 2007

# DESJARDINS GROUP PENSION PLAN CONSOLIDATED NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

As at December 31, 2006		
(in thousands of dollars)	2006	2005
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value		
Bonds	1,544,603	1,319,862
Shares	2,327,717	1,981,686
Pooled funds	594,082	353,393
Private investments	257,347	211,647
Mortgages	15,712	16,226
Real estate	579,055	350,627
Cash and money market	282,519	589,588
	5,601,035	4,823,029
Fair value of derivative financial instruments		9,200
Accounts receivable	64,886	40,043
Securities borrowed or purchased		
under resale agreements	60,868	81,139
	5,726,789	4,953,411
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	49,793	19,564
Fair market value or derivative financial instruments	13,386	
Securities loaned or sold under repurchase agreements	437,386	459,535
CONSOLIDATED NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	5,226,224	4,474,312

For the retirement committee,

Benil



Trustee

# DESJARDINS GROUP PENSION PLAN CONSOLIDATED CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

For the year ended December 31, 2006 (in thousands of dollars)

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
INCREASE IN ASSETS		
Investment income		
Bonds	47,872	55,232
Shares	41,342	35,556
Pooled funds	-	4,398
Private investments	8,951	8,868
Mortgages	1,103	1,103
Real estate	5,747	5,993
Cash and money market	14,312	10,159
Other income	397	1,035
	119,724	122,344
Changes in fair market value of investments	565,764	437,766
-	685,488	559,110
Contributions		
Employers	162,442	146,625
Administrative expenses	(5,324)	(4,329)
	157,118	142,296
Employees	90,421	83,031
Contributions net of administrative expenses	247,539	225,327
Contributions transferred and merger of retirement plans	4,350	2,707
	251,889	228,034
	937,377	787,144
DECREASE IN ASSETS		
Benefits paid to participants		
Benefits	109,765	103,126
Reimbursments	41,318	39,357
Transfers to other plans	2,538	1,711
	153,621	144,194
Investments management and custodian fees	22,127	15,483
Performance award fees	9,717	3,759
	185,465	163,436
Net increase in assets	751,912	623,708
Net assets available for benefits at the beginning	4,474,312	3,850,604
Net assets available for benefits at the end	5,226,224	4,474,312

# GOVERNANCE

# **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### Board of Directors of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec

The Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec represents all Desjardins employers with respect to the Desjardins Group Pension Plan. The Fédération's Board of Directors has decision-making power in certain areas, including the Plan Regulation, the nature and terms of benefit payments to members and retirees, contribution rates as well as the use of surplus. Through its Board of Directors, the Fédération stands surety for the obligations (employee pensions) resulting from the participation of all Desjardins Group employers in the Plan.

#### **Desjardins Group Retirement Committee**

By virtue of the powers vested in it by the *Supplemental Pension Plans Act and by the Plan's* Regulation, the Retirement Committee is in charge of soundly administering the Pension Plan, managing it and paying participants and their survivors the promised benefits. The members representing the employees, employers and retirees share the role of Pension Fund trustees.

Employer representatives are appointed by the Fédération's Board of Directors. Members' and retirees' representatives are elected democratically by the group that they represent.

#### **Investment Committee**

Under the responsibility of the Retirement Committee, which establishes investment policy, the Investment Committee has the mandate to ensure the execution, respect and follow-up of the policy as well as coordinate the activities of the fund managers to whom management mandates are entrusted.

#### Audit, Professional Practices and Compliance Committee (APPCC)

Under the responsibility of the Retirement Committee, the mandate of the APPCC basically consists of the analysis of the financial statements, their presentation and the quality of the accounting principles used, the management of risks related to financial information, internal control systems, the processes related to internal and external audit, the processes applied to these audits, the management of regulatory compliance, rules of ethics and professional practice, the complaint processing policy, and governance.

## REPORTING

#### **Training of members**

The new member of the Retirement Committee, who took office in 2006, received a day of training on May 25, 2006. The members of the Audit, Professional Practices and Compliance Committee, created in December 2005, received a training session covering all aspects of their roles and responsibilities on September 13 and 14, 2006.

#### **Reporting on complaints**

Since the adoption of the Plan's complaint processing policy in December 2005, the Pension Plan's Audit, Professional Practices and Compliance Committee has received just one complaint, which management determined was unfounded.

#### Number of meetings held in 2006 by the Retirement Committee and its sub-committees:

Retirement Committee	5 meetings
Investment Committee	7 meetings
Audit, Professional Practices and Compliance Committee	2 meetings
—	

Total 14 meetings



# **ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**



From left to right: Frédéric Angers, Marie-Josée Veilleux, Jean-Philippe Cazelais, Sylvie Labrie, Raymond Laurin, Monique Leroux, François Girouard, Marielle Matte, Alain Vallée, Linda Leblond, Jean-François Delisle

#### RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONS MONIQUE LEROUX FCA

Chief Financial Officer, Desjardins Group

#### PROFESSIONALS

FRÉDÉRIC ANGERS MBA, CFA JEAN-PHILIPPE CAZELAIS CFA JEAN-FRANÇOIS DELISLE MBA, CFA FRANÇOIS GIROUARD B.A.A. ALAIN VALLÉE ASA MARIE-JOSÉE VEILLEUX B.Sc., B.A.A.

#### RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE, THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE AND THE AUDIT, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

RAYMOND LAURIN CA Vice-president, Desjardins Group Pension Plan

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Sylvie Labrie Linda Leblond Marielle Matte

#### **DESJARDINS GROUP RETIREMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **HEAD OFFICE:**

Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec 100, avenue des Commandeurs, Lévis (Québec) G6V 7N5

E-mail: crmd@desjardins.com

The inside sheets of this annual report are printed on recycled paper.





Money working for people