

125 Years at the Heart of the Community: BMO Financial Group makes vital donation to the Château Ramezay



Left to right: **Gail Grant**, Vice Chair, **Jean Brunelle**, Chair, **Andre Delisle**, Executive Director and Curator of the Château Ramezay; **Bianca Dri**, Coordinator, Special Projects and Social Media, BMO; **Me L. Cameron Desbois**, Chair, Château Ramezay Board of Trustees; **Adeel Butt**, Relationship Management; **Karine Eid**, Head, Business Banking, Eastern Region and **Daniel Jarry**, Director, Operations and Community Giving, Office of the President, BMO Quebec.

Montréal, September 29, 2021 - The Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal is delighted to announce that BMO Financial Group is donating \$100,000 to its 125th anniversary fundraising campaign. The Museum is particularly grateful for this generous donation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to have serious repercussions on its activities.

The Bank of Montreal has a long-standing relationship with the Château Ramezay, having served as the Château's banker since 1895. "For over 125 years, BMO has perpetuated Quebec culture along with the heritage of the Château Ramezay. As the Museum's first major business partner, we are proud to provide this historic institution with the funding that will enable it to continue its cultural and educational activities", said Karine Eid, Head, Business Banking, Eastern Region, BMO Bank of Montreal.

125 Years Ago

On April 9, 1896, the Montréal Antiquarian and Numismatic Society, a local community organization, officially inaugurated the Château Ramezay Museum.

The Château is one of the few vestiges of New France left in Old Montréal. It was the site of many key events in our history: the first building in Québec to be classified an historic monument, the oldest museum of its type in the province, and one of 1,001 historic sites to see in your lifetime*. The Château is rightfully regarded as an institution of key importance to our cultural heritage.

Fundraising Campaign

To highlight its anniversary, the Museum invites Montrealers to “Come Take a Tour” and enthusiastically support its “**125 Years at the Heart of the Community**” fundraising campaign.

Although this very special milestone merits celebration, the pandemic has taken a severe toll on the Museum. Since ticket sales generate over 40 % of the operating budget and government funding covers only 25 % of expenditures, the Château has experienced heavy losses over the past year, a situation unlikely to change any time soon. Normally, the Château welcomes over 50,000 visitors annually and its Governor’s Garden, over 400,000. Since the pandemic began, barely 2,000 visitors have crossed its threshold.

The Château Ramezay is therefore highlighting its 125th anniversary by requesting the financial support of all Montrealers.

*In collaboration with a team of UNESCO experts.

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Contact:

Louise Brazeau
Head – Education and Promotion
Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal
518-861-3708 ext. 229
communications@chateauramezay.qc.ca