



# *REVUE DE PRESSE*

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## LES ACTUALITÉS



JACQUES NADEAU LE DEVOIR

## Montréal au cœur de la recherche sur les protéines

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Inauguration du siège social de la Human Proteome Organization

# Montréal au cœur de la recherche sur les protéines

PAULINE GRAVEL

Une nouvelle organisation internationale d'envergure choisit Montréal pour y poser son siège social: la Human Proteome Organization (HUPO), qui inaugurerait hier en grande pompe son quartier général sur le campus de l'université McGill. Suivant les traces de sa jumelle HUGO, qui a bouclé le séquençage du génome humain et s'applique maintenant à identifier toutes les mutations génétiques qui sont responsables des maladies humaines, HUPO vise à baliser le titanesque chantier que représente la protéomique, c'est-à-dire l'identification et la caractérisation de toutes les protéines produites par le corps humain.

Créé en 2001, la HUPO réunit des sommités de la protéomique provenant des milieux universitaire, gouvernemental et privé. Il apparaît que l'organisation a jeté son dévolu sur Montréal en raison de l'expertise qui s'y trouve et qui a été généreusement financée (12 millions) par Génome Québec et Génome Canada, ainsi que grâce au soutien indéfectible de Montréal International.

On a rappelé hier que la tâche du projet la HUPO s'annonce colossale compte tenu du nombre inouï de protéines que renferme le protéome humain. *«Il sera impossible de cartographier toutes les protéines humaines car celles-ci sont en perpétuelle transformation. Les protéines se modifient au cours du développement et du vieillissement de l'être humain, sous l'influence de la prise de nourriture et de médicaments, sous l'effet du stress et des maladies»*, avoue l'actuel président de la HUPO, John Bergeron, qui est par ailleurs directeur du Réseau de protéomique de Montréal et professeur à l'université McGill. Bien que tous les mammifères partagent sensi-

blement le même génome, la grande complexité de l'être humain s'explique essentiellement par les protéines qui le composent, souligne le chercheur.

Pour s'attaquer à cette mission gigantesque, les chercheurs ont dû d'abord s'entendre sur les techniques à adopter pour identifier des milliers de protéines à la fois et déterminer leur quantité dans les tissus sains et malades. Ces outils devraient notamment permettre de reconnaître dans des tissus anormaux les protéines qui sont liées aux différentes pathologies, comme le cancer et les maladies dégénératives.

La direction de la HUPO a retenu quelques grands projets sur lesquels elle désire d'abord concentrer les efforts des chercheurs. Ces projets portent sur le plasma sanguin — qui véhicule tout ce qui se passe dans le corps humain —, le cerveau et le foie. D'autres organes seront également explorés dans un avenir prochain.

En comparant les protéines présentes chez des personnes saines à celles qui seront caractérisées chez les individus atteints par exemple d'un cancer, d'une maladie inflammatoire ou métabolique, comme le diabète et la maladie cardiovasculaire, on espère détecter celles qui diffèrent et qui pourraient ainsi devenir des marqueurs biologiques de la maladie. Ces protéines pourraient par exemple révéler la présence de la maladie avant même que les symptômes n'apparaissent et ainsi servir à mettre au point une méthode de dépistage précoce. D'autres protéines pourraient par ailleurs refléter la progression de l'affection ou nous renseigner sur l'efficacité du traitement adopté. On dit que la protéomique, une science qui en est encore à ses premiers balbutiements, révolutionnera la médecine au cours du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle.

*Le Devoir*

Position		



JACQUES NADEAU LE DEVOIR

Créée en 2001, la HUP0 réunit des sommités de la protéomique provenant des milieux universitaire, gouvernemental et privé.


# Augmentation des investissements en R&D au Québec

MARIE TISON

Les entreprises québécoises ont accru leurs efforts en recherche et développement (R&D) en 2004, grignotant ainsi l'avance détenue par les entreprises ontariennes.

Pas moins de 31 entreprises établies au Québec se retrouvent sur la liste des 100 plus grands investisseurs en recherche et développement au Canada, une liste compilée par la firme de recherche Research Infosource.

Ces entreprises, qu'il s'agisse de sociétés d'origine québécoise ou de filiales étrangères établies au Québec, ont investi en tout 3,86 mil-

liards de dollars en R&D pendant l'année financière 2004. Il s'agit d'une augmentation de 5,2 % par rapport à l'année précédente, alors qu'elles n'étaient que 26 à se retrouver sur la liste des 100 plus grands investisseurs. Par comparaison, les entreprises de l'Ontario ont légèrement diminué leurs investissements en R&D en 2004.

Les entreprises ontariennes sont toutefois toujours en tête : les 43 entreprises de l'Ontario qui se retrouvent sur la liste de Research Infosource ont investi 6,2 milliards en 2004, soit 55 % de tous les investissements en R&D au Canada. Si on ne tient pas compte du géant Nortel,

qui a investi à lui seul 2,5 milliards, l'Ontario est à l'origine de 42 % de tous les investissements en R&D.

Les entreprises établies au Québec gagnent cependant du terrain et sont maintenant à l'origine de 34 % des investissements canadiens.

« Les entreprises établies au Québec investissent beaucoup, a commenté le chef de la direction de Research Infosource, Ron Freedman, en entrevue téléphonique. On peut l'attribuer en bonne partie au soutien solide qu'elles reçoivent du gouvernement québécois, mais ce sont quand même elles qui prennent la décision d'investir. »

Pas moins de huit entreprises établies au Québec ont investi plus de 100 millions en 2004, à commencer par Bell Canada, qui a investi plus de 1,4 milliard et qui se retrouve au deuxième rang, directement derrière Nortel.

Pratt & Whitney Canada (P&WC) se retrouve au quatrième rang avec des investissements de 465 millions, loin devant Bombardier, au neuvième rang avec des investissements de près de 193 millions.

« Comparativement à ce qui se passe dans d'autres pays, les manufacturiers aéronautiques canadiens dépensent relativement peu en recherche et développement, a affirmé M. Freedman. Une bonne partie de

ces dépenses sont effectués par des fournisseurs, comme les motoristes et les manufacturiers de trains d'atterrissage. »

Il a souligné que les investissements de P&WC en recherche et développement représentaient 21 % de ses revenus, un pourcentage impressionnant. Pour Bombardier, on parle de moins de 1 %.

M. Freedman a noté qu'Ericsson Canada avait également investi une somme importante en R&D, soit l'équivalent de 39 % de ses revenus. « Ce que ça indique, c'est qu'il y a une entreprise en Suède qui a confiance dans une compagnie canadienne au niveau de la recherche et du développement, a affirmé M. Freedman. C'est une bonne nouvelle. »

Des multinationales pharmaceutiques qui ont des installations au Québec, Pfizer Canada et Merck Frosst Canada, font également partie du « Club des 100 millions », tout comme Alcan et Tembec.


## RECHERCHE ET DÉVELOPPEMENT

# Les entreprises québécoises font leur large part

**LOUIS MATHIEU GAGNÉ**

Le Journal de Montréal

Les entreprises du Québec continuent de faire bonne figure au chapitre des compagnies qui investissent le plus en recherche et développement, comptant maintenant 31 représentants dans le top 100 canadien.

C'est ce que révèle le plus récent palmarès Canada's Top 100 Corporate R&D Spenders 2005, réalisé par Research Infosource.

L'an dernier, 26 entreprises québécoises figuraient à ce même palmarès.

Selon Ron Freedman, chef de la direction de la firme ontarienne de consultants, on doit cette progression à la hausse des revenus des entreprises.

«Les compagnies du Québec ont vu leurs revenus accroître de 15,3 % en 2004. Elles n'ont donc pas hésité à réinvestir dans la recherche et le développement», indique-t-il.

Ces 31 compagnies ont investi 3,86 G\$ en 2004, soit 5,2 % de plus que l'année précédente.

Le Québec se situe deuxième derrière l'Ontario, qui est toujours le chef de file en

la matière. Plus de 6 G\$ y ont été investis en 2004, ce qui représente toutefois une baisse de 0,3 % par rapport à 2003.

L'Ontario doit sa position à Nortel Networks Corporation, qui a investi 2,55 G\$ en recherche et développement l'an dernier.

Derrière Nortel se trouve Bell Canada, avec des investissements totalisant 1,45 G\$. On remarque parmi les 10 premières Pratt & Whitney (4<sup>e</sup>), Alcan (7<sup>e</sup>) et Bombardier (9<sup>e</sup>).

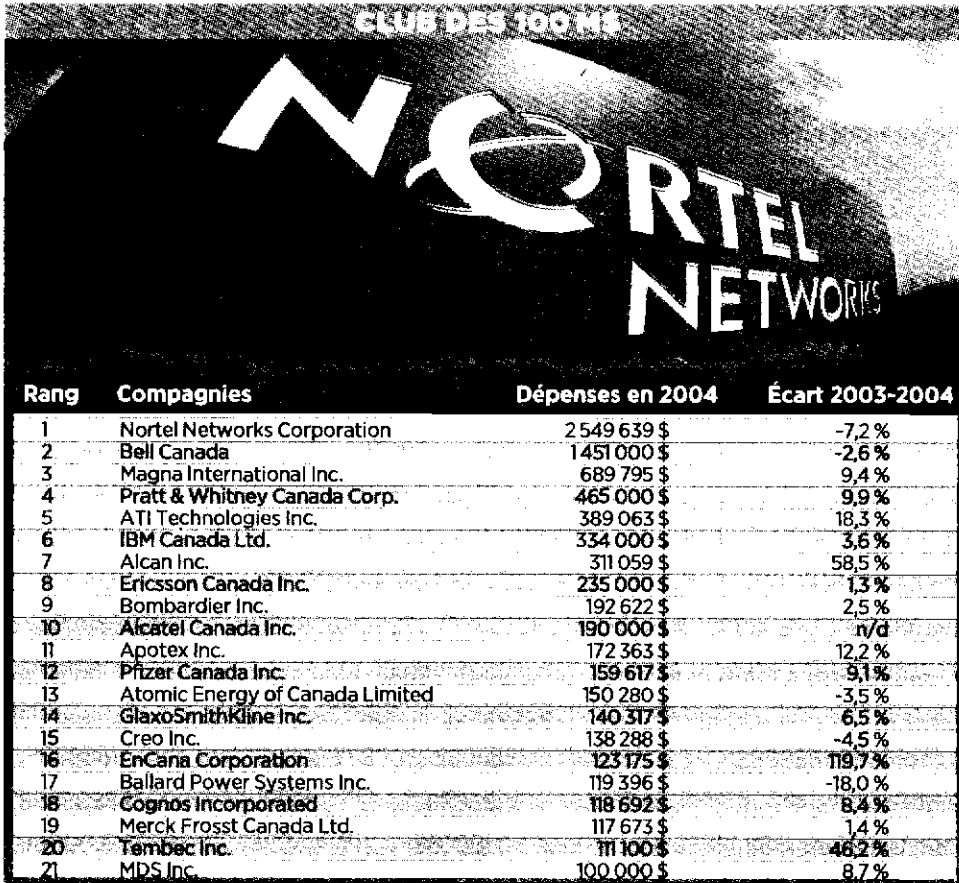
## Aides gouvernementales

M. Freedman souligne aussi les bienfaits des programmes d'investissement gouvernementaux. «Les politiciens du Québec ont compris qu'il faut investir dans l'innovation pour promouvoir l'économie», dit-il.

Il ajoute cependant que la réduction (de 20,0 % à 17,5 %) des crédits d'impôt en R&D mise de l'avant par le gouvernement provincial libéral pourrait changer la donne.

«On va savoir l'an prochain si ç'aura eu un impact. Mais les données préliminaires semblent indiquer que non», soutient M. Freedman.

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SOURCE : RESEARCHINFOSOURCE.COM

INFOGRAPHIE, JDFM


**RESEARCH**

# Corporate research makes a comeback

Spending in 2005 climbed 3 per cent after two-year fall following tech sector decline

BY SIMON TUCK, OTTAWA

Private research in Canada made a tepid comeback last year after a two-year slide, a turnaround that may signal renewed confidence in the technology sector, a survey has found.

The study concluded that expenditures by Canada's top 100 corporate research spenders rose 3 per cent to \$11.3-billion last year, after the slide that followed the tech sector's implosion about five years ago.

"We are cautiously optimistic that corporate R&D has turned the corner," said Ron Freedman, chief executive officer of Research Info-source Inc., the Toronto corporate research firm that conducted the annual survey.

According to the Information Technology Association of Canada, the tech sector accounts for 42 per cent of all corporate research in Canada.

Research spending — along with most other things — was slashed in the tech sector following the 2000 meltdown, and still hasn't made a full comeback. But four of Canada's top six research spenders in fiscal 2004 were technology or communications companies, including Nortel Networks Corp., which again led the pack.

The Brampton, Ont.-based telecommunications equipment company invested \$2.5-billion in research during the year, 22.1 per cent of the total for all of Corporate Canada. Although that was a 7.2-per-

cent drop from the previous year, Nortel's research spending remained far ahead of communications services company Bell Canada, which took a distant second spot with \$1.45-billion in research spending.

Other technology companies in the top six were Markham, Ont.-based ATI Technologies Inc., which placed fifth with \$389.1-million in research during the year, and IBM Canada Ltd., also of Markham, which spent \$334-million and took sixth spot.

Auto parts giant Magna International Inc. of Aurora, Ont., placed third with \$689.8-million, and defence contractor Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. of Longueuil, Que., was fourth with \$465-million.

"I think it's absolutely a sign of a return to health," said Lynda Leonard, senior vice-president of the Information Technology Association of Canada.


**'We are cautiously optimistic that corporate R&D has turned the corner.'**

The survey also found that 62 of Canada's top 100 corporate spenders on research increased their research investment during 2004.

Ontario remains the home to a majority of Canada's corporate research, as measured by total spending. The 43 Ontario-based companies in the top 100 accounted for 55 per cent or \$6.2-billion in research spending, while Quebec's 31 companies spent 34 per cent or \$3.9-billion. British Columbia's 14 companies in the top 100 accounted for 7 per cent or \$794-million of the spending on research, while Alberta's nine companies spent 3 per cent or \$389.6-million.

The survey included the value of all research conducted by Canadian companies — both at home and abroad — but only that research done in Canada by foreign-based operations.

Economists say corporate spending on research is important because it leads to new technologies and products that increase efficiencies and curb inflation. That helps keep interest rates low and boosts society's standard of living.

Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said this month that the federal government has invested more than \$11-billion in research and development in Canadian universities and teaching hospitals over the last eight years, but officials remain stumped as to why Canada remains a laggard in corporate research.

"Some Canadian firms don't do as much of their own R&D," Mr. Goodale said during a speech in Ottawa. "And it's perplexing that this is

the case, despite one of the world's most favourable tax regimes for research and development, and despite strong corporate profit levels in recent years."

Federal officials have in recent months been discussing research and its links to productivity. Despite a 15-per-cent increase in spending last year, Mr. Goodale has promised to deliver a "productivity budget" this winter.

There are different views about what should be done to encourage corporate research.

Ms. Leonard, for example, said governments should try to attract more top researchers by lowering personal income taxes and updating the research tax-credit programs so they respond more quickly. Mr. Freedman said the corporate sector needs to make better use of universities and their graduates, and that governments should help increase the strength of those links.


# Mitec 'explores' its alternatives

## Acknowledges it's a target

**'We do know that there are people  
out there kicking the tires'**

**NICOLAS VAN PRAET**  
THE GAZETTE

Amid rumours that yet unnamed investors are eyeing a takeover of **Mitec Telecom Inc.**, the Montreal technology equipment maker said yesterday it is "exploring strategic alternatives" to build its business.

That can mean a new financing, a joint venture with another company, some kind of combination of these, or being sold, Mitec interim chief executive Keith Finlay said. Alternatively, it could mean the status quo, he said.

Mitec said it hired Orion Secu-

rities to help its board of directors with this evaluation of options.

"As a public company, we always have to be aware that one day, you know someone can come in and say: 'We like the company and we want to buy the company,'" Finlay said in an interview yesterday.

"We do know that there are people out there kicking the tires," Finlay said.

"There are some bottom feeders. And so I guess, in other words, you could say, we are an acquisition target."

Please see MITEC, Page B2

Position		

# Mitec | Analysts see 'nothing of substance'

## CONTINUED FROM B1

Mitec shares were unchanged yesterday, closing at \$0.25.

With 72.8 million shares outstanding at the end of September, the market value of the company is \$18.2 million.

At its peak, in Feb. 1997, Mitec shares traded at \$12.

Finlay is engineering a turnaround of Mitec started by former chief executive Rajiv Panchoy. The firm cut its loss to

\$5.3 million in its latest quarter, but said last month revenues for the year will be 20 per cent lower than original forecasts because of an organizational review and continuing talks with key customers, including **Nortel Networks**.

Finlay said his management team is focused on getting Mitec cash-flow positive and back in the black. He said the strategic alternatives being weighed with Orion are "like an insurance policy."

"At the end of the day, if things shift

out because of our customers and customers initiative changes ... we need to make sure that the board has looked at all the different avenues."

In a report on Mitec in September titled *Hoping for Nortel to Save Them*, analysts at TD Newcrest said the most significant deal that could benefit Mitec in fiscal 2006 is a deal to provide plastic filters for Nortel's new cellphone base stations.

But they warned that deal is far from certain and that they do not see a strong plan in place to develop other business.

"The company was passionate on the conference call about the energy and commitment of employees," TD analyst Chris Umiastowski wrote after Mitec reported its results.

"That's great, but in our view, there was simply nothing of substance in terms of how or why we should believe that Mitec would grow its sales beyond previously signed deals that we are still waiting to see materialize."

Mitec's two main business units may be worth more separately than together and any potential buyer would probably weigh whether splitting them would make sense.

The company's satcom business is stable and profitable while profit margins at its wireless business remain near zero, TD said.

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Position		

# Vidéotron to hire 300 at weekend job fair

## Internet phone subscriptions surge

FREDERIC TOMESCO  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

**Quebecor Inc.'s Vidéotron unit, Canada's No. 3 cable-television operator, plans to increase its workforce by about 10 per cent as subscriptions for its Internet telephone service surge.**

Vidéotron will hold a job fair in Montreal on Saturday to hire about 300 workers in departments including customer service and engineering, spokesperson Isabelle Dessureault said yesterday in a telephone interview. The company employs about 3,100 people.

Vidéotron, which operates only in Quebec, began selling Internet telephone service in January. The Montreal-based company now has over 100,000 subscribers, at least one-third more than at the end of August, Dessureault said.

Please see VIDÉOTRON, Page B2


# Vidéotron | Introducing mobile service

CONTINUED FROM B1

“Demand for our cable telephone service is growing very quickly,” Dessureault said. Quebecor will provide more detailed subscriber figures when the company reports third-quarter earnings next month, she said.

Cable companies will have 2.1 million, or 16 per cent, of residential telephone subscribers by the end of 2007, according to an October study by Convergence Consulting Group Ltd. The company forecast cable operators would have 6.5 per cent of the market by the end of this year.

Vidéotron said last month that it would spend \$80 million to upgrade its cable network over 2½ years instead of the four years initially projected.

Vidéotron also is hiring staff because the company plans to introduce mobile-phone service in Quebec next year. Vidéotron last month agreed to team up with **Rogers Communications Inc.**, Canada’s biggest wireless provider, to offer the service.

“We’re getting ready for the introduction of mobile telephone service, but there are other factors,” Dessureault said of the recruitment drive.

“We also have to take into account demand for digital cable and high-speed Internet.”

Position		

## Boost for research

The province is to spend \$15 million to expand and renovate research facilities at the Montreal Heart Institute. The institute is planning to spend \$24 million, but the rest of the money will come from the heart institute's foundation. The expansion of the research centre on Bélanger St. should make it easier to recruit world-class researchers, the institute says. The renovation is to be completed in 2008.


ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES | MONTRÉAL

# Bourque veut encore donner son salaire

■ Débat des candidats à la mairie

**Prêt une fois de plus à travailler sans salaire, Pierre Bourque promet de créer une autre fondation, cette fois pour aider les sans-abri, avec son salaire de maire de 150 000 \$ par année... s'il est élu le 6 novembre.**

**ANDRÉ BEAUVAIS**

Le Journal de Montréal

Gérald Tremblay et Pierre Bourque paraissent hier, à l'heure du lunch, devant quelque 200 étudiants réunis dans un amphithéâtre de l'Université de Montréal pour défendre leur programme.

La partie a été un peu plus difficile pour le maire, qui était questionné sur des faits vérifiables comme celui de ne pas avoir respecté son engagement de 2001 de réduire le tarif pour tous les étudiants.

Il l'a fait, mais en partie pour les étudiants permanents de 25 ans et moins.

## Une idée bien accueillie

Quant à Pierre Bourque, il a semblé plaire à l'assistance avec sa vision facile de la gestion des grands dossiers, qui a été du goût de tout le monde.

Son idée de créer une fondation pour favoriser la réinsertion sociale des sans-abri a été bien accueillie.

M. Bourque veut rééditer le succès de la Fondation du maire, qui existe toujours et qui aide les jeunes entrepreneurs à se lancer en affaires. Il a consacré sept années de salaire à cette fondation.

«Je sais que le défi d'aider

les sans-abri est de taille, dit-il, mais je veux le relever en faisant appel à la collaboration de tous les intervenants qui peuvent aider.»

## Appel à Québec

Gérald Tremblay a présenté un bilan «positif» de sa politique à l'endroit des jeunes, rappelant qu'il avait assumé lui-même la responsabilité des dossiers touchant les jeunes.

Il a expliqué que le tarif réduit aux étudiants de 25 ans et moins a coûté 19 M\$ et qu'il faudrait ajouter 9 M\$ à la facture pour étendre cette politique à tous les étudiants.

«Québec doit nous accorder une source de revenu additionnelle pour que nous puissions donner suite à votre demande», a-t-il affirmé.

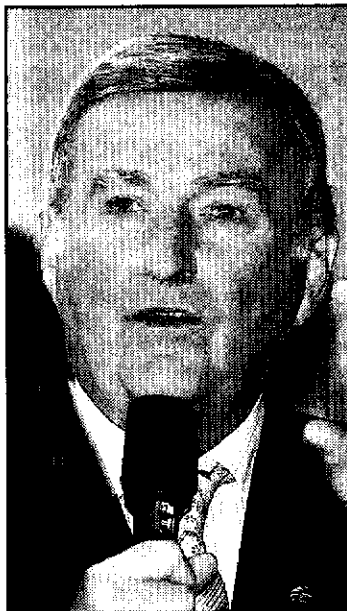
## Logement et vélo

Il a soumis à l'auditoire des réalisations dont il est fier : l'élimination des clauses orphelines chez les policiers, la création de 5 000 logements sociaux «qui ont un impact sur le logement des étudiants», et il a promis pour 2007 l'accès au centre-ville par une piste cyclable.

■ Gérald Tremblay veut obtenir de Québec 5 \$ pour chaque immatriculation et 1 cent par litre d'essence vendu à Montréal au profit de la STM.

■ Pierre Bourque souhaite que le Casino paie des redevances à Montréal comme le font les casinos européens pour les grandes villes.

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PHOTOS ALAIN DÉCARIE

■ Gérald Tremblay et Pierre Bourque dans la fosse aux jeunes.

Position		

# Bourque, Tremblay reach out to youth

## Take questions from university students

### Mayoral hopefuls discuss their programs but neither commits to reducing transit fares

**ANN CARROLL**  
GAZETTE CIVIC AFFAIRS REPORTER

Montreal's main mayoral candidates have promised clean city streets, new bike paths, cheaper housing and help for the homeless.

But the one pledge they will not make – to reduce bus and métro passes for students over 25 – was the one their student audience yesterday most wanted to hear.

"I'm a little disappointed," law student Jean-Philippe Latreille said after a lunch-hour meet-the-candidates event at the Université de Montréal. "They ran through their programs, but had little to say about our concern, especially the cost of transit fares."

The meeting – Gérald Tremblay declined a head-on debate with Pierre Bourque – was organized by a youth lobby group and the university's federation of student associations to spark in-

terest in the municipal elections.

Bourque and Tremblay spoke consecutively, and answered questions on affordable housing, public transit, bike paths, homelessness, safety and city jobs.

Both speakers were applauded, but Tremblay seemed to get the warmer hand.

"Tremblay has done pretty well for a first term," said student Michelle Delisle-Boutin, 24, who has an undergraduate degree in urban planning.

Richard Bergeron of Projet Montréal, the mayoral candidate who has promised to cut transit fares for all riders, will speak at the university on Friday.

Bergeron has promised to drop adult monthly fares to \$40, and reduced-rate fares to \$20.

A monthly bus and métro pass for full-time students, age 18 to 25, now costs \$32.50, compared with the regular adult rate of \$61.

But Tremblay said that extend-

ing reduced fares to students of all ages would cost the city \$9 million, money needed for improving transit services.

Among his commitments:

**Upgrade** transit services.

**Invest** \$5 million in new bike paths, primarily for downtown.

**Create** 15,000 new affordable or subsidized housing units by 2009.

**Spend** \$75 million on city cleanup.

Among Bourque's pledges:

**Donate** his salary, if elected mayor, to a foundation to help the homeless and deal with street gangs.

**Install** 100 more kilometres of




DAVE SIDAWAY THE GAZETTE

Mayor Gérald Tremblay and rival Pierre Bourque spoke at the Université de Montréal yesterday.

bike paths.

**Build** 1,200 subsidized housing units a year, and offer grants for housing for large families, seniors and students.

**Freeze** public transit fares.

Economics student Mourad Aloulou, 20, said he didn't mind taking his lunch break to sit through the campaign pitches.

"It's my duty to vote, and I don't want to choose blindly."

**On the South Shore**, a coalition of student groups yesterday urged mayoral candidates in Longueuil and demerging suburbs to take a stand in favour of expanding eligibility of full-time students to reduced monthly fares.

The Réseau de transport de Longueuil offers an "intermediate" fare of \$51.50 for students age 18 to 21 only. That fare is \$14 more than the "reduced" fare of \$37.50 for high-school students and seniors. The students' coalition said extending eligibility to students 22 and over, and entitling them to cheaper "reduced" fares, would cost taxpayers less than \$1 million.

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Position		

**RESOURCES**

# On trade, Canada's a heaver of duplicity



**NEIL REYNOLDS**

OTTAWA

**H**ow's that again? Canada will divert 400,000 barrels of oil sands crude a day from the U.S. market and ship it to China, which will retain the option of selling it — in the ambiguous words of Natural Resources Minister John

McCallum — in “third markets.”

In this transaction, the United States will be a “third market.” China, therefore, could sell the Canadian oil to the Americans, who will presumably want it to replace the 400,000 barrels a day that Canada wouldn't sell to them directly.

Since oil is a global product, a barrel diverted by country A, and delivered to country C instead of country B, frees a barrel that country C would otherwise have purchased elsewhere — from countries D through Z. Country B buys the barrel that has been released for sale, with all the transactions taking place at roughly the same U.S. dollar price. Equilibrium for all. Everyone ends in the same position that would have transpired without the diversion.

Put the names back in place, and it's obvious that Canada won't hurt the U.S. by selling oil to China. It's not the policy itself that's obnoxious. It's the motive, which is malignant, and the manner, which is slapstick. Listen to John McCallum, exulting in Beijing: “They [the Chinese] do not feel limited by how much [oil] can economically be sent to China. They could well make investments for sale in third markets.” A buyer without economic limitations. Wow.

Call this the Great Canadian Basket Case. (“We have a lot of eggs,” observed Frank McKenna, our ambassador to Washington, “in one basket.”) It's a mystery. Will we have more eggs in more baskets? Or fewer eggs in more baskets?

Here are a few of the riddles that we need to solve.

Why is the number one more significant than the number 140? This ratio — 1:140 — measures the relative importance of the American duty on Canada's softwood

lumber exports to the U.S. The duty costs Canada roughly \$1-billion a year. At the same time, Canada runs a merchandise trade surplus — in a sense, a national “profit” — of \$140-billion a year with the U.S. The softwood lumber levy costs an irritating \$30 per person, per year. The trade surplus delivers an extraordinary dividend of \$4,200 per person, per year.

Why is one August day a more important date than another August day? When Canada won a NAFTA decision on Aug. 10, it declared game over and left the field. When the Americans won a mutually exclusive WTO decision on Aug. 29, we ignored it. Where does our team get the authority to call the game when the other team's still at bat?

Does any Canadian doubt that governments across Canada have subsidized the exploitation of Crown forests since Confederation, thereby depriving the people of the return on equity owed to them from this great natural resource?

What could the (Canadian) Logging and Sawmilling Journal have meant when it said this year that the U.S. duties were “non-issues,” that West Coast companies were moving as much lumber across the border as they could physically deliver — and at record-setting prices? Why are East Coast mills, exempt from U.S. duties, closing?

What could Canadian forest practices researcher Phil Ginter have meant when he told that journal that the low exchange rate on the Canadian dollar had kept Canadian companies “complacent” throughout the 1990s? Was the cheap dollar not itself a singular direct subsidy? Here's Mr. Ginter: “We were living on the exchange rate. That was our profit. We didn't

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care if we were selling our products at cost. If we added on the exchange, we were making money." Isn't this very close to the legal definition of dumping?

Why isn't the government as offended by Chinese protectionism as by American protectionism? Is it merely an irony that Robert Zoellick, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, warned China this month that it must abandon its "mercantilist" trade policies? Should we not get as tough with China? Has Prime Minister Paul Martin pressed China to open its market to imported wheat as vigorously as he has pressed the U.S. on lumber?

How much trade does Canada lose to China's tariffs on wheat, which violate China's commitment to the WTO? Measure it annually in the millions of tons. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has observed that China maintains "a price protection policy in its major wheat-producing provinces," with tariffs as high as 65 per cent. The U.S. lumber duty is 20 per cent, a number that could be cut in half with a negotiated settlement.

COFCO, another Chinese state-owned acronym, manages 90 per cent of the country's food imports and operates the various ruses used to keep foreign food out of the country. Have we assessed the IMF's warning last month — which suggested that China's state-owned enterprises are not "viable" without further fundamental reforms?

When premiers Gordon Campbell, Jean Charest and Dalton McGuinty called last week for a civilized, negotiated settlement to the softwood lumber dispute, did Mr. Martin not feel a bit of a loggerhead — so to speak?

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