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## ***Avenir d'enfants* off to a great start**

Montreal, April 16, 2010 – At noon today, in the presence of Minister of Families Tony Tomassi, Claude Chagnon—President of the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation—and over 100 of its partners, ***Avenir d'enfants*** launched its project support and financing activities and initiatives aimed at promoting the overall development of children five years of age and under.

“*Avenir d'enfants* is the result of a promising partnership,” declared Line Bérubé, Chair of the Board of Directors of *Avenir d'enfants*. “It is a wonderful achievement that this fund has been set up to support communities that want to become involved in a collective movement that is centred on a common vision and goals in order to encourage the development and educational success of young children.”

“We are proud to be launching our activities in the presence of so many of our partners, several of whom are joining us today by webcast,” continued Lyse Brunet, Executive Director of *Avenir d'enfants*. “It was important for us to do this together, as our agency focuses primarily on collaboration and partnership with others who work with young children. This fund will enable us to advance projects and structuring initiatives, better support community mobilization, and give our collective action more power and influence.”

In the few months since its creation, *Avenir d'enfants* has established a work plan, defined its orientations and guidelines for intervention and project financing, and created a team that will ensure its presence throughout Quebec. “We are now ready to receive foundation projects and requests for guidance and financial support from communities and organizations involved in early childhood development,” stated Ms. Brunet.

*Avenir d'enfants* has also taken over from other programs and is currently supporting some 40 projects that include 360 partners who have been helping 6,000 children under five for the past four years.

For more information on projects and applications for funding, visit the *Avenir d'enfants* website at [www.avenirdenfants.org](http://www.avenirdenfants.org).



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## **About *Avenir d'enfants***

- Created through an initiative of the Quebec *ministère de la Famille et des Aînés* and the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation, *Avenir d'enfants* is the non-profit organization entrusted with the administration of the \$400-million contribution over ten years made by the Quebec government and the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation. *Avenir d'enfants* has been mandated to provide guidance and support for local communities involved in projects that promote the overall development of children under five living in poverty. *Avenir d'enfants* believes that the well-being of children and their families is crucial to the future of Quebec society, and that by working together we can help to ensure that every child receives a good start in life.

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Source: *Avenir d'enfants*

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