

## La Ribambelle: New beginnings for Portage's youngest

MONTREAL, June 23 /CNW Telbec/ - Portage's Mother and Child Program is hosting an event to celebrate the expansion of La Ribambelle daycare today at 10 a.m. Media and those who have helped make the initiative a reality are invited to attend.

"We are looking forward to opening our doors and welcoming the community to celebrate in the expansion of La Ribambelle," said Danielle Des Marais, program director. "This project has been a dream for many years and we are overjoyed to see it come to fruition."

After three months of construction, a larger, remodeled day care opened on April 21, 2009 above the program centre. The locale is divided into three sections, based on the ages of the children, with easy access in between. The facility has expanded to be able to accommodate more than 30 children.

Festivities at the event will include opening ceremonies with Mr. André Chagnon, a tour of the facility, refreshments and photo opportunities; both of the centre and with children.

As part of its aftercare program and thanks to the generous donation of the Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon, Portage has also acquired Les Habitations Communautaire Portage Inc. This property consists of 10 apartments, which are to be utilized by program graduates for up to a year at reduced rent. At present six women and their children have taken up residence in these furnished apartments.

Portage, a not-for-profit organization, is a leading North American addiction treatment provider with a 35-year history of successfully helping people with addictions. It operates eight drug addiction treatment centres across Québec: in Montréal, Beaconsfield, Québec City, Prévost (the Laurentians) and Saint-Damien-de-Buckland (Chaudière-Appalaches). Three other centres serve Ontario, Atlantic Canada and British Columbia.

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