

GUEST OF HONOR OF THE
FONDATION DE LA MODE DE MONTRÉAL



Léopold Turgeon

President and CEO of the CQCD

Hello,

First and foremost, the Conseil québécois du commerce de détail, as well as myself, would like to thank Mr. Henri Biard and the Fondation de la Mode de Montréal for this tribute. For a number of years, our organizations have followed similar paths and of that we are truly proud.

Without a doubt, retail is at the center of economical activity in Québec. With more than 440 000 jobs, our sector represents 6% of gross domestic product and 12% of employment. Currently, one dollar out of three injected in the economy passes through retail. Over the past year, it is more than 2,2 billion dollars that has been invested in equipment and immobilization. More than ever, one must recognize the major impact retail has on growth and economical development in Québec.

Retail is on the other hand undergoing important changes and with this evolution comes numerous challenges: a necessity to prepare for a new generation of quality employees and managers, having to stand out in a saturated environment, dealing with competition that basically comes from everywhere. Retailers also have to become more and more confident using new technologies for business, whether it is online sales, social media, referencing, or having apps for mobiles. One of our missions at the CQCD is clearly to provide retailers with tangible solutions to these real life issues.

The CQCD is dedicated in addressing these issues and bringing real and affordable solutions for the retailers. The fashion industry, we all know, have always been closely knitted to retail and in that sense, needs are the same and challenges similar. With this in mind, the CQCD wants to unify and gather all stakeholders around these issues and through alliances and partnerships, be in a better position to face the future.