



Construction work on the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery is now finished

## **La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines hands over the former monastery to *Le Monastère des Augustines* so that it can begin operating**

**Quebec City, June 29, 2015** – Today the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines symbolically hands over the Hôtel-Dieu monastery of Quebec City to the non-profit organization that runs the site, *Le Monastère des Augustines*. As refurbishment of the historic building is now completed, *Le Monastère des Augustines* team can now finish setting up the space, which includes a museum and a wellness hotel, in time for the grand opening on August 1.

The Augustinian Sisters bequeathed their estate to the Fiducie on January 1, 2013 in order to benefit the public, and restoration of the buildings was begun in March 2013. The \$42 million required for the restoration and retrofitting of the property was contributed by the Augustinian Sisters, along with the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

“This is a very important day for the Fiducie. After more than two years of work, we are delivering our most important project. We are proud of the work that has gone into it, and happy to symbolically hand over the keys of this unique heritage site to the directors of *Le Monastère des Augustines*. The restoration was done in the spirit of respect for the property’s history, while opting for a clean, contemporary design in order to underline its new vocation. I am certain that the *Monastère* team, which has spent the last three years developing the concept, will enjoy every success in the operation and management of the property,” says the president of the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines, Marcel Barthe.

### ***Le Monastère des Augustines* receives the keys**

The end of construction work marks the beginning of the process of setting up the site with a view to opening its doors to the public. In the course of the coming weeks, *Le Monastère des Augustines* team will be getting down to the job of preparing and furnishing the space, from the 65-room hotel to the museum, archive centre, multifunctional rooms for hosting holistic health and cultural activities, restaurant and boutique.

“We’re looking forward to welcoming the public. *Le Monastère des Augustines* will become a haven of peace where guests will benefit from its dual vocations – health and wellness and culture and heritage – and it will enable the public to connect with the spirit of the Augustinian Sisters. The opening of the *Monastère* will lead to self-financing within three to five years; as soon as possible it will begin contributing surplus revenue to the Fiducie’s cultural and social mission,” adds the chairman of the board of *Le Monastère des Augustines*, Evan Price.

### **About the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines**

Created by the Fédération des Monastères des Augustines, the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines is a Trust with charitable status. Its mission is to preserve and share the heritage and memory of the Augustinian Sisters of Quebec. Since January 1, 2013, the Fiducie has been the owner of the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery, birthplace of the first hospital on the continent north of Mexico and one of Canada’s National Historic Sites and a Heritage Site under Quebec’s Cultural Heritage Act. The Fiducie will progressively be entrusted with the collections and archives

of all 12 of the Augustinian Sisters' monasteries. The Trust also has a social mission: making the order's heritage accessible to all and giving support and respite to family caregivers and people accompanying sick persons, as well as workers and volunteers from the health and social services communities.

**About *Le Monastère des Augustines***

*Le Monastère des Augustines* occupies the ancient wings of the former Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery (1639), site of North America's first hospital north of Mexico. Situated in the heart of Old Québec City, *Le Monastère des Augustines* has been completely restored and renovated, and offers a unique experience along with several ways to connect with the Augustinian Sisters' heritage, in a secular environment: experiential accommodation, a museum, archive centre, a program of activities around holistic health and culture, a restaurant, a boutique, specialized services in global health and event rooms.

– 30 –

Photos and video available upon request.

For interviews:

**Marie Morneau, ARP**

Public relations consultant

[marie@mariemorneau.com](mailto:marie@mariemorneau.com)

T 418 580-1994 or 514 448-1670

Source and information:

**La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel  
des Augustines**

Nathalie Deschênes  
Communication Officer  
T 418 780-4800 extension 5001

[nathaliedeschenes@augustines.ca](mailto:nathaliedeschenes@augustines.ca)

[www.augustines.ca](http://www.augustines.ca)

**Le Monastère des Augustines**

Sébastien Vézina  
Manager, Communications and Marketing  
T 418 694-8565 extension 3302

[svezina@monastere.ca](mailto:svezina@monastere.ca)

[www.monastere.ca](http://www.monastere.ca)