

*For immediate release*

## Augustinian Sisters Archives Listed in Canada Memory of the World Register

**September 30, 2020** – The archives of Quebec's twelve Augustinian monastery hospitals are now listed in UNESCO's Canada Memory of the World Register. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO made the announcement today by way of a press release.

Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines fiduciary council present Mr. Gilles Gingras is happy to point out: "This exceptional addition highlights the immense value of the documentary memory maintained by the Augustinian sisters from 1639 to today. Through this addition, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO reminds us of the importance of preserving and honouring this memory, which has now been passed onto the Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines and made available to the public through the Monastère des Augustines Archives Centre."

This recognition grants national value status to documents deemed essential to the memory of humanity based on universal criteria. Without the Augustinian sisters' archives, an important part of Canada's history and that of the New World would be forgotten. They recount the contribution of hundreds of women dedicated to caring for the sick and building health establishments that are still active today, from the very first one founded in Québec in 1639.

"It's an homage to our predecessors, says Sister Lise Tanguay, Superior General of the Augustinian monasteries, and to all our communities' archivists who took care of these founding documents. They preserve the memory of heroic, determined, organized women who knew how to put services of prime importance into place for the population, as well as for the development of the regions where they established themselves."

The linear kilometre worth of archives and ancient books from the twelve Augustinian monastery hospitals is currently being gathered at the Monastère des Augustines Archives Centre in Old Québec. The public can consult them on location or via the [archives.monastere.ca](http://archives.monastere.ca).

### ABOUT LE MONASTÈRE DES AUGUSTINES

Le Monastère des Augustines is haven of heritage, culture and wellness. This completely restored and refurbished facility occupies the ancient wings of the former Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery (1695-1755) North America's first hospital north of Mexico. This non-profit organization offers all visitors a unique wellness experience along with several ways to connect with the Augustinian 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 treatments and services and event rooms.

## **ABOUT LA 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 December 12, 2012, 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 healthcare workers from the health and social services communities.

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For more information, it is possible to interview Denis Robitaille, project manager at the Hôpital général monastery and responsible for the Augustinian sisters archives nomination for the Canada Memory of the World Register, at 581-999-4252.

**SOURCE :** Le Monastère des Augustines  
[www.monastere.ca](http://www.monastere.ca)

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