



*For immediate release*

## **ROBERT GIROUX APPOINTED NEW CHAIR OF KATIMAVIK**

**Montréal, June 22, 2006** – Robert Giroux was appointed new Chair of Katimavik at the June 17 meeting of the organization’s Board of Directors. Mr. Giroux succeeds Justin Trudeau, who decided not to renew his mandate after four years as Chair.

Mr. Giroux has served as a Board member for the past three years. He has extensive experience in the federal public service and with Canadian universities. From 1995 to March 2004, he served as President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). Before joining AUCC in 1995, he was Secretary of the Treasury Board of Canada and Comptroller General of Canada. He also held the positions of President of the Public Service Commission of Canada, Deputy Minister of Public Works Canada, and Deputy Minister of National Revenue, Customs and Excise.

“I look forward in the years ahead to expanding the program so that even more young Canadians will benefit from the personal growth associated with service to their country”, said Mr. Giroux. “The Katimavik program gives young Canadians a unique opportunity to get to know the different regions of Canada, their populations and cultures. While these young people’s contributions through service learning benefit hundreds of communities, they also learn what Canadian values are.”

“Chairing Katimavik has been an extremely exciting experience, and I leave knowing that Mr. Giroux will be able to build on our recent successes”, said Mr. Trudeau, who will continue to serve as a member of the Board.

### **The Katimavik program**

Katimavik offers youth between the ages of 17 and 21 an exciting nine-month journey of self-discovery in three different regions of Canada. The program is based on the concept of service learning, which integrates both personal and professional development through volunteer work on community projects. In addition to working 35 hours a week on community projects participants benefit from a learning program that focuses on developing leadership skills, official languages proficiency, protecting the environment, cultural discovery and a healthy lifestyle. Each Katimavik participant contributes an average of 900 hours of volunteer work to community partner organizations. Since 1977, more than 25,000 young Canadians have participated in the Katimavik program, developing their sense of civic responsibility and gaining self-confidence. Katimavik’s goal is to form responsible citizens who will contribute significantly to Canadian society.

**DOING. LEARNING. BUILDING A NATION... ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.**

*The Government of Canada, through the Department of Canadian Heritage,  
is proud to provide financial assistance to Katimavik.*

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