



## Gilles Vincent, Director of the Montréal Botanical Garden, Named a Chevalier of the Ordre du mérite Agricole, in France

**Montréal, May 30, 2011** – Gilles Vincent, Director of the Montréal Botanical Garden, has been named a Chevalier of the Ordre du mérite Agricole by the French Minister of Agriculture, Bruno Le Maire. This prestigious decoration, the third highest in France, is a tribute to Mr. Vincent's contribution to French agriculture. He will be presented with the insignia on June 15 by Moselle Senator Philippe Leroy, at the Jardins fruitiers de Laquenexy, in the Moselle Department of France. The Ordre du Mérite was created in 1883 to honour individuals who have devoted at least fifteen years of their lives to agriculture and such related sciences as botany and horticulture. The distinction is very rarely conferred on non-French citizens.

Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, Director of the Space for Life, congratulated Mr. Vincent on behalf of the whole team. "Those of us who work with him every day know that Gilles Vincent is a man who is passionate about his profession. He has managed not only to preserve the jewel that is the Montréal Botanical Garden, but also to give it a more modern face and significantly raise its international profile. His commitment and determination are an example for us all."

Mr. Vincent was nominated for this honour by Senator Philippe Leroy, Vice-President of the General Council of the Moselle Department. He wanted to salute Mr. Vincent's exceptional career and the fact that through his actions and commitment he has surpassed the usual, even traditional, roles of directors of botanical gardens. To quote the President of the Moselle Department, Patrick Weiten, "Gilles Vincent's actions must serve as an example. We are very proud that the Moselle has succeeded in forging bonds with the City of Montréal, and particularly with Gilles Vincent. We are pleased to see him awarded this recognition by the French Republic."

The Montréal Botanical Garden and the Moselle Department have a longstanding history of collaboration. For over eight years now, Mr. Vincent has contributed to the development of issues important to the Department, at various symposia and through joint scientific efforts. More recently, his collaboration with the Jardins fruitiers de Laquenexy led to the creation of the Ohtehra First Nations Garden, opened in June 2010 at a ceremony presided over by Ginette Marotte, Associate Councillor for the city of Montréal. The joint creation of this Native American garden, a first in Europe, was saluted by the leading French media and is still often cited as an example today. In fact, the preface to the garden catalogue was co-signed by Montréal Mayor Gérald Tremblay and Senator Leroy.

*The Biodôme, Botanical Garden, Insectarium and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The **Space for Life** is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.*

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### Information

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