

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



Streetcar MTC 1959 is back!

Saint-Constant, May 15, 2006.- Good news for visitors to Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum! One of the Museum's best-known historic streetcars, Montreal's **MTC 1959** – a visitors' favourite – is back on the rails in mint condition after a superb restoration job.

During its years of service from 1928 to 1959, streetcar MTC 1959 carried millions of passengers in Montreal, chiefly on the following routes: Côte des Neiges 65, Guy-Beaver Hall 14, Windsor-Snowdon 83, Bélanger 95, Papineau 45 and Rosemont 54.

Streetcar number 1959 was withdrawn in 1959, only a few weeks before all Montreal streetcars were definitively removed from city streets. It joined the collection of streetcars preserved by Montreal's transit authorities, and was given to the Canadian Railway Museum in 1963.

In 1987, the Museum put the streetcar back into "regular" service when the streetcar loop was inaugurated. In 2001, it was withdrawn for the purposes of a well-deserved rejuvenation cure, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Fonds de développement de la métropole programme. The full cost of restoring the vehicle was over \$175,000.

This streetcar was one of the first "monotrams", also known as "one-man cars" – a great innovation at the time. Until the early 1920s, Montreal streetcars were always operated by two men, an operator and a conductor.

Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum, is recognized as Canada's only railway museum of international stature. The Museum's extraordinary collection includes locomotives, railway cars, streetcars and artefacts of all kinds. Exporail is also a museum that moves! Visitors can enjoy a ride on a miniature train, take a passenger train (on Sundays), and admire displays of model trains.

This magnificent streetcar provides a wonderful ride both through the Museum... and back in time. A treat for young and old alike!

The Museum's regular activities are funded in part by Quebec's Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and are supported by the towns of Delson and Saint-Constant. The Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions made a financial contribution to this project. The Museum also receives support from Emploi-Québec. The government of Canada, through Canada Economic Development and the Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Programme of the Department of Canadian Heritage, provides support for Exporail and its special projects.

**Beginning May 13, EXPORAIL, located in Saint-Constant, is open every day from 10 AM to 6 PM.
INFORMATION: (450) 632-2410 www.exporail.org**

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