

## Message from Brigitte Lepage

### Chair of the Board of Directors

“Members attending the 2008 Annual General Meeting expressed a desire for Équiterre to expand its area of influence to include organizations and decision-makers, while continuing to work with citizens.

As a result, the Board of Directors adopted a Strategic planning for the next four years. The planning structures this new dimension of Équiterre’s mission.

Many actions and projects are already part of this more global approach.

The *Soup’s On!* project, among others, brings local farms together with health and educational institutions so that they can develop healthy and sustainable food programs.

We also published a report on Québec’s *Pesticides Management Code* in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation. It targets federal, provincial and municipal political decision-makers as well as lawn & gardening businesses and individuals. It presents recommendations to develop gardening and horticultural practices that respect our environment and health, in Québec and across Canada.

Équiterre also created a consulting service this year to put its expertise to work supporting cities and organizations in their sustainable-development initiatives. Since then, we have worked with Montréal’s Ville-Marie borough, the Yellow Pages Group and the Desjardins Group on projects that will affect thousands of employees, citizens and individuals.

Even though Équiterre incorporates a wider range of partners, individuals remain its overriding concern. It is constantly rethinking its relationship with its members, especially those who want to carry out Équiterre’s mission in their community. It hopes to be even more involved directly with citizens in the coming year.

Through its actions, Équiterre will continue to promote change at the local, national and international levels to move toward practices that support fair trade and respect our environment and health.”