

MARSHALL & ILSLEY CORP

Form 425

December 17, 2010

Filed by Bank of Montreal  
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Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
Subject Company: Marshall & Ilsley Corporation  
Commission File No.: 1-33488

This filing, which includes Ellen Costello Harris Employee Message, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and comparable safe harbour provisions of applicable Canadian legislation, including, but not limited to, statements relating to anticipated financial and operating results, the companies' plans, objectives, expectations and intentions, cost savings and other statements, including words such as anticipate, believe, plan, estimate, expect, intend, will, should, may, and other similar statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of our management and involve a number of significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from the results anticipated in these forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: the possibility that the proposed transaction does not close when expected or at all because required regulatory, shareholder or other approvals and other conditions to closing are not received or satisfied on a timely basis or at all; the terms of the proposed transaction may need to be modified to satisfy such approvals or conditions; the anticipated benefits from the proposed transaction such as it being accretive to earnings, expanding our North American presence and synergies are not realized in the time frame anticipated or at all as a result of changes in general economic and market conditions, interest and exchange rates, monetary policy, laws and regulations (including changes to capital requirements) and their enforcement, and the degree of competition in the geographic and business areas in which M&I operates; the ability to promptly and effectively integrate the businesses of M&I and BMO; reputational risks and the reaction of M&I's customers to the transaction; diversion of management time on merger-related issues; increased exposure to exchange rate fluctuations; and those other factors set out on pages 29, 30, 61 and 62 of BMO's 2010 Annual Report. A significant amount of M&I's business involves making loans or otherwise committing resources to specific companies, industries or geographic areas. Unforeseen events affecting such borrowers, industries or geographic areas could have a material adverse effect on the performance of our integrated U.S. operations.

Additional factors that could cause BMO Financial Group's and Marshall & Ilsley Corporation's results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in the 2010 Annual Report on Form 40-F for BMO Financial Group and the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K of Marshall & Ilsley Corporation filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and available at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

In connection with the proposed merger transaction, BMO will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission a Registration Statement on Form F-4 that will include a

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Proxy Statement of M&I, and a Prospectus of Bank of Montreal, as well as other relevant documents concerning the proposed transaction. **Shareholders are urged to read the Registration Statement and the Proxy Statement/Prospectus regarding the merger when it becomes available and any other relevant documents filed with the SEC, as well as any amendments or supplements to those documents, because they will contain important information.** A free copy of the Proxy Statement/Prospectus, as well as other filings containing information about BMO and M&I, may be obtained at the SEC's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). You will also be able to obtain these documents, free of charge, from BMO at [www.BMO.com](http://www.BMO.com) under the tab "About BMO Investor Relations" and then under the heading "Frequently Accessed Documents", from BMO Investor Relations, Senior Vice-President at 416-867-6656, from M&I by accessing M&I's website at [www.MICorp.com](http://www.MICorp.com) under the tab "Investor Relations" and then under the heading "SEC Filings", or from M&I at (414) 765-7814.

BMO and M&I and certain of their directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of M&I in connection with the proposed merger. Information about the directors and executive officers of BMO is set forth in the proxy statement for BMO's 2010 annual meeting of shareholders, as filed with the SEC on Form 6-K on February 26, 2010. Information about the directors and executive officers of M&I is set forth in the proxy statement for M&I's 2010 annual meeting of shareholders, as filed with the SEC on a Schedule 14A on March 12, 2010. Additional information regarding the interests of those participants and other persons who may be deemed participants in the transaction may be obtained by reading the Proxy Statement/Prospectus regarding the proposed merger when it becomes available. Free copies of this document may be obtained as described in the preceding paragraph.

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### **A Key Acquisition for BMO**

By now you will have read Bill's message regarding the acquisition of M&I. I want you to know how excited I am about this very positive news for all of us; employees, customers and our communities.

The transaction we announced aligns with our North American growth strategy. It increases our scale and provides strong entry into new and attractive markets. Customers and communities will benefit from the combination of our two organizations which have complementary capabilities and values.

Our companies are both passionately focused on serving the customer. Whether it's increasing customer acquisition or simply proactively anticipating the needs of our customers and prospects, both organizations are committed to delivering a great customer experience.

While the acquisition is expected to close before July 31, 2011, it's important to understand that we will operate as separate entities and be bound by strict confidentiality until the deal is formally completed. Integration will take time and we need to remain committed to our existing customers and businesses. Our strategic priorities have not changed and continuing to execute on them well is foundational to our long-term success. We must stay focused on our customers. To help in answering questions you or your teams may receive from customers, please follow this link [link].

Please also read the (legal info for employee restrictions) [link].

We will continue to share information as it becomes available. I look forward to working together to realize all of the tremendous potential this brings to all of us.

Ellen

### **Caution regarding forward looking statements**

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### **[Additional Information for shareholders]**

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