

OUR REGION'S
ANNUAL CHECK-UP



Foundation of
Greater Montreal

Committed to the community, forever

www.fgmtl.org



About this report

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in a range of areas critical to quality of life. *Vital Signs* is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. This year, 22 Canadian community foundations will simultaneously publish local reports.

For more information about *Vital Signs*, visit <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/index-e.cfm>

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COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

The Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM) is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the well-being of the Greater Montreal community. It establishes and manages permanent endowment funds and distributes their income in the form of grants to charitable organizations working in the areas of health, social services, arts and culture, education, and the environment.

The FGM currently manages over 300 funds worth over \$100 million. Since its creation, it has distributed grants totalling almost \$7 million to non-profit organizations in the Greater Montreal area.

The FGM is a member of *Community Foundations of Canada* (CFC), an organization numbering 178 community foundations that reaches thousands of communities across Canada, and whose collective assets total more than \$3 billion.



Foundation of
Greater Montreal



MESSAGE FROM THE FGM

We are pleased to present the Foundation of Greater Montreal's (FGM) fifth edition of *Greater Montreal's Vital Signs* our region's annual check-up. The report provides factual information compiled from studies covering Greater Montréal, which include eleven different targeted areas critical to our quality of life. *Vital Signs* provides a consolidated snapshot of trends highlighting what the city is doing well and improving upon, and the challenges that need to be addressed.

With each *Vital Signs* report, the FGM strives to gain a clear sense of the evolving priorities of our region to meet the needs of the city and its residents. Our goals are to provide information, encourage dialogue, inspire civic engagement, and guide our donors and other stakeholders who want to direct their resources to the areas of greatest need.

Highlights of this year's report show that efforts to support and motivate Montrealers are bearing fruit. For instance, households are composting to a greater extent and decreasing their electrical consumption. Using public transit, walking, and biking are gaining in popularity. Greater Montréal benefits from the diversity of its residents as they drive the city's growth and progress. A notable decrease in unemployment in the immigrant population confirms this view. Montréal's cultural and artistic scene is flourishing, but at the same time, the challenge remains to convince private enterprise to increase its support of the arts.

The most alarming concerns remain in the areas of health, poverty, and education. For instance, Montréal residents are increasingly sedentary, while the resurgence of STDs is becoming a major public concern. In one year alone, the city has moved from 98th to 79th on the scale of the world's most expensive cities in which to live, a substantial loss. Over the last three years, an alarming 65 % more of households with employment income have relied on food banks to feed their families. Although dropping out remains a major concern, efforts to reduce it are taking effect.

There are over 178 community foundations active across Canada, each sharing a common mission: working together to make a difference in their respective communities and cities.

We encourage you to play your part in the improvement and development of our region. We hope that *Vital Signs* will help inspire and guide you in your philanthropic actions. Together, our actions, no matter what their scope, can have far-reaching effects.

Marina Boulos-Winton
*President
and CEO*



Richard W. Pound
Chairman of the Board





HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

Start conversations. Take action. If you or your organization is moved or motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

Pass it on. Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, neighbours, library or community centre, or elected officials at any level.

Contact us. We know the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help.

Find out more. Learn about the many organizations in our community working to improve it, and see how you too can help.

www.fgmtl.org



PEOPLE

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

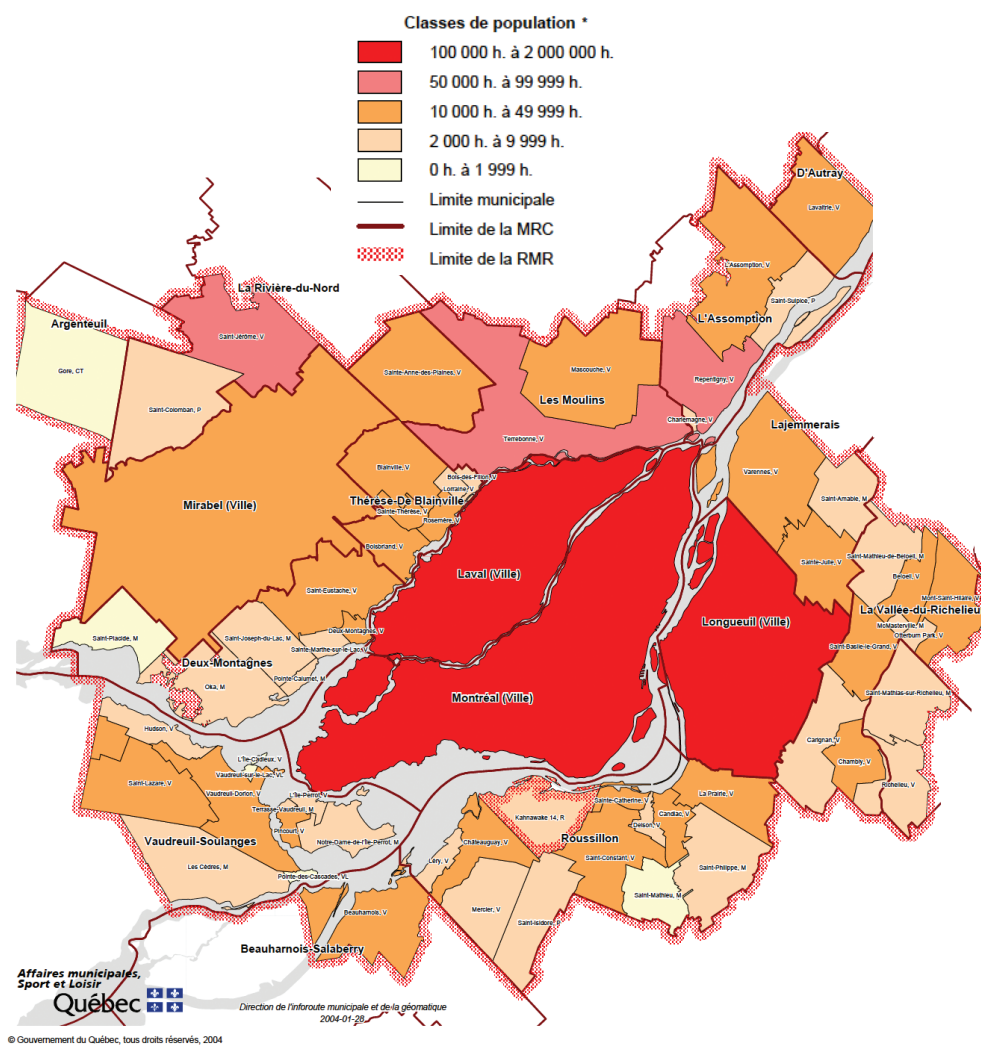
For several years, the island of Montreal has struggled to retain its residents, especially its young adults. Nevertheless, demographic forecasters predict growth in the population of Montreal over the next few years. This will likely be attributable to the number of international immigrants who have made Montreal the second port of entry for immigrants in Canada.

The census metropolitan area (CMA) commonly referred to in this report as “Greater Montreal” or simply “the region,” includes the islands of Montreal and Laval, the agglomeration of Longueuil and the neighbouring North and South Shore communities. For convenience, we also use the expression “the island” when we refer to the agglomeration, the health region, the economic region or the administrative region of Montreal.

The Census Metropolitan Area of Montreal

Municipalities belonging to the CMA of Montreal CARTE

http://www.mamrot.gouv.qc.ca/pub/organisation_municipale/cartotheque/atlas_ar_rmr.pdf



Portrait of the Population

- In 2010, of the 3,859,318 residents living in Greater Montreal, 1,934,082 lived on the island. ¹

Population Distribution by Age Group, Metropolitan Area of Montreal, 2010 ²

Age Group	Greater Montreal: 3,859,318 residents Number of individuals / % of the population)		Island of Montreal: 1,934,082 residents Number of individuals / % of the population)	
0-14 years	623,517	(16.16%)	289,124	(14.95%)
15-24 years	500,704	(12.97%)	241,421	(12.48%)
25-34 years	575,366	(14.90%)	334,085	(17.27%)
35-44 years	562,902	(14.59%)	286,063	(14.79%)
45-54 years	594,801	(15.40%)	274,730	(14.21%)
55-64 years	455,235	(11.81%)	218,550	(11.3%)
65-74 years	291,227	(7.55%)	141,224	(7.3%)
75 and +	255,566	(6.62%)	148,885	(7.7%)

Marriage

- Is the island of Montreal romantic? Perhaps. In 2010, 3.6% of residents on the island got married, compared to 3% in Greater Montreal and 2.9% in the province as a whole. Of note: Among couples who said “yes”, one of the two partners was more likely to have been born abroad ³.

Birth Rate

- The birth rate continues to grow in Greater Montreal. In 2010, 45,288 babies were born, and 23,268 were born on the island.
- In 2010, the island of Montreal reported a higher birth rate (12 births/1,000 residents) than in Greater Montreal (11.7/1,000 residents), and throughout the province (11.2/1,000 residents). On the other hand, in 2010, on the island of Montreal, the fertility rate was lower, with 1.5 children/woman, compared to 1.7 for all Quebec women. Montrealers are having their families later (first child at 31.4 years of age), than across the province as a whole (29.9 years of age) ⁴.

Mobility

- Montrealers are on the move, and a considerable number are leaving the island. But we can count on strong international immigration to overcome this negative balance.

Annual Interregional, Interprovincial and International Migration, Island of Montreal, 2009 ⁵

Migrations	Entering	Leaving	Balance
Interregional	40,440	64,080	-23,640
Interprovincial	10,640	14,207	-3,567
International	37,259	4,624	32,635
Balance	88,339	82,911	5,428

Profile of the Aboriginal Population of Greater Montreal, 2006

- In 2006, 17,870 aboriginal residents in Greater Montreal comprised 0.5% of the population of the region. The aboriginal community has increased by 60% over the last five years ⁶.
- In 2006, young aboriginals between the ages of 15 and 24 years of age had a school attendance rate below that of non-aboriginals (62% versus 71%). On the other hand, 11% of aboriginals over 45 years of age attended schools, compared to 7% of non-aboriginals in the same age group ⁶.
- Core working-age aboriginals (25 to 54 years of age) who lived in Montreal in 2006 had an unemployment rate of 7.5%, compared to 6.1% among non-aboriginals of the same age group ⁶.



Demographic Perspectives

- Montrealers are increasingly likely to leave the city centre for outlying areas. However, demographic forecasters predict a growth in the population on the island over the course of the next few years, so much so that the island may have less than 1,979,200 Montrealers in 2016, and slightly more than 2 million in 2031. We expect that this trend in Montérégie, Laval, the Laurentians and Lanaudière will result in a 5.7% growth in these populations over the same time period ⁷.

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BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP

The life of a city comes from its communities, and from the people who live in them, rather than from the city's attractions, urban developments or infrastructure. It's all about sharing, building, and feeling a sense of belonging.

- On May 2, 2011, 62.5% of voters in Greater Montreal cast their ballots to elect a federal government. Victoria had the highest voter turnout (70%), while Calgary (57%) and Toronto (60.7%) were below the Canadian average (61.4%).¹
- In 2009, 21.5% of Greater Montreal taxpayers made a donation to a charitable organization, which was 3% less than in 2001, and slightly less than in the province of Quebec (21.7%). This figure was 22.8% in Toronto, and 25.5% in Calgary. The most generous donors lived in Oakville, Ontario, where nearly one person in 3 (30%) broke their piggy bank. Overall, 23.1% of Canadians made a donation.²
- In 2009, the average Canadian donation was \$250, which was 25% higher than in 2001. Residents of Greater Toronto gave an average of \$350, and those in Greater Calgary, \$380. In the cities of Victoria and Montreal, the average annual donation per person increased to \$370 and \$150, respectively. They say it's the thought that counts!²
- In 2010, 56% of Greater Montreal residents felt a strong sense of community belonging. Within the region, Montrealers (60.3%) were the most attached to their communities, compared to 52.4% of Laval residents and 51.1% of Montréal residents. In Ontario, Kingston residents (73.5%) were the most attached to their corner of the country, as were the people of Medicine Hat, Alberta (71.2%), and those of Saint John, New Brunswick (73.1%). Overall, 65.4% of Canadians felt a strong sense of belonging to their community.³
- In 2010-2011, 65,879 Greater Montreal residents gave blood. This is 1,279 people fewer than last year, when the number of donors was the highest since 2006⁴.
- Residents of Greater Saint John, New Brunswick, seem to feel very strongly about social clubs and other associations. In 2009, 27.7% of these households paid membership fees to an organization. Conversely, only 12% of Greater Montreal households paid a similar membership fee. Being part of a club or association seems to be losing ground across the country. While 20.3% of households paid membership dues in 2002, that figure was only 16.9% 7 years later⁵.
- Belonging to an association is losing popularity across the country. 20.3% of households paid for a membership in 2002, however, 7 years later, that figure dropped to only 16.9%⁵.
- Are you happy? Is your life the way you want it? In 2010, 92.1% of Canadians said yes. 93.5% of Greater Montreal residents felt the same way, while only 88.8% thought so in 2003⁶.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Friendship Circle

Children with special needs enjoy weekly visits in their homes from pairs of teenage volunteers, giving parents respite while the child enjoys home-made fun with his/her teen friends.

<http://www.friendshipcircle.ca>

INITIATIVE

Apathy is Boring!

Who says politics is boring? After watching their friends lose interest in the democratic process, Ilona, Paul and Mackenzie, three young adults in their twenties, founded Apathy is Boring in 2004. Their motto: use the arts, media and new technology to convince young people of the importance of becoming active citizens. And it works! As they say themselves: an idea shared by three has become a voice for thousands.

<http://www.apathyisboring.com/>

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DIVERSITY AND INTEGRATION

Greater Montreal has chosen to bank on the cultural diversity of its residents as a source of enrichment and distinction. If integration programs can have a positive impact on the immigrant population, it is clear that plenty of work remains to be done so that the handicapped and young homosexuals can enjoy the same quality of life as other Montrealers.

- In 2006, 740,400 Greater Montreal residents - 20% of the population of the region - were born in foreign countries. Among them, 165,300 were recent immigrants (in the country for less than 5 years)¹.

Percentage of New Arrivals (in the Country for Less Than 5 years) Among the Population Born Outside Canada, Metropolitan Regions ²

Metropolitan Regions	2001 % New Arrivals / Pop. Born Outside Canada	2006 % New Arrivals / Pop. Born Outside Canada
Greater Montreal	15.50%	19.20%
Greater Ottawa-Gatineau	17.10%	14.40%
Greater Toronto	17.40%	16.60%
Greater Vancouver	20.00%	15.90%

- Of these 165,300 new arrivals, three-quarters (76.3%) chose to settle in the city of Montreal, 5.4% settled in Laval, 4.7% in Longueuil, and 2.3% in Brossard. In comparison, in 2006, the cities of Toronto and Vancouver had 59.8% and 28.7% of recent immigrants in their respective metropolitan regions ¹.
- In 2006, there was a 5.8% difference in the unemployment rate for immigrants in Quebec and immigrants in Canada. In 2010, this gap was only 2.7% ⁴.
- From 2009 to 2010, the rate of employment remained relatively stable in Quebec (+0.4%), while it increased by 2.7% among the immigrant population ⁴.
- Immigrants in Quebec landed 53.4% of jobs that were created in 2010, which gave rise to the best employment rate among new arrivals since 2006 ⁴.
- Between 2001 and 2006, there was a larger decrease in the unemployment rate among Greater Montreal immigrants (-0.9%) than among the non-immigrant population (-0.5%) ⁵.
- In 2005, the average salary for non-immigrant men was about \$10,500 more than the average salary of immigrant men. Non-immigrant women earned approximately \$6,000 more per year (average salary) than immigrant women ⁶.

Youth

Unemployment Rate in June 2011 Among Youth 15 to 24 Years of Age, and Variation of Unemployment Rate Over 1 Year ³

Région métropolitaine	- juin 2011 -	Variation juin 2010-juin 2011 (%)
Grand Montréal	13,90 %	-18,20 %
Grand Saint John, NB	16,90 %	31,00 %
Grand Toronto	17,20 %	-12,70 %
Grand Hamilton	15,50 %	4,00 %
Grand Kingston	18,00 %	30,40 %
Grand Calgary	12,50 %	-13,80 %
Grand Victoria	12,70 %	-15,30 %
Canada	14,80 %	-6,50 %



The Homosexual Community

- Homophobic acts within the schoolyard are deplorable. 87% of 2,747 high school students surveyed throughout Quebec said they hear the words “fag”, “gay”, etc., uttered as insults on a regular basis, and 38.6% said they were victims of at least one violent act related to their homosexuality, or because they were believed to be homosexuals. Among young people who are openly homosexual, 69% had experienced an act of violence in the previous 8 months. Only a minority of young people reported homophobic incidents to the authorities ⁷.

Physical Disabilities

- In 2006, there were 200,500 people (13.2% of the population) on the island of Montreal with a disability. Those over 15 years of age mainly suffered problems related to mobility (146,100 people), agility (140,485) and pain (130,855). In comparison, in 2006, 10.3% of the population of Laval, 10.8% of the Montérégie population, 11% of the Laurentian population, and 11.6% of the population of Lanaudière were disabled ⁸.
- According to le Regroupement des activistes pour l'inclusion au Québec (RAPLIQ), only 40% of businesses and public buildings on the island of Montreal are accessible to people who use wheelchairs or walkers ⁹.
- In 2011, only 7 of 68 metro stations in Montreal, slightly more than 10% of the network, had facilities that were universally accessible to the disabled. By comparison, 29 of 69 subway stations in Toronto were equipped with elevators, and many large international cities have subway systems that are completely wheelchair accessible ¹⁰.
- The STM (société de transport de Montréal) made 2.7 million public transit trips in 2010 for people with disabilities, an increase of 10.1% in comparison to 2009 ¹¹.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Vision Diversité was created five years ago to develop initiatives for reflection and action, and to promote diversity as an essential lever for development and social cohesion in all economic and cultural initiatives. Since its creation, Vision Diversité has organized 100 cultural and economic events focused on diversity. More than 200 artists from various backgrounds have been showcased and a network of economic diversity has been initiated.

<http://www.visiondiversite.com>

INITIATIVE

For many immigrants, finding a job can be a laborious task that creates stress and anxiety. Thanks to its support groups, **YES** helps these new arrivals look for jobs or create their own businesses.

<http://www.yesmontreal.ca/yes.php>



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ECONOMY

Montreal has recovered from the recession, and is more than ever on the offensive. With residential construction on the rise, construction starts on the increase, and tourism hitting record levels, Greater Montreal is attracting considerable attention. However, over the short term, the lack of interest Montrealers show for entrepreneurial risk may dampen their enthusiasm.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Disposable Income Per Resident*

- In 2009, downtown Montrealers benefited from an annual disposable income of \$27,462, an increase of 3.3% compared to 1999. Disposable income for Montérégie residents was \$26,966 (+3.8%), \$26,442 (+3.5%) for Laval residents, \$26,137 (+4.1%) for Laurentian residents, and \$24,619 (+4.0%) for Lanaudière residents. On a province-wide scale, in 2009, every Quebecer could count on an annual disposable income of \$26,031 (+3.8%)¹.

** Annual disposable income per resident corresponds to the sum of all income received in the year, less taxes, contributions to social insurance schemes, and other public administration transfers, such as insurance premiums for drugs.*

Montreal, an Economic Vehicle Supported by its Neighbouring Municipalities

- By the end of 2010, 49% of the employed working population of Quebec lived in Greater Montreal, and generated 53% of the gross domestic product (GDP). In 2009, \$240.8 million in seed funding accounted for 56% of the venture capital invested in the entire province, and made Greater Montreal the leading Canadian city in terms of venture capital.²
- In 2011, the island of Montreal experienced a solid summer, with the creation of 162 construction sites of over \$5 million each. Total investment: \$13.4 billion. Seventy of these projects - or 48% of the total investment - were of an institutional or commercial nature. The industrial sector only gave rise to two projects with a total value of \$16 million: the construction of a carpet factory in Verdun for \$6.2M, and the renovation of an assembly plant and the addition of an office at Aveos Performance Aéronautique Inc. in Ville Saint-Laurent, at a cost of \$10 million³.
- At the end of June 2011, the Port of Montreal handled 12% more merchandise than it did by June 30th of the previous year. In 2010, the port welcomed a total of 48,458 passengers, 41,139 from international cruises. This is an increase of 1.9% over the previous year⁴.
- In the first half of 2011, 6,755,372 passengers arrived at or departed from Montreal airports, an increase of 6.3% from the previous year. In 2010, total passenger traffic travelling through Montreal airports was 12,971,229⁵.
- In 2010, Montreal hosted 314 conferences, with 303,054 participants. Economic impact: \$424 million. That's an increase of \$88 million since 2009, when the city held 101 fewer events⁶.
- In 2010, Greater Montreal recorded its best results in terms of tourism. 19.6 million visitors (one-day visitors, and people who spent at least one night) explored the region and spent \$2.9 billion⁷.
- The number of business establishments located on the island continues a long decline that began at the turn of this century. In 2010, the island of Montreal had 59,818 businesses, 3,758 fewer than at the end of 2000⁸.



Montreal Seeks Entrepreneurs

- Despite its rather favourable conditions (ranked as the second largest city in Canada and the fourth among 41 large international cities where companies are the least taxed), Montreal struggled to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit of its residents. Fact: 26.7% of Montreal adults were recently involved in various capacities in an entrepreneurial project, compared to 34.3% of Torontonians, and 38.3% of Vancouver residents ⁹.

Construction Startups

- In 2010, there were 22,001 residential housing startups in Greater Montreal, of which, 30% were on the island of Montreal, 26% on the North Shore (excluding Laval), 14% in the municipality of Longueuil, 13% on the South Shore (excluding the municipality of Longueuil), and 11% in Laval ¹⁰.
- The island of Montreal is experiencing a boom in residential construction. The number of construction startups grew from 5,868 in 2008, to 6,635 in 2010, disregarding a slump in 2009 (5,364). In 2010, the city issued 11,838 construction permits, thus continuing the increase since 2007. However, the number of permits granted for industrial real estate construction decreased slightly ¹⁰.

Decrease in Bankruptcies

- From 2009 to 2010, personal bankruptcies in Greater Montreal decreased by 15.1% (16,770 to 14,246), and commercial bankruptcies dropped by 20.1% (1,095 to 875). Among consumers, the largest decline was in the Laurentians (-18.1%), followed by Montérégie (-17.1%). With regard to companies, the Montérégie region experienced the largest decline (-25.7%), followed by the island of Montreal (-20.7%) ¹¹.

R & D

- Montreal is cited twice on the list of the top 5 Canadian research-intensive universities. In 2009, the Université de Montréal invested \$486,179,000 in research, placing fourth overall. McGill University closely followed with a contribution of \$432,118,000 in 2009. These investments represent respective increases of 3.7% and 3.2% when compared to the amounts allocated in 2008. The University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Alberta secured the top three rankings. ¹²



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GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

Montreal is a city with a heart, where one can live the good life, but beneath the surface, significant social inequalities threaten to transform a positive outlook for the future into a dead-end. Fortunately, numerous community organizations have the know-how to develop unique, goal-oriented strategies that will make a difference within these communities.

Poverty

- In 2009, 9.6% of Canadians lived below the low-income threshold, which is the minimum income necessary for housing, food and clothing. This figure varies between \$12,050 and \$18,421 per year (after tax) for a single person, depending on the size of the community in which they live ¹.
- Although the population of Greater Montreal who live below the low-income threshold has decreased over the course of the last 20 years, in 2009, the city still had one of the highest poverty rates in the country (13.1%), along with metropolitan Toronto (13.2%), while Hamilton (8.8%), and Calgary (8.6%) fared much better ².
- Between 2000 and 2009, child poverty - children under the age of 18 living in low-income families - declined in Canada by 31.7%, decreasing from 13.9% to 9.5%. In 2009, Montreal (11.9%) compared favourably with Toronto (13.6%), but lagged far behind Calgary (7.7%), Hamilton (5.2%), and Victoria (3.7%) ³.

Cost of Living

- The cost of living is rising in Montreal. The city ranks as the 79th most expensive city among 214 of the largest cities in the world. Last year, the city ranked 98th. In only one year, Montreal's ranking dropped an astounding 19 spots. In Canada, only Toronto and Vancouver are more expensive to live in than Montreal, followed by Calgary and Ottawa ⁴.
- In January 2011, eating well cost \$7.19 per person, per day. This is the equivalent of \$860 per month for a family of four, or 20% more than what most families can afford ⁵.

Enough to Eat?

- Of the 70,000 students who were registered with the Montreal School Board in 2010-2011, 48% came from low-income sectors and were more likely to rely on food programs provided by the School Board. But, due to lack of resources, only 18% of these children were able to benefit from these programs ⁶.
- Between 2008 and 2011, the number of requests for help received by food banks on the island of Montreal grew by 32%. Among the recipients, there were 65% more households with employment income, 313% more households living off loans and grants, and 231% more senior citizens. Good year, bad year; one-third of those who require assistance are children ⁷.
- Students who attend school in more affluent neighbourhoods in Greater Montreal are 30 times less likely to find a fast-food restaurant within the vicinity of their school ⁸.

The Homeless

- In 2005, the Canadian government estimated that there were 150,000 homeless people in the country, 30,000 of whom lived in Montreal. This figure is more than twice the number of homeless recorded on the island of Montreal in 1996 (12,666). Of note: A growing number of aboriginal women and children swell the ranks of the homeless ⁹.
- In 1987, Montreal had 627 beds available for homeless men. Twenty years later, following a restructuring of resources, three large shelters provided only 540 beds. ¹⁰.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

L'association sportive et communautaire du Centre-Sud

L'association sportive et communautaire du Centre-Sud is a true way of life. Neighbourhood residents take full advantage of these recreational, sporting and cultural facilities, as do students of Marguerite-Bourgeoys primary school, who flock to the centre after class. Children benefit from homework help services and training from a group of dynamic teachers, who oversee the children while they participate in a thousand and one stimulating activities. Everything is in place to ensure that both children and teens at Centre-Sud get a good start in life.

<http://asccs.qc.ca/>

INITIATIVE

Fruixi

Six scooters have zoomed around the streets and parks in the Ville-Marie neighbourhood over the summer of 2011. Their mission: deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to residents, grown locally of course! The Fruixi service is part of a revitalization project that is underway in the Sainte-Marie neighbourhood.

<http://fruixi.com/>

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HOUSING

Home ownership is rapidly declining in the Greater Montreal area, as is the vacancy rate for large apartments. The availability of affordable housing is well below the demand, and resources for the homeless are scarce. For families and for the less well-off, finding a home is becoming increasingly more difficult.

- In 2010, the majority of Montrealers who lived on the island were tenants (62%), compared to 32% throughout the province ¹.
- Low-income housing (LIH) and the construction of affordable housing is insufficient to meet the demand: in 2008, 22,133 households on the island were waiting for LIH, which is greater than the number of affordable homes available in the area ¹.
- Despite rising rents, Montreal is still one of the Canadian cities where rent costs less. In 2009, Greater Montreal families spent, on average, 11.7% of their median family income, before tax, to live in a two-bedroom apartment, which is lower than the Canadian average (13.5%). This figure rises to 16.7% in Toronto, to 13.7% in Calgary, and to 14.2% in Victoria ².

Property Ownership

- Greater Montreal is on the verge of losing its accessible market status. The Montreal area recorded the highest price increases in Canada over the last year. If we add the cumulative effect of past increases, then the Montreal area approaches that of Toronto ³.
- It's good to compare! In Vancouver, households spend 92.5% of their monthly pre-tax income for a detached bungalow, an increase of 10.4% compared to the first quarter of 2011. This rate is 51.9% in Toronto, 42.6% in Montreal, 37.1% in Calgary, and 33.8% in Edmonton ⁴.

Foreclosures

- In 2009, 40% of foreclosures in the province occurred in Greater Montreal, the area that was most affected by this trend. Three property owners in ten purchased homes less than 2 years before they were repossessed. In comparison, 22.5% of properties were repossessed by creditors in 2007. Mortgages have increased considerably following a runaway Montreal real estate market, and forecasters fear the impact of a possible increase in interest rates on households. The number of properties located in Greater Montreal accounted for 43% of the provincial total ⁵.

Rental Vacancy Rates for 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom Apartments, by Metropolitan Region, April 2011 ⁶

Metropolitan Region	1-bedroom Apartment	2-bedroom Apartment	3-bedroom Apartment
Greater Saint John	4.10%	3.40%	4.50%
Greater Montreal	2.50%	1.90%	1.00%
Greater Toronto	1.80%	1.70%	1.60%
Greater Calgary	2.70%	3.60%	4.80%
Greater Victoria	3.10%	2.00%	2.90%
CMA Average	2.60%	2.30%	2.00%

- From 2010 to 2011, the vacancy rate for 3-bedroom apartments in Greater Montreal dropped from 2.1% to 1%. This means that it is increasingly difficult for a large family to find housing to meet their needs. The CMHC (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation) predicts that the vacancy rate for rental properties will continue to decrease over the next few years ⁷.



Less Housing for the Homeless

- Between 2001 and 2005, several rooming houses in inner-city Montreal closed their doors, depriving low-income residents of 1,164 affordable rooms. Faced with the increase in rental costs, people living alone often have no other option but to rely on shelters⁸.
- The number of permanent emergency shelters - places that offer short-term lodging for diverse groups - that were available in the month of June (from time to time, additional temporary shelters are made available during certain times of the year, or when the demand is particularly high) decreased significantly between 2007 and 2010. Numbers dropped from 60 to 40 on the island of Montreal, from 56 to 41 in Toronto, and from 15 to 10 in Calgary⁹.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Service d'hébergement St-Denis - Supervised Apartments Project

The main goal of Service d'hébergement St-Denis is to help find lodging for young girls and boys between the ages of 15 and 20. The Supervised Apartments project is also geared to youth of this age, but to qualify, they must attend a training or professional school.

<http://www.hebergementstdenis.com/>

INITIATIVE

Short-term Home Ownership

Montreal's real estate market has become less and less accessible to young people who dream of owning a home. But with very low interest rates, this shouldn't be a problem, right? Before setting out on this slippery slope, young people are well advised to make a small detour to the Association coopérative d'économie familiale de l'est (ACEF) to take a course about purchasing property. These five short information sessions could very well prevent unnecessary headaches... and overspending!

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WORK

With job recovery, and a strong presence of high-tech industries in the region, better days are in store for Greater Montreal... if it can better align the skills of its workforce to meet the needs of the employment market.

Employment Portrait

- While just below the Canadian average (61.6%), but higher than the Quebec average (60.2%), the employment rate in Greater Montreal increased slightly in 2010, from 60.7% (2009) to 61.4%. Greater Toronto fared a little better (62.2%), while Greater Vancouver struggled to keep up with its fellow cities (59.1%). Greater Calgary clearly stands out from the crowd with an employment rate of 69.5% ¹.
- In 2010, 45% of the 66,700 jobs created in Quebec were in Montreal. These 29,800 new positions made it possible for the city to recover almost all of the 30,200 jobs that were lost during the 2009 recession ².
- In 2010, Montreal's North Shore (4.9%) and South Shore (5.8%) municipalities experienced more employment growth than in Montreal and Longueuil (2.0%). A decline in the manufacturing sector, coupled with the relocation of manufacturing companies to other municipalities decreased the employment rate in Laval by 1% ³.
- In 2010, there were 949,600 jobs on the island of Montreal, and 190,200 of these were part time. It is this latter figure that allowed Montreal to bounce back after a difficult recession ⁴.
- In August 2011, the unemployment rate in Greater Montreal was 8.4%. Of all the municipalities in Greater Montreal, Laval had the lowest unemployment rate (6.7%), while the rate was higher on the island of Montreal (9.7%). In comparison, the unemployment rate in the province of Quebec was 7.6% ⁵.

Employment Sectors

- The Greater Montreal region counts on the strong presence of three high-tech sectors to boost its economy and provide its residents with well-paying jobs. The aerospace, information technology and communications, and biotechnology/biopharmaceutical industries employed more than 200,000 people in 2008 ⁶.
- On the island, growing financial service and real estate sectors employed 8% more people, especially within investment, pension fund, and credit union companies. Teaching, health, and social services also resumed their growth after a 2-year standstill. Finally, the majority of professional services - with the exception of scientific R&D - resumed their growth (2%) after a three-year decline ³.

Manpower

- Montreal has more foreign workers than ever. As of December 1, 2010, 26,067 temporary residents held a work permit, 3,425 more than in 2009, and these numbers have been constantly increasing for several years ⁷.
- Greater Montreal faces an important over qualification problem: 400,000 workers (27.2% of the labour force) are considered to be overqualified for the jobs they hold. This is a higher rate than the province of Quebec, but lower than Toronto (31.2%), or Vancouver (28.3%). This gap between employee training and the needs of the labour market leads to a waste of talent and contributes to the unemployment rate ⁸.

Staying Home with Baby

- From January 1st to April 30th, 2011, 24,966 Montrealers received parental insurance benefits, which represents 20.8% of recipients in the province of Quebec (Men: 31% / Women: 69%). These numbers are slightly lower than they were during the same period in 2010 (25,010 recipients, or 20.8% of provincial recipients. M: 31% / W: 69%), but higher than for the same period in 2009 (23,808 recipients, 20.4% of recipients in the province. M: 30% / W: 70%) ⁹.

Perspectives

It is estimated that 60,000 new jobs will be created in Greater Montreal between now and 2014. It is expected that 60% of these jobs will require a college or university diploma ¹⁰.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

La Coop Détermination Jeunesse

“You’re never too young to be your own boss”, think the youth of Châteauguay. Every summer since 2001, the youth coop in Châteauguay, La Coop Détermination Jeunesse, has offered 15 students between the ages of 14 and 17, the possibility of creating their own jobs by starting a cooperative business. La Coop Détermination Jeunesse offers a menu of work services to residents in the region. These young people are trained by two supervisors who provide guidance and instruction. It’s a fun initiation to the working world, and to the ups and downs of entrepreneurship!

<http://www.cjchateauguay.org/108/108a.htm>

INITIATIVE

Le Pont offers a complete package of services and support strategies for handicapped residents to help them reach their employment goals. Le Pont also makes use of activities and special measures to encourage employers to hire handicapped workers.

<http://www.crvamm.org/crvamm/>

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PLACE

ENVIRONMENT

The age of concrete is drawing to a close. The sustainability of urban areas will depend on recycling materials and creating green spaces. Let's get composting!

Urban Agriculture... Gaining in Popularity

- Montreal has the largest public community garden program in North America. Ninety-seven community gardens and 45 co-op gardens bring great pleasure to 12,000 to 15,000 Montreal gardeners. The number of people who dream of having a little garden is growing by leaps and bounds and has led to long waiting lists ¹.
- For three years, more than 3,100 Montreal households have taken part in Agriculture soutenue par la communauté, an Equiterre program. Every week during the summer, Montrealers visit one of 85 city drop-off stations to pick up a basket of organic fruit and vegetables grown on one of 30 participating farms located near Montreal ².

Green Spaces

- In 2010, the City of Montreal (an area encompassing 19 districts and large parks) acquired 5,526 new trees and shrubs (9,475 planted, 3,949 cut down). This represents a loss of 3,020 trees compared to the previous year (13,046 planted, 4,500 cut down) ³.
- In 2007, the island of Montreal created a canopy index (percentage of shade zones produced by trees), which was 20.5%. It is expected that the percentage of shade zones will increase by 5% by 2025. To do so, however, many property owners must be convinced to plant more trees on their private property ⁴.

Heat Islands

- Greater Montreal continues to harbour more and more heat islands. They are caused by the absence of trees and vegetation, as well as by large mineral surfaces that store the day's heat and release it at night. In 2008, it was estimated that 80% of the area's surface region was built up or paved and that .1.1km² of wooded areas disappear every year ⁵.

HEAT ISLANDS MAP: http://geoegl.msp.gouv.qc.ca/inspq_icu/

Water and Air Quality

- Water quality in the streams and bodies of water on the island of Montreal slightly deteriorated in 2010. Forty-seven stations reported that their water quality was "satisfactory", "good", or "excellent", a decrease of 5% from the previous year. On the other hand, there were 10% fewer stations where the water was considered to be "polluted" ⁶.
- Montreal reported 65 days of poor air quality in 2010, and 24 days of smog. The main culprit: fine particles. Their strong concentration polluted the air for 63 days. In 2009, Montreal experienced 68 days of impure air. Of note: atmospheric pollution is the cause of 1,540 premature deaths per year ⁷.



Use of Resources

- Consumption of electricity decreased on the island of Montreal in 2010, even though there were 6,076 more subscribers than in 2009. Residential subscribers consumed 601 GWh less than the previous year. The commercial (-84 GWh), institutional (-32 GWh), and industrial (-118 GWh) sectors also experienced a similar decrease. Montreal households, or 92.5% of Hydro-Québec clients on the island of Montreal, consumed 41% of electrical energy, whereas businesses (6.7% of Hydro-Québec clients) were responsible for 33% of the demand for electricity ⁸.
- The number of Canadian households that purchased programmable thermostats increased from 40% in 2006 to 49% in 2009. In Montreal: from 34% to 45%. Toronto: from 54% to 66%. Calgary: from 47% to 54%. Nova Scotia: 19% to 25%. The number of Canadian households that actually programmed their thermostats in 2009: 85%. Montreal: 81%. Toronto: 89%. Calgary: 80%. ⁹
- There are very few LEED (Leadership in Energy and Design) certified buildings on the island of Montreal. In April 2011, there were 1.48 buildings per 100,000 residents. Toronto (1.56/100,000) and Calgary (2.53/100,000) had more. Victoria stands out from the lot, with 20.5 certified buildings (per 100,000 residents) ¹⁰.

Households that are Attempting to Conserve Water

Percentage of Households Using a Low-Flow Shower Head, Metropolitan Regions, 2009 and 2006¹¹

Metropolitan Regions	2009	2006
Greater Montreal	63.30%	50.00%
Greater Toronto	62.70%	56.00%
Greater Calgary	55.10%	52.00%
Across Canada	62.50%	54.00%

Percentage of Households Using a Low-Flush Toilet, Metropolitan Regions, 2009 and 2006¹¹

Metropolitan Regions	2009	2006
Greater Montreal	32.60%	23.00%
Greater Toronto	45.20%	38.00%
Greater Calgary	46.80%	40.00%
Across Canada	42.10%	34.00%

Recycling/Recuperation

- In 2009, 17% of households in Greater Montreal composted their kitchen waste, 6 percentage points more than in 2007. Despite this improvement, Greater Montreal lags behind the rest of the country, where 43% of Canadians compost their food waste. In 2009, in other cities, the composting rate ranged from 27% (Calgary) to 77% (Hamilton) ¹².

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Comité Saint-Urbain - Compost'Action

The Concordia Student Union (CSU) initiated a composting program with various Montreal establishments that produce significant volumes of compostable material. Another major goal is to identify the specific needs of different areas in order to develop tools (ex. guides, workshops, training) to initiate composting projects in similar contexts.

<http://www.urbaniterre.org/>



INITIATIVES:

Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie Declares War on Heat Islands

The Rosemont-La-Petite-Patrie district contains important heat islands where there is a high concentration of residential buildings. Last year, in order to curb the problem, Mayor François Croteau reacted by adopting a wide range of green measures (such as the construction of 10 green alleys per year for the next 4 years) and regulations that make it compulsory to use energy efficient or reflective materials when building or renovating a roof.

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SAFETY

From year to year, statistics indicate that crime is indeed on the decline in Montreal. The next challenge: the co-existence of different groups in the same public space.

- In 2010, there were 117,666 Criminal Code offences reported on the island of Montreal, 7.3% fewer than in 2009 ¹.

Police Force: Montreal Goes Against the Grain

- Nine Canadian metropolitan communities (followed by Vital Signs) increased the size of their police force over the last few years, except one: Montreal.

Number of Police/100,000 Residents Canadian Metropolitan Regions 2006-2010 ²

Metropolitan Region	2006 Number of Police /100,000 Residents	2010 Number of Police /100,000 Residents
Saint John	143	202
Montreal	184	181
Toronto	173	181
Calgary	159	161
Victoria	150	153

Road Safety Record

- For several years, Canada has witnessed a decline in the number of Criminal Code traffic violations. As well, in 2010, 354 infractions/100,000 residents were recorded in Greater Montreal, which was 5.6% lower than in the previous year. Greater Victoria had similar rates (350/100,000 residents), while the metropolitan regions of Calgary (234/100,000) and Toronto (222/100,000) fared much better ³.
- In 2010, Montreal experienced a decrease in drunk driving (-10.7%), and driving under the influence causing injury (-34%), but there was a significant increase in fatal accidents (+12.1%, 37 victims), as well as collisions resulting in serious injury (+22.2%, 270 injuries) ¹.
- In 2010, 47% more pedestrians were seriously injured (125) on the island of Montreal. Of the 18 deaths, two-thirds were more than 60 years of age. Four cyclists lost their lives (1 more than in 2009), and 26 cyclists suffered serious injuries, which is 35% less than in the previous year ¹.
- According to a survey conducted by the Montreal police force in the spring of 2008, six Montrealers out of 10 agreed that speed limits were not being respected in their neighbourhoods ⁴.

Crimes Against a Person

- In 2010, there were 55 fewer crimes committed against a person (24,627) than in 2009, but 6 more homicides (37 in 2010). In total, this represents a decrease of 7.8% in this type of criminal activity since 2005 ¹.
- With regard to domestic violence, 5,245 cases were reported in 2010, which represents a decrease of 5.7% when compared to 2007 ⁵.

Other Infractions

- In 2010, there were 796 crimes of arson in Greater Montreal, a decrease of 10.5% from 2009 ¹.
- For the second consecutive year, misdemeanors for prostitution (290) and firearms (466) decreased by 35% and 9% respectively ¹.



Drug-Related Offences

- Interesting fact: While the population of thieves risking arrest decreased by 40% (from 58,640 to 35,680) between 1997 and 2008, the number of drug offenders doubled from 12,574 to 24,720. Thus, the stability that prevailed in the criminal population since 2000 has resulted in a decrease in theft to make a larger profit trafficking drugs ⁴.

Ah! Big Cities!

- Big cities face numerous problems related to the co-habitation of different groups who share the same public space...
- 4.1% of interventions by police officers in patrol cars involve people with mental health problems (including psychotic crises, suicide threats, etc.) ⁶.
- From June to August 2009, more than 1,000 calls per month were made to the Montreal police force concerning the homeless. These calls were from residents, passing pedestrians, shopkeepers, workers, and apartment building security agents, among others ⁴.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Centre de prévention des agressions de Montréal - A Violence-Free SPACE

This project attempts to empower children from disadvantaged schools who live in a underprivileged neighbourhood (Montreal-North). Prevention tools, offered during a 2-hour ESPACE (SPACE) workshop, help children prevent assaults and act accordingly when they do happen. The Centre's team of animators also conducts workshops for parents, social workers, school staff, and daycare workers.

www.cpamapc.org

INITIATIVE:

When Mom and Dad Sleep Like Logs

Created last December to deter adolescents from accepting rides home from friends under the influence, these Cool Taxi coupons were an immediate hit. Pre-paid taxi coupons, offered in \$5 and \$10 denominations, are exchangeable throughout the province, but only for taxi rides; they can't be used for any other products or services. Cool idea!

<http://www.cooltaxiquebec.ca/>

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⁵ Service de police de la Ville de Montréal, août 2011.

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TRANSPORT

“If I had a car, it would change my life...” sang Steven Faulkner. Times were different then. Today, while there are numerous advantages to having a car, Greater Montreal residents are choosing to take the Metro – to save themselves both time and money!

Montreal, the Heart of Mobility

- Every day, Greater Montreal is the scene for 8.1 million Montrealers “on the move”, and for 2 million trips that occur during the morning rush hour ¹.

Cars and Congestion

- In Montreal, just under a third of trips less than 1 kilometre are by car. In Quebec, the rate climbs to 44%, and to more than 50% in Longueuil, Laval and Sherbrooke ².
- According to a study by the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, the economic cost of traffic congestion in Montreal reached \$1.4 billion per year in 2003 - 1% of Montreal's GDP. It is safe to assume that these figures have since increased. The cost of this congestion, in relation to the size of Montreal's economy, puts Montreal in the same boat as other large North American cities facing a similar problem ³.
- Car sharing is becoming more and more popular, and Communauto is making great headway! Between 2005 and 2010, the number of Montreal subscribers nearly tripled (from 6,515 to 18,538), the number of vehicles increased from 323 to 881, and the number of stations also increased from 102 to 268. This car-sharing service has also relieved automobile congestion in Montreal, removing 7,312 vehicles in 2010, and 22,246 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere ⁴.

Public Transit is Gaining Popularity

- In 2010, commuter trains from the AMT (Agence métropolitaine de transport) reported 15.5 million trips, an increase of 1.9% in one year. The number of trips by the city bus express network increased by 10.7% to reach 1.4 million. Finally, 85.2 kms of reserved lanes help 109,000 people per day reach their workplace safely ⁵.
- The STM (Société de transport de Montréal) has increased its bus service network by 4.9%. The total number of metro and bus trips increased by 1.5% in 2010, for a total of 388,600,000 rides ⁶.
- At one-third the cost of using a car, public transit helped Montreal households save \$8,000,000 in 2009 ¹.

An Increase of 3% for Public Transit Could...

Save Montreal households \$131.8 million in transportation and parking costs

Increase the use of public transit by 13%

Eliminate 43.2 million trips by car per year

Reduce the cost of traffic congestion by \$63.8 million ¹



Active Transportation

- The use of bicycles in Montreal has increased by 10% since 2005, a growth that can be attributed to the creation of 160 kilometres of cycling lanes - especially downtown - and to the arrival of the BIXI ².
- Walking and cycling are the means of transportation used in approximately 40% of trips of less than 1 kilometre in Laval, Longueuil and Sherbrooke. This figure increases to 62% on the island of Montreal ².
- In Greater Montreal, the number of parking spaces for bicycles in the vicinity of the stations of the STM has increased from 750 in 2005 to 3,500 in 2010. It's the same situation around AMT offices. In 2004, there were 1,000 bike spaces, and six years later, there were 2,700 spaces ².
- Montreal's cycling network stretches for 535 kilometres. Each of its four main routes sees between 500,000 and 1 million cyclists annually, numbers that consistently increase from year to year ².
- In 2010, 5,000 Bixi bicycles made 3.3 million trips, three times as many as in 2009. In its first year of operation, in 2009, Bixi had 11,000 subscribers; in 2010 there were 30,000 ².

Consequences of Getting Around on...

The Environment

- Transportation generates 44% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Greater Montreal, and 75% of the atmospheric pollution that has been measured on the island of Montreal ⁷.

The Economy

- In 2009, 16 public transportation organizations in Greater Montreal spent \$1.8 billion to operate, maintain their facilities and purchase equipment. These expenses created an added value for the Quebec economy of \$1.1 billion and supported 14,110 full time jobs. Conversely, the automobile contributed to the deterioration of Quebec's trade balance due to the need to import gas (\$9.1 billion in 2009) and cars (\$6.1 billion). In 2009, these two products represented 22% of total imports in Quebec. (Source: ISQ - Institut de la Statistique du Québec) ¹.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

A Little Trottibus Tour?

Young Montrealers hardly ever walk to school. Worried about their safety, their parents choose to drive them to school, in fact, increasing traffic near the school grounds and the risk of accidents. To keep cars away from school property, the Quebec branch of the Cancer Society started Trottibus, a pedestrian bus "driven" by two adults who "walk" the kids to school. Fun and healthy too!

http://www.cancer.ca/Quebec/Prevention/QC_Trottibus.aspx?sc_lang=fr-CA

INITIATIVE

Last year, the STM (Société de transport de Montréal) won two international awards, a Special Merit Award for Commitment to the Environment, as well as a prize for the Best Transportation Organization in North America. Congratulations to the STM for increasing its staff by 18.5%, for increasing the number of trips it made by 5.4%, for adding 1,800 security cameras to increase safety in metro stations, and for adopting environmental measures (all buses use biodiesel fuel, and drivers have embraced ecological driving) ⁸.

stm.info & www.mouvementcollectif.org



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SOCIETY

ARTS AND CULTURE

Montreal culture is far-reaching! Greater Montreal's artistic and cultural scene is as rich as it is diverse. There is a growing trend of artistic fusion taking place on the Montreal cultural scene resulting from the intermingling of cultures and creative interactions. Small theatre troupes and multimedia production companies meld effortlessly with circus schools and major orchestras. Taken over by a major broadcasting infrastructure, this growth will continue to nourish the creative fibre of all Montrealers.

- In 2008, there were close to 96,910 cultural sector workers in Greater Montreal, accounting for 69% of those in the Quebec cultural sector. The number of jobs created by the cultural sector is growing almost three times faster than all other industries. The direct benefits of \$7.8 billion represented almost 6% of the city's GDP. ¹
- In 2006, 72% of Quebec publishers, film, broadcasting and art directors were based in Greater Montreal, an increase of 6% over 10 years. In Vancouver's CMA, a decentralizing trend is apparent (from 73% to 63% over the same time period). Toronto has remained stable at 62%. When it comes to library, museum, archives and art gallery directors, the concentration decreased slightly in Montreal and Vancouver, but intensified in Ontario cities. This concentration in Montreal is consistent with a downsizing trend throughout the province. ²

Production and Broadcasting

- The number of paying performances for shows in Montreal dropped from 8,349 in 2009 (3,954,396 spectators, 474 spectators/performance) to 7,401 in 2010 (3,460,512 spectators, 468 spectators/performance). Conversely, the number of performances and spectators increased over the same time period in Laval, the Laurentians, Lanaudière and Montérégie³.
- Significant amounts of money were invested in new equipment, as well as in repair work, in order to provide Montreal with an important infrastructure for cultural growth, such as the Maison symphonique (\$266 million), the Marc-Favreau Library (\$17.1 million), the SAT - Society for Arts and Technology (\$5.7 million), Théâtre La Licorne (\$6.5 million), Théâtre Aux Écuries (\$3 million), the Bourgie Pavillion at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (\$41.7 million), and le 2-22 Ste-Catherine Est (\$22 million) ⁴.
- Due to tight budgets and the high cost of renting space, young theatre artists face a lack of rehearsal space and venues in which to create and perform ⁵.
- There is a tendency within the Montreal artistic and cultural community to pool resources and to work together. For instance, that's why la Maison Notman was renovated, to house numerous web start-ups and to nurture new ideas, and why Théâtre Aux Écuries is home to 6 theatre companies, and Vivier was born from volunteer musical organizations and groups who pooled their talents to facilitate the development of new music ⁶.



Attendance

- In 2009, Canadian households spent on average \$962 for cultural goods or activities, which is \$25 more than in 2008, and \$208 more than Greater Montreal residents. Montrealers spent the most in 2006: \$773. Calgary households spent the most in the entire country: \$1,341 ⁷.
- Concerts are popular! In 2010, 38% of Montrealers over 15 years of age attended a musical concert, as did 36% of Torontonians, 44% of Saint John residents, 46% of Calgary residents, and 55% of Victoria residents. Compared to 2005, this represents an increase of 12% in Toronto and Montreal concert-goers, and of 25% in Victoria ⁸.
- In 2010, 20% of Montrealers over the age of 15 also attended at least one classical music concert, which is 8.7 percentage points more than in 2005. Other cities mentioned above also had an increased attendance rate of 6 to 10 percentage points ⁸.
- In 2010, 42% of Montrealers over 15 years of age attended a theatre performance (compared to 24.9% in 2005), as did 50% of Torontonians and 53% of Victoria residents ⁸.
- Over a five-year period, la Grande Bibliothèque registered 14 million visits. Visitors borrowed 22 million documents and consulted 8.5 million onsite documents. On August 11, 2011, 6 years after opening its doors, la Grande Bibliothèque welcomed its 18 millionth visitor ⁹.
- Montreal's 68 museums opened their doors to 5,214,925 visitors in 2010, 420,005 of whom were students. This represents an increase of more than 200,000 visitors since 2009 (5,012,596) ¹⁰.

Montreal, A Digital City

- Multimedia has the wind in its sails. In 2007-2008, the multimedia production sector based in Montreal employed 13,200 workers and garnered \$1.1 billion, \$934 million of which came from the production sector. Two-thirds of the 690 Quebec businesses that specialize in multimedia production are located in Greater Montreal ¹¹.
- La Société des arts technologiques (SAT) has become a major player in the research, creation and broadcasting of digital culture. Since its inception in 1996, SAT has hosted, produced or co-produced more than 1,700 events related to digital culture. The organization regularly receives economic missions and foreign delegations who are interested in its vision. In April 2010, during a conference held in Valencia, Spain, SAT was recognized as the foremost "Living Lab" in North America ¹².

Funding

- Artistic organizations in Montreal are funded at a level of 21% by revenue from private sources, in the form of donations (14%), and sponsorships (7%) ¹³.
- When business people decide to support organizations, they choose health care (58%), poverty and social exclusion (55%), as well as education (43%). Culture (35%) is in fourth place. Culture is a priority for 14% of businesses which donate and is the 2nd choice for 9% of them ¹.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Quat'Sous – Storytime

The Quat'Sous way promotes the development of the cultural life of families. Sunday afternoon, while parents or grandparents attend a performance in the great hall, their children help with a performance of a story in the rehearsal room. A beautiful time of sharing and exchange that brings together generations.

<http://www.quatsous.com>



INITIATIVE

Mécénat Placements Culture is a patronage program that allows non-profit cultural and communications organizations to receive matching grants that are added to their net fundraising proceeds, as well as donations by private donors and foundations to establish endowment and reserve funds. In 2010-2011, in Greater Montreal, 31 organizations received a total of \$3 million in financial aid. Since its creation in 2005, more than 200 cultural organizations across Quebec have benefited from Mécénat Placements Culture, and received \$27 million in matching grants that was used to raise \$19 million in donations.

<http://www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/placementsculture>

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LEARNING

A high dropout rate doesn't herald well in our knowledge-based economy, but efforts being made in this area appear to be successful. Student retention gets points everywhere in Greater Montreal, and the work that is being done to prepare children for school means that those who are predisposed to dropping out can be identified as early as kindergarten.

Are Montreal Children Ready for School?

- What we mean by “school readiness” is whether our little ones have reached a level of development that meets the requirements of the school. In 2006, 34.6% of children who attended kindergarten on the island of Montreal were vulnerable in at least 1 of the 5 criteria used to determine school readiness. The 5 criteria are: physical health and well-being, social skills, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, ability to communicate, and general knowledge. In comparison, only 10% of Canadian children of the same age were considered to be vulnerable ¹.
- Living in a low-income, primarily allophone area, in which there are large numbers of uneducated people, leads to a number of factors that predispose children to being vulnerable in at least one area of school readiness ¹.

Distressing Dropout Rate

- In 2010, 20.2% of Canadians over 15 years of age did not have a high school diploma. Greater Montreal (19.8%) fared better in this respect than did Quebecers as a whole (23.5%), but still lagged behind metropolitan Toronto (16.8%), Vancouver (15.4%), Calgary (14.4%), and Victoria (12.8%) ².
- Although still a concern, the dropout rate for public secondary schools on the island of Montreal and in neighbouring regions has decreased over the course of the last few years.

Official Annual School Dropout Rate in Public Secondary Schools - General Education, By Year and Administrative Region ³

Administrative Region	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Montreal	27.40%	25.50%	24.60%
Laval	22.90%	21.80%	21.50%
Lanaudière	25.20%	28.30%	23.40%
Laurentians	27.10%	23.90%	21.10%
Montréal	22.70%	21.60%	19.60%
Province of Quebec	23.90%	23.30%	21.30%



Post-Secondary Education: Encouraging Results, Although...

- Among Canadian metropolitan communities surveyed by Vital Signs in 2010, Greater Montreal had the highest level of post-secondary diplomas: 56.9% of students older than 15 had a college or university education, compared to 51.8% across Canada. The post-secondary diploma rate varied from one metropolitan region to another. It was 46.3% in Saint John, 49.6% in Kelowna, 55.4% in Toronto, and 56.2% in Calgary ⁴.
- When we evaluate the region's university graduation rate, Greater Montreal appears to be less competitive. In 2006, only 26.5% of residents between the ages of 25 and 64 had a university degree or had pursued post-secondary education. This rate is low when compared to Vancouver (31%), Toronto (34%), or Boston (45%) ⁵.
- The enthusiasm foreign students have for Montreal grows every year. In 2010, Montreal welcomed 11,558 foreign students. At the end of the year, there were 24,904 foreign students in Greater Montreal. Only Toronto (50,134) and Vancouver (43,425) fared better. A fair number of these students chose to stay in Montreal or become economic partners when they returned to their home countries ⁶.
- Montreal CEGEPs witnessed an increase in registration over the last several years. In 2010, there was an increase of 6.5% in registration requests over the previous year, and in 2011, there were 2.6% more requests than in 2010. However, several CEGEPs in Greater Montreal are full. Result: 900 students were refused admission in September 2011 due to lack of space ⁷.

In the Population

- In 2006, nearly half of Quebecers (49%) from 16 to 65 years of age had difficulty reading. 1,700,000 of these people had weak reading skills and 800,000 others were illiterate ⁸.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

L'Ancre des Jeunes - Science Courses

Young people who alternate between school failure and discouragement are surprised to discover a taste for... science and technology! By participating in L'Ancre des Jeunes structured activities, children become fascinated with science, and proudly demonstrate their skills to friends and families at local science fairs. When it comes to success at school, self-esteem is often a powerful force.

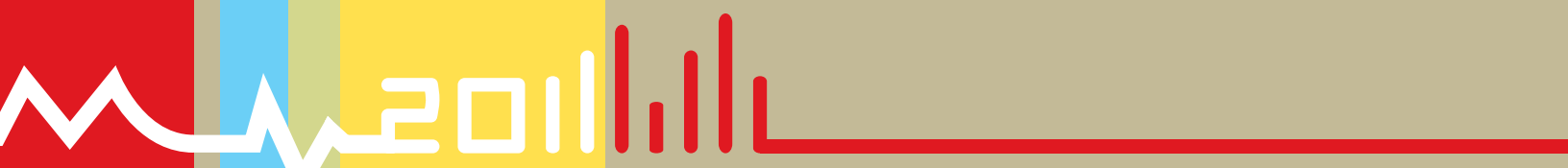
www.ancredesjeunes.org

INITIATIVE

Premiers Pas Champlain – Language Stimulation Workshops

Knowing that language problems directly affect children's success in school, the goal of Premier Pas Champlain is to improve the communication skills of children in need before they attend school. Moderately priced workshops are offered to families in difficulty who don't have access to professional services.

<http://www.premierspaschamplain.org/service---stimulation-du-langage.html>



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Despite socioeconomic indicators and ongoing poor lifestyle habits, Montrealers' state of health is surprisingly satisfactory. But the alarming upsurge in Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) calls for preventative measures, and fast.

Sedentary Montrealers

- In 2010, only 47.9% of Montrealers and 48.5% of Laval residents over 12 years of age participated in leisure activities involving even moderate physical activity. That's an improvement over Torontonians (40.6%), but far behind the North Shore/Garibaldi Coast (B.C.), where residents exhibit boundless amounts of energy (72.5%). The Canadian average is 52% ¹.
- According to a l'Institut national de santé publique du Québec study, 41% of young Montrealers from 6 to 12 years of age walked to school in 1998, compared to only 34% in 2003. According to researchers, the situation hasn't changed much since. Interesting fact: 72% of adults from 50 to 60 years of age who participated in the study said that they walked to school when they were students ².

Obesity

Prevalence of Obesity (2010) and Evolution of Obesity Rate (2009-2010) ³

Territory	Obesity Rate % 2010	Evolution of Obesity Rate 2009-2010
Greater Montreal	15.90%	-4.00%
Island of Montreal	15.10%	-7.90%
Laval	13.30%	-29.30%
Montréal	17.70%	9.30%
Greater Toronto	14.80%	6.40%
Saint John, NB (Health Region)	24.20%	2.10%
Calgary (Health Region)	15.60%	1.30%
Grande Prairie, AB	26.80%	-11.30%
South Vancouver Island (B.C.)	12.90%	-5.80%
North Shore/Garibaldi Coast (B.C.)	6,20 %	-44,10 %
Quebec (Province)	16.00%	-5.30%
Canada	18.10%	1.10%

STDs Make a Comeback

- STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) are making a worrisome resurgence, especially in Montreal. From 1996 to 2009, the number of cases of Chlamydia that were reported on the island of Montreal soared from 95.1 to 224.2 cases per 100,000 residents. In 2009, the island of Montreal had 984 cases of gonorrhea, or 52% of all cases in the province. Syphilis is also making a resurgence, with a rate that is 100 times higher than in the years before the epidemic, and slightly less than two-thirds of reported cases (227 out of 371 cases surveyed in Quebec in 2009) were in Montreal. Preliminary data seems to indicate further increases in 2010 ⁴.
- Syringe exchange programs that were implemented in the late 1980s worked! From 1992 to 2008, the rate of new HIV infections decreased considerably among intravenous drug users in Montreal. Users who swap used syringes for new ones in safe clinics allocated for this purpose are five times less likely to contract the disease. Remember that Montreal was one of the first cities in North America to implement this initiative ⁵.



Environmental Impact

- There were 300 deaths attributed to the July 2010 heat wave. Montreal was one of the hardest hit regions, with 106 deaths. The majority of the deceased were single people over the age of 75, as well as young people suffering from mental illness. Of note: When the weather is hot, mortality is 20% higher among people who live in heat pockets ⁶.
- After Philadelphia, Montreal is the North American city that has the largest number of outdoor public swimming pools. It has 74 pools - one for every 22,540 Montrealers - as well as numerous wading pools and water parks that allow residents to cool off and participate in sporting activities. In comparison, the city of Toronto has half as many pools ⁷.

Lack of Access to Primary Care

- Over the last five years, close to 65,000 patients left the emergency department at the three hospitals that make up le Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), without seeing a doctor. In North and South Shore emergency rooms, the number of patients was 50,000 ⁸.
- With so much difficulty accessing primary medical care, in 2008-2009, 61% of women living on the island of Montreal saw a doctor in the first trimester of their pregnancy, compared to 64% in the province of Quebec ⁹.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

More Than Vegetables!

The history of the Bouffe-Action de Rosemont community gardens is inspiring.

In 2002, neighbourhood families volunteered their time and efforts to growing their own fresh, affordable organic foods. Ten years later, these gardeners have enjoyed many successful harvests, as well as deep friendships that were nurtured with hard work and good times.

<http://www.bouffe-action.org/>

INITIATIVE

Medical Care For Everyone!

L'Université de Montréal created quite an uproar in 2007 when it announced the opening of a mini-medical school... for the general public! Through a series of courses - targeted at the general public - medical faculty professors offer popular topics such as aging, genomics, nutrition, etc. The goal: Put the university at the service of citizens and ensure they become better informed about their health and the workings of the human body.

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PARTNERS AND SOURCES

To prepare this check-up report about Greater Montreal, we consulted numerous information sources:

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Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Notman House
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RBC Royal Bank
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Regroupement des jardins collectifs du Québec
Re\$earch Infosource Inc.
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SECOR
Service de police de la Ville de Montréal
Service régional d'admission du Montréal métropolitain
Société de transport de Montréal
Société Logique
Society for Arts and Technology
Statistics Canada
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