



MONTREAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION DU QUÉBEC

N.B. : This newsletter is published by the ministère de l'Éducation. As part of **A New Direction for Success: Ministerial Plan of Action for the Reform of the Education System**, it will keep the target schools and their partners informed on the implementation of the measures to support Montréal schools.

INTRODUCTION

This fifteenth edition of the newsletter focuses on the implementation of promotional measures for vocational and technical education. It also provides information on various project proposals currently in the works.

STRATEGY FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

THE MANDATE

The directors general of the school boards and colleges in the Montréal region have been asked to address the specific target of quadrupling the number of vocational and technical education diplomas awarded to young people under the age of 20 in the next five years and to define the measures to be taken in order to attain this goal, given that the situation is more difficult here than elsewhere. The measures must provide for bridges between secondary-level vocational education programs and college-level general and technical education programs so that vocational education graduates wishing to pursue college studies may do so.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS

1. The Concept of a "Guidance-Oriented School" and Personal Education Plans

From the elementary level on, schools must help students with their academic and career choices. Students need information and opportunities that will help them determine what their interests and aptitudes are. These must be provided at an appropriate pace as students mature and their capacity to make decisions about their future increases. In other words, schools must support and guide students every step of the way.

The purpose of "guidance-oriented schools" and personal education plans is to make sure that a greater number of students stay in school and graduate, and that they make the best possible academic choices, whether they opt for general education or vocational or technical education.

A Project Open to Fifteen Secondary Schools

Measures have been planned to support a first group of fifteen secondary schools who would be willing to get involved in a cooperative project focusing on the implementation of the "guidance-oriented school" concept and of personal education plans. The internal resources provided by the schools and school boards will be supplemented by a \$250 000 budget for the implementation stage. The participating schools must make a commitment to continue activities once the project is completed. Each school will determine how it will implement the concept and personal education plans on the basis of their respective situations, and will be expected to produce progress reports.

Resource Persons:

Micheline Sabourin
Director general
Commission scolaire Jérôme-Le Royer

Pierre Bergevin
Assistant Director General
Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal

2. Flash Information and Exploration Projects

Projects must be set up to increase students' awareness of developments in the vocational and technical education field. Students must be given the opportunity to explore the options open to them, to find out how these options could become part of their plans for the future, and to consider the personal implications of choosing a trade or technical specialty.



Such projects have become necessary to counter a strong cultural and social bias in favour of university studies, which prove to be a dead-end in too many cases where students either withdraw before they earn any kind of degree or qualification, or make a decision, too long delayed, to resume their studies in another type of program.

2.1 One-Day Internship

This project is intended for Secondary I and II students interested in taking part in a one-day internship during which they will carry out different tasks related to a particular trade or technical specialty. The internship may be offered at a vocational education centre or college, or in the workplace, as appropriate, and may focus on a semi-skilled or skilled trade or a technical specialty.

Participating secondary schools will organize one or more internships with vocational education centres, colleges or businesses. Students must prepare for this activity in class and there must be follow-up once they return to the classroom. Thirty schools will be entitled to a \$500 allowance to support this project.

2.2 Open House

This project is intended for Grade 6 and Secondary I and II students interested in touring a vocational education centre. The tour will allow them to see what vocational and technical education is all about, to obtain firsthand information on several trades and technical specialties and to watch demonstrations. In short, this information and awareness activity is aimed at helping students make decisions about their occupational future.

A \$2 000 allowance is available for 15 vocational education centres interested in developing this project or an improved version of it.

2.3 Industrial Tour

This project is intended for Grade 6 and Secondary I and II students who are particularly interested in a trade or in related trades in a given sector. Participating schools will work with local businesses to organize a tour of their facilities. The tour will allow students to get a sense of the workplace and to find out what it is really like to practise a given trade or technical specialty.

A \$200 allowance is available for each of 100 such projects.

2.4 Virtual Tours of Vocational Education Centres

This project will involve 15 vocational education centres

that wish to offer the first virtual tours of vocational education centres on the Internet starting in the spring of 1998. The virtual tours will take Montréal's elementary and secondary school students through the vocational education centres located on the Island and will feature quizzes on trades and occupations. Students will have the opportunity to talk with vocational education teachers and graduates by e-mail. The virtual tours will be field-tested in 1998. They will be developed in parallel with the services currently offered on the Internet, such as the vocational and technical education information highway and the ministère de l'Éducation Internet site.

The vocational education centres will receive professional support for the technical end of the project, including programming, Web page design, the production and editing of audio and video segments, and the purchase of a licence for RealVideo, an Internet video application.

The project will also involve some 30 elementary and secondary schools interested in field-testing the virtual tours starting in March 1998.

Teachers will be coached on how to integrate these occupational exploration activities into their teaching. Appropriate teaching materials based on the elementary Cycle II and secondary Cycle I programs will be made available. The virtual tours and teaching materials will be finalized by early September 1998, for the beginning of the school year.

2.5 Guide for the Public on Vocational Education on the Island of Montréal

In March 1998, the ministère de l'Éducation will launch a guide designed to introduce the general public to the full range of vocational education programs offered on the Island of Montréal. Intended for students, teachers and parents, this guide will identify the vocational education sectors in which graduates have the best chances of finding a job in Montréal. In addition to providing an overview of labour market conditions for vocational education graduates, it will arouse students' and parents' interest in less common trades and occupations.

This guide will no doubt provide Montréal families with a better understanding of vocational education.

A list of the reference materials consulted to put this guide together will be included in the virtual tours of vocational education centres at the following Internet address: [Idcllic/http://idcllic.collegebdeb.qc.ca](http://idcllic.collegebdeb.qc.ca)

2.6 À la Carte Conferences on Vocational Education in Montréal

As of February 1998, schools on the Island of Montréal will

have access to a centralized coordination service which will provide them with guest speakers on a pick-and-choose basis. The service will put together a list of resource persons from the labour market who are available to meet with students to talk about their trade or specialty. Teachers will only need to contact the coordination service, which will be set up with the help of the business community, to obtain the names of resource persons who practise a given trade or occupation. The coordination service will operate year-round.

3. Projects in the Works

The Table de concertation des directeurs généraux et des directrices générales des commissions scolaires et des établissements d'enseignement collégial coordinates the development of project proposals to be submitted to the school boards and the ministère de l'Éducation. Work is currently under way to set up a regional enrolment coordination centre and a regional fund for the promotion of vocational education in connection with the upcoming International Youth Skills Olympics.

The Table and the ministère de l'Éducation are also working jointly on project proposals with a view to:

setting targets to increase the number of vocational education graduates;

reviewing guidelines to allow schools the flexibility to develop various occupational exploration models and to group students under 20 years of age together in the same classes;

finding ways of reaching young people who leave the education system with a secondary school diploma but without any kind of occupational qualification.

The Working Group

The school boards and colleges have appointed the following people to work on these project proposals:

Name	Employer
Denis Boulanger	Commission scolaire Sainte-Croix
Normand Desmarteaux	Commission scolaire Jérôme-Le Royer
Robert Goyer	Commission scolaire du Sault-Saint-Louis
Gilles Lavoie	Cégep d'Ahuntsic
Marzia Michielli	Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal
Yvan Ouellet	Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal
Jean-Marc Tisseur	Commission des écoles catholiques de Verdun

For any further information on this line of action, contact:

Pierre Bergevin
Assistant Director General
Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal
Telephone: 596-6309

Micheline Sabourin
Director General
Commission scolaire Jérôme-Le Royer
Telephone: 642-9520

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A STRATEGY FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SURVEY TO MEASURE INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED MEASURES

Comments or innovative ideas for your school:

School or vocational education centre:

Principal or director:

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

School board:

Please return this form to the following address as soon as possible:

Strategy for Vocational Education
 3737, rue Sherbrooke Est, 4e étage
 Montréal (Québec) H1X 3B3
 Fax: 596-7500

Is your school or centre interested in the following measures?

NOTE: Detailed information on the measure or measures chosen will be sent to the contacts.

Name of Contact

	Yes	No
1. "Guidance-Oriented School" and Personal Education Plans (Target: 15 secondary schools)	-	-
2. Flash Information and Exploration Projects		
2.1 One-Day Internship (Target: 30 secondary schools)	-	-
2.2 Open House (Target: 15 vocational education centres)	-	-
2.3 Industrial Visits (Target: 100 elementary and secondary schools)	-	-
2.4 Virtual Tours		
- Vocational education centres (Target: 15 centres)	-	-
- Elementary and secondary schools (Target: 30 schools)	-	-
2.5 Guide for the General Public	-	-
2.6 À la Carte Conferences	-	-