



Activity Report **2008·09**

For a Green and  
Democratic City

## **OUR MISSION**

The *Montréal Urban Ecology Centre's* mission is to build and share expertise concerning the most viable and democratic approaches to sustainable urban development.

## **OUR APPROACH**

Inspired by 'Social Ecology', the Centre questions the relationship between nature and society and sees these two elements as tightly interrelated. We emphasize the importance of the neighbourhood and city levels and the fundamental right of citizens to take part in decisions that relate to the management of urban affairs.

## **OUR MAJOR PROJECTS**

During 2008-2009, we were involved in numerous singularly relevant and innovative projects. Three of them kept us most busy:

- *Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Montreal Citizen Summit
- *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibition

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



 Owen Rose, President of the Board

The Montréal Urban Ecology Centre (MUEC) team is made up of permanent employees, interns, consultants, volunteers and members of the Board. Whether they are at the MUEC for a short or long time, it always gives me immense pleasure to be able to share ideas with such intelligent, thriving and passionate team members! Our common goal is to make each member's experience one of sharing, respect and growth. Wherever life takes each one of us, we want to make sure that time spent at the MUEC holds good memories and lasting friendships. I think that, even though our work is intense and demanding, we rise to the challenge!

Look at the number, the diversity and the quality of the projects on which we work. A beautiful example of lateral integration of expertise and interests! In 2009, partnering with an impressive number of groups, organizations and citizens, we were part of major events and projects. You will learn more about them in the next pages, but let me list the main ones:

- *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibition;
- *5<sup>th</sup> Montréal Citizen Summit*;
- *Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods*;
- Cool islands projects;
- *Jane's Walks*;
- *RassembleÉCO*;
- Green roof workshops;
- Briefs for public commissions;
- Planning of major public conferences.

We know very well what the major local and global issues are, and sometimes, they discourage us. A few years ago, I was discussing the state of our world with Lucia Kowaluk, who co-founded the MUEC in 1996. At some point, Lucia looked me straight in the eyes and, with her usual smile, asked me: 'Owen, do you like what you are doing?' I answered: 'Yes, of course.' Then she said: 'Well, that's what's important!'. I love being an architect and I adore being involved with the MUEC. In the end, it is because of the quality of our collaborations, of our conversations, and of course, of our successes, that the time we put into the MUEC delivers results that, we strongly believe, contribute to our civilization's well being.

Finally, it is important to mention the 2009 municipal elections in Montréal. In the aftermath of the disgraceful scandals surrounding City Hall, the existence of civil society non-partisan organizations such as the MUEC is essential to ensure that events are analysed and commented on in order to promote a healthy and transparent democracy for Montréal.

Again, I thank all of those who contribute to making it a pleasure to evolve with the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre!

## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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 Luc Rabouin, Executive Director

2008-2009 has been a particularly intense year, in part due to the challenge of making, simultaneously, three major projects a reality: *Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods*; *5<sup>th</sup> Montréal Citizen Summit* and the *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibition. As you can imagine, because working with five people is not the same as working with fifteen, those important projects brought their share of organizational challenges! The coming year will see a 'healthy and sustainable' framework put in place, in order to ensure that team members continue to be stimulated and motivated to change the world while staying healthy.

Furthermore, the political situation in Montréal is of great concern. As a matter of fact, the last months have been troubling with all of the allegations of collusion, cronyism and corruption where reality goes far beyond fiction. That situation greatly impacts on the public's confidence towards the municipal institution, which probably explains why the voter turnout was below 40%. The present situation forces us to acknowledge that our political and administrative system fails to guarantee that the public budget will serve the public interest.

Montréal's Mayor demonstrated openness by appointing members of the opposition to the Executive Committee of the *City of Montréal*. His latest interventions aimed at enhancing the role of standing committees and giving them more power, as well as the adoption of a new 'right of initiative' enabling citizens to demand public consultations, also represent a step in the direction of a more sound and democratic governance. But if we really want to change political culture, we will have to do a lot more. In addition to accepting to govern with the other parties, the mayor should commit to governing with the citizens and engage in participatory democracy. The democratization of the city is not limited to making members of the opposition part of a small group, the Executive Committee, which already holds too much power.

The Montréal Urban Ecology Centre and its partners from the *5<sup>th</sup> Montréal Citizen Summit*, will need to continue playing a key political role by promoting the Citizen Agenda and taking part in the creation of an independent citizen network. We will also have to continue developing innovative and applicable solutions, such as our *Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods* and Cool Islands pilot projects. We need to go on conducting information and popular education activities, as well as public debates, like the *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibition, and public conferences. And, it is imperative that we keep on expressing our positions during the different public consultations, and proposing solutions to democratize the city.

Finally, we are especially proud to have obtained the *9<sup>th</sup> Ecocity World Summit* that will be held in Montréal in August of 2011. It will give us an opportunity to promote our vision of a 'green and democratic city' for Montréal and the whole province of Québec. This project, like all MUEC projects, is made possible in part by the contribution of financial partners who believe in the relevance and quality of our work, but also through the exceptional commitment and professionalism of a devoted team, as well as great collaborators that you will have the chance to discover throughout this activity report.

## GREEN, ACTIVE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Throughout the last decades, the automobile has become the transportation mode adopted by the majority, and urban development to facilitate driving resulted in major environmental and health problems in urban areas. Choosing 'active transportation' (walking, cycling, etc.) contributes to reducing those impacts and improving quality of life in urban neighbourhoods. The need is obvious in disadvantaged neighbourhoods where young pedestrians are four to six times more at risk to be injured in an accident, and where physical inactivity and obesity rates are very high. To make the transition possible, it is necessary to provide appropriate amenities for the city's citizens.

That is the long term goal of the *Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods (Quartiers verts, actifs et en santé – QVAS)* project, launched in December of 2008, in partnership with the *Coalition québécoise sur la problématique du poids*. The project's purpose is to educate the population, elected officials, design professionals and the media about problems resulting from inadequate designs, as well as to prompt a change in standards and professional practices in favour of designs facilitating active transportation, and to entrap the political will necessary to bring about change, and this while demonstrating the feasibility of designing neighbourhoods that facilitate active transportation.

Tools letting us discover inspiring experiences, from here and abroad, are currently being developed. In Montréal, citizens, elected officials, design professionals and the media are now aware of the problems related to improper urban designs and of solutions put in place elsewhere in the world. This is in part because of major public conferences and professional training through the MUEC. Finally, five local communities will be supported, during the pilot projects, in planning a QVAS.

Since December 2008, an innovative vision of the QVAS has been established around six fundamental themes. Based on these ideas, over one hundred inspiring examples of planning, citizen approaches and public policies supportive of QVAS have been documented in a guidebook to be published in early 2010. Eight (8) conferences on health, built environment and active transportation improvements were presented by international and local experts, such as John Norquist (*Congress for the New Urbanism, Chicago*), Jan Gehl (*Gehl Architects, Copenhagen*), John Rahaim (*City & County of San Francisco*) and Richard Register (*Ecocity Builders, California*). The QVAS project and innovative vision were presented at five (5) large-scale conferences on urbanism. A partnership between the MUEC and City of Montréal 'green neighbourhood' representatives has made it possible to identify many points of convergence towards a common vision, and to share experiences.



📍 'Café urbain' in Mercier-Est



📍 Activity with children in Park-Extension



📍 Public conference with John Rahaim, Planning Director, City & County of San Francisco

# GREEN, ACTIVE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Also, following a city-wide call for proposals, two neighbourhoods were chosen for QVAS planning in 2009: Park-Extension (Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension borough) and Mercier-Est (Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough). A local committee was formed in each neighbourhood, around local supporting organizations: *Vrac Environnement and Solidarité Mercier-Est* respectively. The MUEC, with those local committees and their boroughs, outline an urban profile of the neighbourhoods in order to identify the possibilities and constraints to planning a QVAS. A series of public activities were held in the fall of 2009. They helped to establish the local vision of QVAS and to explore solutions to the problems that were identified, as well as develop design scenarios from which plans for the QVAS will be drawn. Activities designed especially for youth helped younger citizens to become conscious of their environment and its impact on their health, to identify their needs in terms of active transportation improvements, and play a part in the design of their living environment.

Finally, and so that the QVAS are not limited to being isolated oasis in the middle of a motor vehicle desert, the project includes taking positions in major debates on transportation in the metropolitan area (ex.: BAPE public consultations on the redevelopment of the Turcot Complex).

Well received by the pilot neighbourhoods' population as well as by the public in general, the project focuses on the creation of 'thriving, safe and sustainable living environments', to encourage citizens to choose 'active transportation' for the benefit of their health, the environment and the quality of their surroundings.

## *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods*

- Finalise plans for the first two QVAS, launch them and see to their implementation;
- With *Gehl Architects*, offer training on the design of streets as public spaces for design professionals;
- Partnering with the *Goethe-Institute* and the *Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)* to plan a 'Quartiers sans voiture/Car-free Neighbourhoods' week of activities with international guests;
- Complete three (3) other pilot projects of participatory planning for QVAS in Montréal;
- Elaborate a methodology that offers distance assistance to communities, to help other urban neighbourhoods throughout Québec and Canada;
- Keep the public debate ongoing where change in Québec urban planning policies and practices is concerned.

*This project was made possible by the financial support of the **Fonds pour la promotion des saines habitudes de vie** and of the **Public Health Agency of Canada**. Also note the exceptional collaboration of the **McGill University School of Urban Planning** and the **School of Architecture**, as well as the support of the **Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal**.*

## 5<sup>th</sup> MONTREAL CITIZEN SUMMIT

### **The City We Want!**

'The City We Want!' was the theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> *Montréal Citizen Summit*, held from June 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The event, coordinated by the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre, was organised in collaboration with some fifteen Montréal civil society networks and the *Service aux collectivités* of the UQÀM. The Summit was co-chaired by Annie Roy, artist and co-founder of the *Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable* (ATSA) and Dimitri Roussopoulos, editor and co-founder of the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre.

For this 5<sup>th</sup> edition, we surpassed the 1 000 registrations milestone! Remember that during the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, held in 2007, there had been close to 600 registrations. This considerable jump was made possible by a more important involvement from our partners in mobilizing their networks, organizing some fifteen Pre-Summit activities, and because of our team's presence at more than 45 events held before the Summit to share the information. Current political events and the pre-electoral context also played a significant role. The Summit received unprecedented media coverage.

The complete Summit program is always available at: <http://www.5sc.urbanecology.net/en/node/132>. It included more than 80 conferences, round table discussions and workshops (some of which were in English or translated) presented by over one hundred resource-people from Québec, English Canada, the United States and Europe. This year's six (6) themes were: 1) Economy; 2) Urban planning; 3) Social justice, inclusion and citizenship; 4) Environment; 5) Democracy and 6) Culture.

- **Pre-Summit Activities, From May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

More than 1 000 people took part in some of the 30 pre-Summit activities that were organised. Furthermore, on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>, the *Cinéma du Parc* presented Montréal's first environmental film festival. With the *Collectif d'animation urbaine l'Autre Montréal*, and the financial support of *Fondation Béati*, we also co-produced a thirty minute film on the history of urban struggles in Montréal.

- **A Citizen Agenda**

A 'Citizen Agenda' was produced, putting forward some forty suggestions on how to make Montréal more equitable, inclusive, green and democratic. The Citizen Agenda was developed thanks to the engagement of hundreds of citizens and civil society organizations partners of 5<sup>th</sup> *Montréal Citizen Summit*. We distributed 2 400 copies – 2 000 published in French and 400 in English – of the document which is available on the Summit Web Site.



THE CITY WE WANT!

## 5<sup>th</sup> MONTREAL CITIZEN SUMMIT (CONT'D)

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### • Call for the Creation of a Citizen-Based Movement

Summit partner organizations called for the creation of an independent, democratic and pluralistic citizen-based movement that could give us the means to build THE CITY WE WANT. 'The only way for us to do it, in our opinion, is to roll-up our sleeves, to commit, on the basis of the principles and values listed in the 'Citizen Agenda', and to put them forward, no matter who sits on the *City of Montréal* Council'.

The 5<sup>th</sup> *Montréal Citizen Summit* was organised by: *Alternatives* • *Association des Groupes de Ressources Techniques en habitation* • *Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal* • *Coalition montréalaise des tables de quartier (CMTQ)* • *Collectif d'animation urbaine l'Autre Montréal* • *Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (CSN)* • *Conseil régional FTQ du Montréal métropolitain* • *Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal* • *Corporations de développement économique communautaire de Montréal (Inter CDEC)* • *Écomusée du fier monde* • *Réseau national sur la démocratie municipale (RNDM)* • *Service aux collectivités de l'UQAM* • *Table de concertation Action-Gardien de Pointe-Saint-Charles* • *Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI)*

### *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – 5<sup>th</sup> Montreal Citizen Summit*

- Although the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre was proud to coordinate the organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> *Montréal Citizen Summit*, we cannot dedicate our resources to the coordination of a citizen-based movement. We are willing to play an active role, but other civil society organizations will also have to take on an important part of the leadership if we hope to build a real pluralistic citizen-based movement. No other similar events are planned for the year to come, but we will continue organizing conferences and public debate activities aimed at making Montréal a 'green and democratic city'.

*This project was made possible by the financial support of numerous partners: Secrétariat à l'action communautaire autonome et aux initiatives sociales (SACAIS), City of Montréal, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM), Société de transport de Montréal (STM), Caisse d'économie Solidaire Desjardins, Conseil régional FTQ du Montréal métropolitain, Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (CSN), Department of Canadian Heritage, the Ville-Marie Borough, the Plateau-Mont-Royal Borough, Communauto, Société des Arts Technologiques (SAT), Inter-CDEC and Forum social québécois (FSQ).*



## HABITER UNE VILLE DURABLE / LIVING IN A SUSTAINABLE CITY

The *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibition is a coproduction of the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre and the *Écomusée du fier monde*, in collaboration with different Montréal partners, among which the *Institut du Nouveau Monde* (INM), *UQÀM* and *Bâtirente*. The exhibition was elaborated for the *Rendez-vous sur le développement durable Jeanne-Mance*, a mobilisation undertaken by organizations of the Plateau-Mont-Royal and Ville-Marie boroughs.

The aim of the exhibition was to raise the public's and social actors' awareness towards questions relating to urban viability (in particular through themes such as consumption, transportation and housing). We examine what can be done at individual as well as collective levels to improve the situation. It is a three phase process: 1) 'Examine the present situation' (June 2009); 2) 'Create tools' (November-December 2009); 3) 'Dream the possible' (April-June 2010). Also, in the summer of 2009, a traveling exhibit criss-crossed the Plateau-Mont-Royal and Ville-Marie boroughs, stopping in parks, pedestrian streets and public markets.

The exhibit was a big popular success, with important attendance, especially from young people who are not usually museum-goers. Furthermore, it is an opportunity for citizens and community organizations to concretely integrate social, environmental and economical issues at the neighbourhood level. Initially, the project was carried out on the CSSS Jeanne-Mance territory, but it could become an educational tool for other Montréal neighbourhoods.

### Outlooks for 2009-2010 – *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibition

- Present the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the exhibit, 'Dream the possible', from April to June 2010;
- Hold conferences during the exhibition;
- Bring the exhibition to other Montréal neighbourhoods as well as other cities of the province;
- Publish a catalogue presenting the *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibit. The document would show highlights of the exhibit: photographs of the elements displayed; captions of those elements; and introductory texts to which would be added a general presentation;
- Hold the exhibit during the 9<sup>th</sup> *Ecocity World Summit* (2011 in Montréal).

*This project was made possible by the financial support of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, the Société de transport de Montréal (STM), the City of Montréal, the Société de gestion du Fonds pour la promotion des saines habitudes de vie, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Ville-Marie Borough, Communauto, Transcontinental, Hydro-Québec, Alcoa, Deloitte and l'itinéraire.*



The mobile component of the *Habiter une ville durable* exhibition

## EXPOSITION



## LIVING IN A SUSTAINABLE CITY (CONT'D)

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### **IMAGINE MILTON-PARC (Quartier 21)**

The *Imagine Milton-Parc (Quartier 21)* project is part of the 'Milton-Parc Sustainability Plan' which is aimed at developing environmental alternatives for the neighbourhood. The initial idea was to make the Milton-Parc neighbourhood a benchmark of sustainable urban development. The mobilization of citizens, experts and local organizations working towards that goal led to the elaboration of the participatory 'Milton-Parc Sustainability Plan'.

Under the 'Quartier 21' program, the project's purpose is essentially to initiate the actions intended in the Plan. In 2009, the major actions that were carried out were: developing information/education tools; mobilizing activities for residents (educational workshops – composting, green roofs), for business owners (information and discussion meetings), and for students (presentations during university classes); coaching the *Tour des Alentours Housing Cooperative committee* in the design of a rooftop garden; following through on the Cool Islands projects by project by greening an alley, greening a wall of an apartment building, and installing community composters; and contributing to the planning of a public debate between mayoral candidates of the *Plateau-Mont-Royal Borough* during the Fall electoral campaign.

### *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – Imagine Milton-Parc (Quartier 21)*

- Build, on the roof of the MUEC, an educational green terrace. The green terrace will be used for environmental demonstrations, training, and education purposes, especially on greening and urban agriculture;
- Produce a handbook on climbing plants as an easy and inexpensive way to make our neighbourhood and our city greener;
- Mobilize institutions and businesses and encourage them to make the walls of their buildings greener;
- Support the citizens in their desires to transform Milton Street into a 'meeting space' or a 'pedestrian street'.

*This project was made possible by the financial support of the Public Health Agency of Canada, the City of Montréal, l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal and the Société de verdissement du Montréal métropolitain (SOVERDI).*



 Planter installed in the Sainte-Famille alley

## COOL ISLANDS

The Cool Islands projects represent an effort to reduce to reduce urban 'heat islands', and aims more precisely to bring nature back to the city through greening and soil demineralization. In addition to the previously mentioned projects in the Milton-Parc neighbourhood, activities were held in the Mile-End and St-Stanislas neighbourhoods, where residents and volunteers answered the MUEC's call to make their living environment greener.

### Mile-End Neighbourhood

In the Mile-End neighbourhood, a project to build a green alley made it possible to plant a large number of trees, fruit-trees, shrubs and climbing plants despite the rain falling on the day of planting!

### St-Stanislas Neighbourhood

In the St-Stanislas neighbourhood, after two years of talks, the *Petits frères des Pauvres* and the MUEC finally joined forces to redesign the front facade of the *Friperie des petits frères des Pauvres*. That small ocean of asphalt, of some 1 000 square feet, was transformed in an actual urban oasis with the plantation of many plants.

After the publication of our 3<sup>rd</sup> report on the subject, '*Toitures végétales. Implantation de toits verts en milieu institutionnel. Étude de cas : UQÀM*', we also hosted a series of workshops and seminars on green roofs.

### Outlooks for 2009-2010 – Cool Islands

- In 2009-2010, if the proposal we submitted through the *Institut national de santé publique du Québec* (INSPQ) program to reduce urban heat islands is accepted, the project could take a new direction. The new project would bring about a close collaboration between the MUEC and the *Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal* (OMHM) and would be aimed at greening some forty Montréal 'Low Rent Housing' units. Selected projects should be made public mid-March 2010;
- Elaborate professional training on greening of roofs and walls;
- Continue to host popular education activities on the greening of the city.

*This project was made possible by the financial support of the Société de verdissement du Montréal métropolitain (SOVERDI).*

Redesigning the front facade of the *Friperie des petits frères des Pauvres*.



Before



After

## LIVING IN A SUSTAINABLE CITY (CONT'D)

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### JANE'S WALKS

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009, fifteen Montréal neighbourhoods took part in the first Montréal edition of *Jane's Walks*, coordinated by the MUEC. With nineteen scheduled local walks, Montréal became one of 44 participating North American cities. *Jane's Walks* are a series of free walking tours during which citizens can socialize as well as discover and reclaim the history and environment of Montréal neighbourhoods.

The MUEC invited citizens to organise a discovery walk in their neighbourhoods, with a theme for their choice. The *Jane's Walks* routes are therefore diversified, some of them are parks and nature oriented while others focus on built heritage, neighbourhood history or pedestrian safety.

#### *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – Jane's Walks*

- Coordinate the organization of some twenty *Jane's Walks*;
- Develop French-language tools to facilitate the organization of those activities.

### RASSEMBLÉCO

On January 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Montréal Urban Ecology Centre and the Québec Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council organised their first joint event to reinforce the ties between the different public and community organizations of the sustainable built environment field.

The main goal of the event was to give organizations the opportunity to meet and to share ideas. Ten groups were invited to introduce their mission, their history, their accomplishments and their on-going projects for an environmentally friendly built environment. The participants had 6 minutes and 40 seconds (20 slides x 20 seconds) to present their organization through a 'Pecha-Kucha' style PowerPoint slideshow. The event, held at the *Écomusée du fier monde*, was a tremendous success, bringing some 150 participants.

The event was again successfully repeated on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009!

#### *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – RassemblÉCO*

- Hold a third *RassemblÉCO* activity in collaboration with the Québec Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council.



 RassemblÉCO 2009 at the Écomusée du fier monde

## SCHOOL FOR URBAN CITIZENSHIP

The *School for Urban Citizenship* project is still one of our key projects for the future. Many of the last year's activities reflect the goals of the *School* even though they weren't presented under that heading: the *Habiter une ville durable* Exhibit, the public conferences on urban environment and health, *Jane's Walks*, the co-production of the film on urban struggles and the one on the *Mile-End en Chantier* project initiated by the *Mile-End Citizens Committee*, the development of citizen participation tools for the *Green, Active and Healthy Neighbourhoods* program and the 'Participatory Budget' experimented at the *Habitations Rosemont*, as well as the conferences on 'Participatory Budget' which all focus on citizen information and appropriation of the city and neighbourhoods.

Our implication on the advisory committee and on the 'Urban development and citizen participation' of *Collectif quartier* is in the same optic. *Collectif quartier* is a *City of Montréal* initiative aimed at: 1) supporting local development actors by implementing an animation and broadcasting hub promoting Montréalers' experiences and expertises; 2) encouraging the elaboration of a global and shared vision of local development and 3) supporting the successful implementation of an integrated territorial approach.

The *School for Urban Citizenship* is already active through our various popular education activities. Its existence is real rather than formal.

## Outlooks for 2009-2010 – School for Urban Citizenship

- Continue to hold popular education activities helping citizens understand urban issues, allowing them to be part of the shaping of their neighbourhood or city;
- Position the MUEC as a key actor in popular education, especially on citizen participation and urban development;
- Hold research activities and public debates on city democratization;
- Follow closely the 'Participatory Budget' of the *Plateau-Mont-Royal Borough*, and intensify the promotion of that innovation in other Montréal boroughs as well as throughout the province.

## ECOCITY WORLD SUMMIT

We took advantage of the presence of Mr. Richard Register, President of *Ecocity Builders*, organisers of the major international conferences *Ecocity World Summit*, to get different Montréal organizations to join forces to hold an *Ecocity World Summit* in Montréal. The idea rapidly gave rise to a lot of enthusiasm and, within a few days we already had a group of partners composed of: *Alternatives* • *Conférence régionale des élus* • *Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal* • *Direction de santé publique de Montréal* • *Jour de la terre* • *McGill University School of Urban Planning* • *Montréal International* • *Quartier International* • *Tourisme Montréal* • *City of Montréal*.

By the end of June, the MUEC submitted a letter of intent to *Ecocity's International Committee* expressing our desire to hold a summit in Montréal. After receiving a positive answer, the MUEC submitted a detailed bid to hold the event in August of 2011, with the exceptional support of the *Palais des Congrès* and *Opus 3* consulting firm. Our proposition was selected!

## CONSULTING SERVICES

### **ECOCITY WORLD SUMMIT (CONTINUED)**

Our conference will focus on the following five (5) major themes: 1) Links between climate change and the city development process; 2) Urban eco-mobility (public and active transportation) and the creation of green public places, streets and neighbourhoods; 3) Governance approach and democratic process to support the growth of an 'EcoCity'; 4) Urban economy in an 'EcoCity'; 5) Built environment and health. While building on past Ecocity conferences, we hope to propose a program that reflects who we are by inviting the general public to the conferences and holding some field activities. We will also make sure that the program addresses essential questions relative to our vision of an 'Ecocity', that is to say a democratic and environmentally friendly city where social justice and inclusion issues are largely recognized.

#### *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – Ecocity World Summit*

- Organise the *Ecocity World Summit* that will be held in August of 2011 at the *Palais des Congrès de Montréal*. The event will bring together 1 200 participants from different continents (elected officials, academicians, municipal administrators and professionals, civil society organizations and private businesses).

### **CONSULTING SERVICES**

The MUEC is developing an entrepreneurial division in order to generate autonomous revenues while pursuing our mission. Our efforts to get financial support from the *Fonds de la Métropole* and the *SDE Ville-Marie* to launch that component were not successful. Even with limited resources - most of our energy being put in our three largest projects - we completed two contracts. One allowed us to experiment a first 'Participatory Budget' plan in a 'LRH', which illustrates remarkably how that type of consulting service activity can help us fulfill our mission. With the support of the *Service aux collectivités of UQÀM*, we are elaborating a training workshop on sustainable neighbourhood development. That training is intended mostly for local development actors and will be offered for the first time, in the spring of 2010.

#### **Contracts carried out in 2008-2009:**

- *Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM):*  
Formulation and completion of a 'Participatory Budget' process for the redevelopment planning of two enclosed yards of the Habitations Rosemont Complex;
- *Institut de cardiologie de Montréal – La Fondation ÉPIC:*  
Conception, undertaking and maintenance of the green landscaping of the front facade of the Centre EPIC.

#### *Outlooks for 2009-2010 – Consulting Services*

- Offer, more systematically, our advisory services building on the expertise developed through our projects: participatory approaches, green neighbourhood development, urban greening;
- Hold trial training sessions on sustainable neighbourhood development with two groups of community participants in the spring of 2010. Prepare offering the training on a wider scale in the future.

# PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION

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## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD 2008-2009

**Janice Astbury**, géographe et chargée de programmes sénior à la Fondation de la Famille J.W. McConnell • **Normand Brunet**, consultant et chargé de cours à l'Institut des sciences de l'environnement de l'UQAM • **John Cawley**, chargé de programmes sénior à la Fondation de la Famille J.W. McConnell • **Alex Hill**, remplacé par **Katia Opalka**, avocate spécialisée en droit de l'environnement au Cabinet Blakes • **Nik Luka**, professeur associé et coordonnateur du programme de Design urbain, École d'architecture, Université McGill • **Josée Magnan**, remplacée par **Annie Rochette**, chargée de projet en développement durable au Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal • **Owen Rose**, architecte chez Provencher Roy + Associés architectes • **Dominique Sorel**, ingénieure chez S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates, Inc. • **Nathalie St-Pierre**, avocate et conseillère en communication chez Octane-Stratégie • **Marco Viviani**, directeur développement et relations publiques chez Communauto.

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Our apologies to all those we may have forgotten.



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