

NEWS FROM VISION MONTREAL

A happy Fête nationale to all!



Dear friends,

More than 20 members of the Vision Montréal caucus and political staff met at our central office last Friday to make plans for the summer months. In particular, we discussed preparations for the general council meeting that will be held on Oct. 24.

Delegates from across the city will debate the important issues facing the people of Montréal. They also will proceed with nominations and elections of members of the Vision Montréal executive committee. The following positions will be filled: president, secretary, treasurer and two directors. We will keep you informed about further developments during the summer.

On the occasion of Québec's Fête nationale, I invite all Montrealers to celebrate our precious culture and heritage, which form part of the very foundations of the sense of identity and the diversity we find in the City of Montréal.

This holiday is, for Québécois people of all origins, the occasion to celebrate our collective pride and to commemorate our roots in History.

On behalf of our entire team at Vision Montréal, I extend my best wishes.

To all of you, happy Fête nationale!

Louise Harel

Tell us about your activities

If you wish to inform readers of *Le Visionnaire* about your activities or upcoming events, we invite you to send a message to Catherine Ayotte at this email address: permanence@visionmtl.com.

The next online issue of *Le Visionnaire* will go out **July 23**. We would ask you to send us your messages by **July 19**.

Byelection called in Sainte-Geneviève district

A byelection will take place on Sept. 26 in the western district of Sainte-Geneviève to fill a City Council vacancy resulting from the recent death of the independent councillor, who previously served as mayor of Sainte-Geneviève for 20 years. The campaign will begin officially on Aug. 13, and advance polls will be open on Sept. 19. We will keep you informed about Vision Montréal's forthcoming campaign events in the next few weeks.

Those of you who happen to know residents of Sainte-Geneviève are asked to contact Catherine Ayotte at permanence@visionmtl.com.

In memory of Pierre Martin

Pierre Martin, chairman of the board of directors of Aéroports de Montréal and a longtime Québec official, died on June 13. After serving in various fields including education, he acquired considerable expertise in improving public transport. During the last few years, he played a leading role in piloting the project to build a rapid rail shuttle between Montréal-Trudeau airport and downtown Montréal. Québec has lost one of its great builders.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Outremont residents will vote on condo project

A total of 278 concerned residents of Outremont borough signed an official register, thereby requiring the holding of a local referendum on a controversial project to convert a former convent near the Université de Montréal campus into luxury condos. The convent, more recently used as classrooms and labs and located at 1420, boulevard Mont-Royal, was sold by the university to the Catania construction company, which plans to transform the interior into dozens of high-end condos. The date of the referendum will be announced later this summer. The project faces mounting opposition as more and more citizens become aware of the Tremblay administration's decision to dilapidate a large heritage building on the north flank of Mount Royal, despite its architectural and historic importance.

Congratulations to the *Rassemblement pour la sauvegarde du Pavillon 1420, boulevard Mont-Royal* !

Costly duplication: a special committee should seek solutions

"City Council must set up a special committee as soon as possible to examine the negative impact of the decentralization and duplication of services between the centre city and the 19 boroughs," said Louise Harel, leader of the Official opposition. Referring to numerous complaints that have been voiced in the City of Montréal, from both the administration and the unions representing municipal employees, she deplored the waste of public funds caused by the extreme fragmentation of the city's new structure, as well as inequities in services provided to Montrealers. Obviously, tax increases would be completely inappropriate since taxpayers do not get real value for their money in the current structure.

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Confusion over the airport shuttle rail line

Even after four years of studies and discussions by the committee in charge of the proposed rail shuttle service between downtown Montréal and Trudeau airport, we find that no official reports or documents have been made public on this project. The people of Montréal are still waiting for a report that would provide a realistic evaluation of the costs, completion dates and impacts relating to the two potential rail lines for the shuttle project.

We can only conclude that the planning process still has not been accomplished, and that the population lacks clear and detailed information on the relative merits of these two rival projects. We believe that the most important goal in the airport shuttle project should be to improve commuter rail service for thousands of residents of the West Island. It is imperative that all Montrealers be informed clearly and rapidly about the impact of each project. Mayor Tremblay, when will you publish the studies?

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Missing an opportunity to achieve real reform

"Soon after his re-election, Mayor Tremblay promised a more transparent governance for the City, but his administration has now missed an opportunity to implement significant reforms in the role of Council committees, notably to open up major contracts to public scrutiny. Instead, we got proposals for a few cosmetic changes," commented Louise Harel, leader of Montréal's Official opposition. She was referring to recommendations submitted by the Council president's committee, which had been studying these reforms since December 2009.

Members of the president's committee worked on this reform for over six months, and their report will be debated at the next City Council meeting on Aug. 23. Congratulations to Elaine Ayotte, vice president of the committee, and Anie Samson, also a committee member, for their hard work.

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Finance committee wraps up its preview of 2011 budget

Members of the Council's finance committee ended their hearings on the draft version of the 2011 budget for the City of Montréal. After nearly two months' study, the three Official opposition councillors serving on this panel submitted a complementary report.

Congratulations to Pierre Lampron, vice president of the committee, and his colleagues Laurent Blanchard and Gaëtan Primeau.

Police use of Taser pistols

Réal Ménard, member of the public security committee, submitted a brief to the Commission studying the use of Taser stun guns by police officers.

Congratulations!

Recap of the last Council meeting

The June 14 City Council meeting was the last one before the summer break. It also was the first meeting for Chantal Rouleau, the new mayor of Rivière-des-Prairies – Pointe-aux-Trembles. Louise Harel welcomed the new Vision Montréal councillor, and said she will speak for the Official opposition on all issues involving water.

Elsie Lefebvre, councillor for Villeraie, returned to Council for the first time since she gave birth to her baby son, Rafael. Welcome back, Elsie!

The Official opposition submitted the following motions:

- [Motion for a public inquiry commission on the management of municipal contracts by the City of Montréal](#) → Rejected by the Union Montréal councillors
- [Motion on the budget and accountability of the city auditor general](#) → Rejected by the Union Montréal councillors
- [Motion to preserve the heritage church of Très-Saint-Nom-de-Jésus in the borough of Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve](#) → Adopted unanimously

Contact us
 3430, rue Saint-Denis, bureau 300
 Montréal (Québec)
 H2X 3L3
Tel.: (514) 861-4455
Fax.: (514) 861-4495
info@visionmtl.com