



PLAN D'ACTION 2007-2017  
MONTRÉAL,  
MÉTROPOLE CULTURELLE

Montréal, March 12, 2009

*Context: In November 2007, the Ville de Montréal, governments of Canada and Québec, Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, and Culture Montréal met with representatives of the cultural and business milieus. The objective was to accelerate the development of Montréal as an international cultural centre, and some 1,300 Montrealers agreed on an action plan to be implemented over a ten-year period. This action plan includes five major approaches: enhance access to culture; invest in the arts and culture; improve the cultural quality of the living environment; enhance Montréal's status in Canada and internationally; secure for Montréal the means to create a cultural metropolis.*

*One year after the implementation of the action plan, the steering committee wishes to provide an update on its progress.*

**Subject: Montréal, cultural metropolis – We are staying the course and focusing on our objectives**

A little over one year after the Montréal, cultural metropolis – November 2007 Rendez-vous, we are proud to report on the road traveled. The first report, which was made public on March 13, indicates clearly that this event was a turning point for the metropolis because it was above all, a call for action.

One of the most important announcements at the *Rendez-vous* involved the *Quartier des spectacles*. Work on the *Place du Quartier des spectacles* is progressing rapidly, in time to welcome artists and Montrealers as early as next June. The other phases of this major urban development project will be completed at a rate of one per year until the year 2012. The work is the starting point of spectacular evolution and sets the stage for several other inspiring projects. This means that the *Maison du Festival de Jazz* will open as soon as next summer; the make-over of the interior hall of Place des Arts is slated to begin at the end of summer; a cultural building, which will house the *Vitrine* and CIBL radio station, will be built at the corner of rue Sainte-Catherine and boulevard Saint-Laurent; the Lighting Plan is progressing and it will soon shed new light on the Gesù building façade.

Another major announcement involved public libraries. All city libraries are now open seven days a week, even in summer, and feature wireless technology. The Saint-Henri Library has moved to a new location and has been enriched with new documents. The Cartierville Library has been expanded and the Anjou Library renovated. Two new libraries are now on the drawing board. One is located at the Rosemont Métro station and the other is in Saint-Laurent. Announcements have been made that the Lachine and Pierrefonds libraries will be expanded and revamped.

Canada

 Chambre de commerce  
de Montréal métropolitain  
Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal

Montréal 

 montréal

Québec 

A new public area on rue McGill, the *square des frères Charon*, is now completed, while *place Norman-Bethune*, near Concordia University, is currently undergoing major repair. *Place d'Armes*, *place du Canada* and *square Dorchester* will be redeveloped starting in 2009. An architectural competition has been launched for the new Montréal Planetarium, and urban design workshops initiated reflection on what is to become of the Bellechasse site and *square Cabot*.

Also noteworthy is the recent opening of the *Compagnie Marie Chouinard* studio and the forthcoming opening of the *théâtre de Quat'sous*, renovation of the Segal Center for Performing Arts, important measures to improve the funding of festivals, support measures to build the *Institut de l'événement*, the opening of *Chat des artistes*—a building converted into studios and workshops for lease by artists—, the restoration of the George-Étienne Cartier and Dollard-des-Ormeaux monuments, as well as the preparation of an action plan focusing on cultural tourism.

Montréal, cultural metropolis is in motion, and it is important that all projects be completed quickly and with an eye to quality. That is why we have hired a coordinator, Robert Pilon, who will work in tandem with us to accelerate the implementation of our plan. As a leader of the Coalition for cultural diversity, Robert Pilon contributed significantly to the adoption, in 2005, by UNESCO, of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. His past achievements, negotiating skills, strong credibility with players involved in the field of culture, as well as decision-makers representing the public and private sectors, are key assets.

More than ever it is clear that we must stay the course and focus on our objectives. The year 2009 will be highlighted by significant achievements and progress on the road to making Montréal an international cultural metropolis.

**Gérald Tremblay**, Mayor of Montréal, Chair of the Montréal, cultural metropolis – November 2007 Rendez-vous

**Raymond Bachand**, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, and Minister responsible for the Montréal region

**Simon Brault**, President of Culture Montréal and Chair of the steering committee

**Diane Giard**, First Vice-President, Scotia Bank

**André Lavallée**, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee responsible for urban planning, the transportation plan, heritage and design

**Michel Leblanc**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal

**Christian Paradis**, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, and Minister responsible for the Montréal region

**Jacques Parisien**, President Group, Astral Media Radio and Astral Media Affichage

**Christine St-Pierre**, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women

**Javier San Juan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, L'Oréal Canada

**Catherine Sévigny**, Member of the Montréal Executive Committee responsible for culture