

GREATER MONTREAL'S

VitalSigns®

Our Region's Annual Check-up

2008



Foundation of Greater Montreal

Greater Montreal's Vital Signs



The Foundation of Greater Montreal is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of the Greater Montreal community. It encourages the establishment of permanent endowment funds and ensures their sound management, then redistributes the income in the form of grants to support organizations across the entire community in a variety of areas, including health, social services, arts and culture, education, and the environment.

The Foundation of Greater Montreal is a member of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), an organization that currently includes 164 foundations across the country, with total assets of \$2.7 billion. In 2007, these foundations provided grants totalling more than \$176 million to thousands of charity organizations.

This year, the Foundation is publishing the third edition of *Greater Montreal's Vital Signs*. This yearly portrait of the quality of life in the region, its strengths and weaknesses, is aimed at guiding local decision-making as well as philanthropic initiatives.

Originally developed by the Toronto Community Foundation in 2001, *Vital Signs* is now coordinated by CFC at the national level. In 2008, 16 community foundations are publishing their local report cards simultaneously. CFC will also publish a national edition of *Vital Signs*.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

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Greater Montreal's Vital Signs — 2008

Copies of this report may be ordered by visiting our website. The site also contains a more comprehensive version of the report, with a larger number of indicators as well as data sources and links to those sources.

www.fgmtl.org



Foundation of Greater Montreal

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

It gives us great pleasure to present the third edition of *Greater Montreal's Vital Signs* – an annual report card on our region.

Over the past three years, this regional portrait has helped promote dialogue between the Foundation of Greater Montreal and various groups in the social, artistic, environmental and other fields that seek to improve the quality of life of our community. This year, for the first time, the Foundation also launched a dialogue with the general public through a brief opinion survey, the results of which can be found in the centre pages of this report.

Vital Signs helps us identify the needs and priorities of our region, guide our community investment decisions and establish partnerships with organizations and networks which, like us, devote their efforts to improving the lives of our fellow citizens. The document also guides our donors who wish to make a difference through informed philanthropic decisions.

The picture that emerges from *Vital Signs* reveals some persistent problems, but also progress in some areas. In many instances, positive developments are the result of combined efforts by individual citizens, nonprofits, corporations and government agencies. They remind us that no challenge is too great and that, working together for the common good, we can overcome the obstacles. Each one of us, in his or her own way, can contribute to the vitality and resilience of our community. We hope *Vital Signs* will inspire you and spur you to action.

In closing, we wish to express our gratitude to the individuals and organizations who have contributed to the creation of this report. Without their expertise and advice, *Vital Signs* would not be the useful tool that it has become.



Marcel Côté

Vice-chair of the Board of Directors and
Chair of *Greater Montreal's Vital Signs* Steering Committee

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*We welcome your comments on this report and hope you will let us know how you plan to use it.
Please feel free to use the page set up for your response on our website (www.fgmtl.org).*

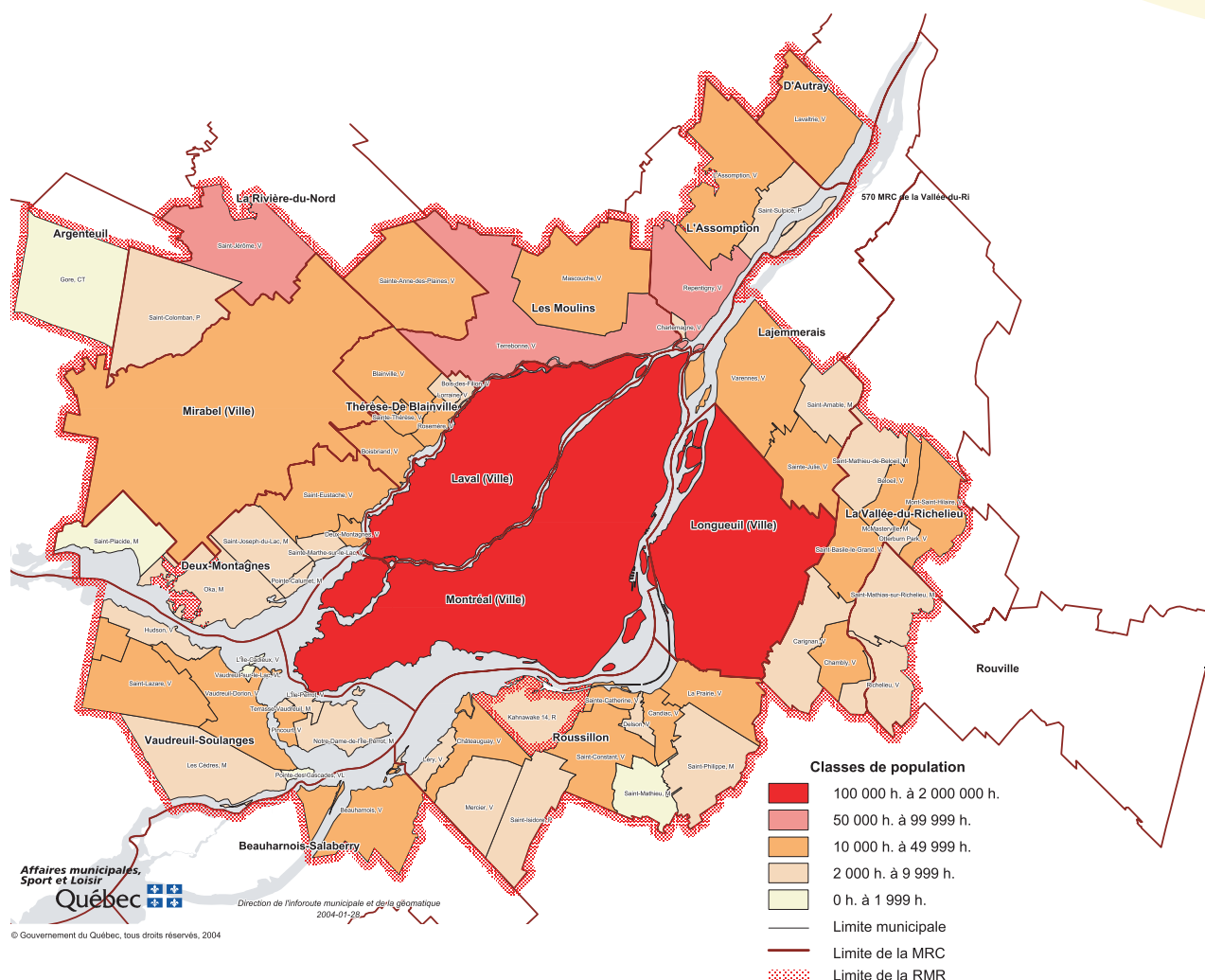
CONTEXT

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, by RCM



One of many intergenerational events organized by *Santropol Roulant*.



With nearly 3.7 million residents, the Greater Montreal region accounts for 48% of Quebec's population and, among Canadian cities, ranks second after Toronto. Over the past five years, Montreal's population has grown faster than that of the rest of the province.

This growth is mainly due to a net migratory inflow of 12,435 persons (2006-2007), primarily the result of the arrival of new immigrants.

The increase in the region's population is also due to a rise in the birth rate for the third year in a row – reaching 11.6 births per 1000 residents in 2007 – an increase that has been more pronounced in the suburbs. It is worth noting that the highest fertility rates are found among women aged 30 to 34, followed by women aged 25 to 29. What also sets Montreal apart is the greater proportion of common-law couples, now over 25% while the national average is 15.5%. Moreover, common-law couples are less likely than married couples to have more than one child.

The greatest proportion of children under 15 in Quebec is found in the Montreal region (17.1%). While this figure is lower than in 2001 (18.1%), the 65-and-over group is larger than five years ago, accounting for 13.6% of the Greater Montreal population in 2006.

French remains the language most often spoken at home by nearly 70% of the population. More than half the people in the greater region have knowledge of both official languages.

On the economic front, Greater Montreal's GDP of \$132 billion* in 2007 represented 10% of the national GDP and 50% of the Quebec GDP. The region had more than 1.5 million workers, 81% of whom were in the service industries, a substantial increase relative to the 70% recorded in 2000.

In 2006, the pre-tax median family income was \$55,100, an increase of only 1.8% relative to the inflation-adjusted figure for 2000.

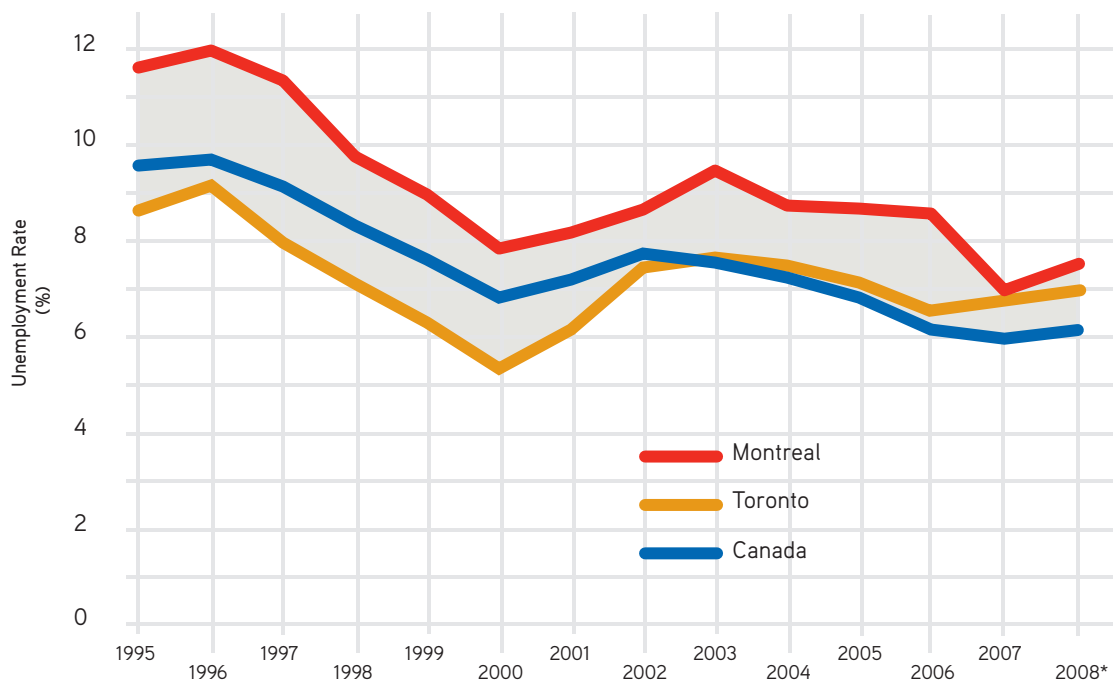
*In 2002 dollars.

WORK

Montreal's strong employment growth in 2007 placed it favourably among other large Canadian and American cities. Preliminary figures for 2008 appear to be less encouraging.



Change in the Unemployment Rates,
Montreal and Toronto CMAs, 1995-2008



* Seasonally adjusted data for July 2008, three-month moving averages.

Source: Statistics Canada



- In 2007, there were 1.9 million jobs in the Montreal region. In terms of annual employment growth rates, Montreal (at 2.5%) exceeded the national average (2.3%) for the first time in 20 years. It ranked first among the five largest metropolitan areas in Northeastern North America, ahead of Boston, Washington, Philadelphia and New York.
- Montreal has sustained this rapid employment growth for several years. Thanks to a job creation rate of 23.1% over 10 years (1997 to 2007), the region is fourth among the 20 largest metropolitan areas of North America.
- Real GDP per worker in Greater Montreal in 2007 was \$69,427*, higher than the level for all of Quebec (\$68,571) but lower than Canada's GDP (\$77,688).
- In 2007, 18.4% of the region's workers had a part-time job. This proportion has remained stable for about a decade and is close to the provincial average. It is interesting to note that 6.4% of those who work on a part-time basis are not doing so by choice.
- In 2006, the unemployment rate of technical studies graduates (college level) was only 3.9%, well below the average rate for all Montrealers. Among vocational studies graduates (secondary school level), however, the unemployment rate was higher at 13.2%.

*In 2002 dollars.

GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

Poverty has dramatic consequences for children both in terms of their development and their nutritional well-being. While the proportion of children living in low-income families has declined slightly since 2000 in the region, child poverty remains an important concern.



A seasonal market in Montreal North, part of a project initiated by *Nourrir Montréal* of the *Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal*.



- In 2006, 22.1% of children in Greater Montreal lived in low-income families.* While there has been some improvement relative to the 25% recorded in 2000, and while the rate is slightly lower than the Canadian average (23.1%), it remains higher than the provincial average (19.9%).
- In 2005, the highest proportion of low-income families in Quebec, with or without children, was on the island of Montreal (16.7%). Single-parent families were the hardest hit: 35.6% of these families are below the low-income threshold*, while this is the situation for 12.2% of couple families**.
- In January 2008, some 9% of Montreal island residents were dependent on last-resort financial assistance programs. Within this group, 28.6% were children.
- The problems associated with social inequalities are not restricted to food prices. As many as 40% of Montrealers do not have access to a source of supply of fresh fruits and vegetables within a half-kilometre of their home.
- In 2006-2007, 27,000 children had to rely on food supplies provided by Moisson Montréal, accounting for 45% of all recipients. In addition, 11,000 children were provided with meals offered by the organization – almost one-fourth of its clientele.

Montreal's *Direction de santé publique* has conducted a survey on school readiness among 10,000 kindergarten children in Montreal. Five developmental areas were assessed. One-third of the children were found to be vulnerable in at least one of those areas, leading one to conclude that on the island of Montreal, 5,087 children would need special support upon entering school. While 12% of the children displayed weakness in the area of social skills, 17% were vulnerable in the area of cognitive and language skills, and 15% in the area of emotional maturity.

Although average scores on the island of Montreal were lower than the Canadian average, the scores compared relatively favourably with those of other large cities such as Vancouver and Toronto. The survey will provide some guidance as to which areas require action.

Source: Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, 2008.

* The low-income measurement is based on 50% of the after-tax median family income in Quebec. Note that median income is adjusted for family size.

** Refers to a family that contains a married or common-law couple

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Ongoing efforts to encourage Montrealers to adopt healthier lifestyles must be increased to stop the progression of physical inactivity and obesity.



*Cooking workshops for kids at **Toujours ensemble**.*

- In 2007, the obesity rate of Montreal adults was 14.8%, compared with 11.8% in Toronto and 8.6% in Vancouver. Montreal's obesity rate was slightly lower than the Quebec (15.3%) and Canadian (16%) averages, but it was higher than the rate observed in 2003 (13.6%).
- From 2003-2007, the proportion of Greater Montreal residents aged 12 years and over who took part in physical activities during their leisure time dropped from 46% to 44.7%.
- In 2005, children aged 5 to 14 years old in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver took part less regularly (47%) in organized sports than did those living in smaller cities (58%). Thus it would appear that living in a large metropolis has a negative effect on participation in regular sports activities. The involvement of young Canadians in sports has declined in the past 13 years: 57% of children aged 5 to 14 took part in organized sports in 1992, compared with 51% in 2005.
- In 2003, approximately half (51%) of Grade 6 children on the island drank milk less than three times a day; one-third (34%) drank sodas and 42% ate potato chips on a daily basis. More encouragingly, nearly eight in ten children (78%) said they ate fruits and vegetables at least five times a day.
- After declining for several years, the proportion of smokers increased by 4.2% in the last two years, reaching 24.8% in 2007. The average for Canada is 21.9%.

LEARNING

Over time, diploma rates continue to rise in the region despite the many challenges in the education sector (dropping out, immigration, changes in the labour market, etc.). While Montreal remains behind other major Canadian cities in that regard, its rate falls within the range of the national average.

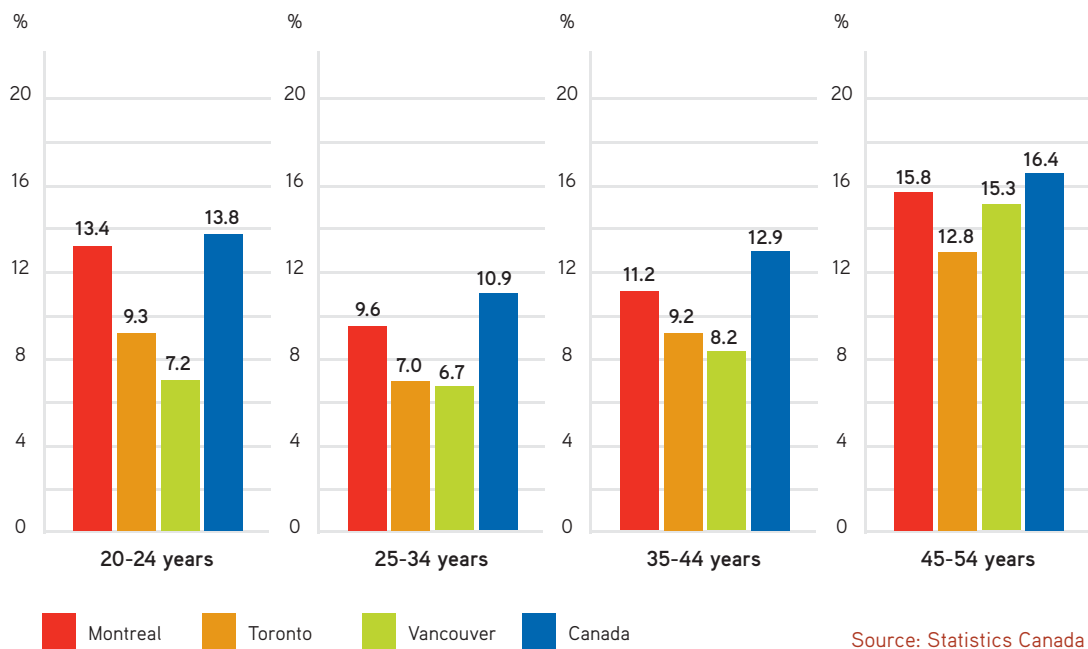


A unique opportunity for Chloe to see a snake up close at Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue's Ecomuseum.

- In 2007, 21.6% of residents aged 15 and over had not completed high school, a considerable improvement over the 38.9% recorded in 1990. Greater Montreal's rate was better than the proportion for Quebec as a whole (25.4%), and close to the Canadian average (22.2%).
- The proportion of the region's residents who have completed post-secondary education has risen continuously in recent decades, from 34.3% in 1990 to 55.3% in 2007.
- In 2006, 15% of those aged between 25 and 64 in Greater Montreal had a diploma of vocational studies (DVS). This was the highest proportion in Quebec.
- In 2006, approximately 80% of new graduates of vocational and technical studies on the island worked in a field related to their training. A DVS (secondary school level) gives access to occupations such as welder, mechanic and plumber, while technical training (college level) opens the door to careers in the police force, in dental hygiene, in childcare services, etc.
- In 2006, the region welcomed 28,000 school-aged immigrants, one-third of whom spoke French at home as their first language. About one in ten students (aged 5 to 16 years) was born abroad and one in twenty was a recent immigrant (i.e., had arrived in Canada no more than five years ago).



Proportion of Residents Who Did Not Complete High School, by Age Group, 2006

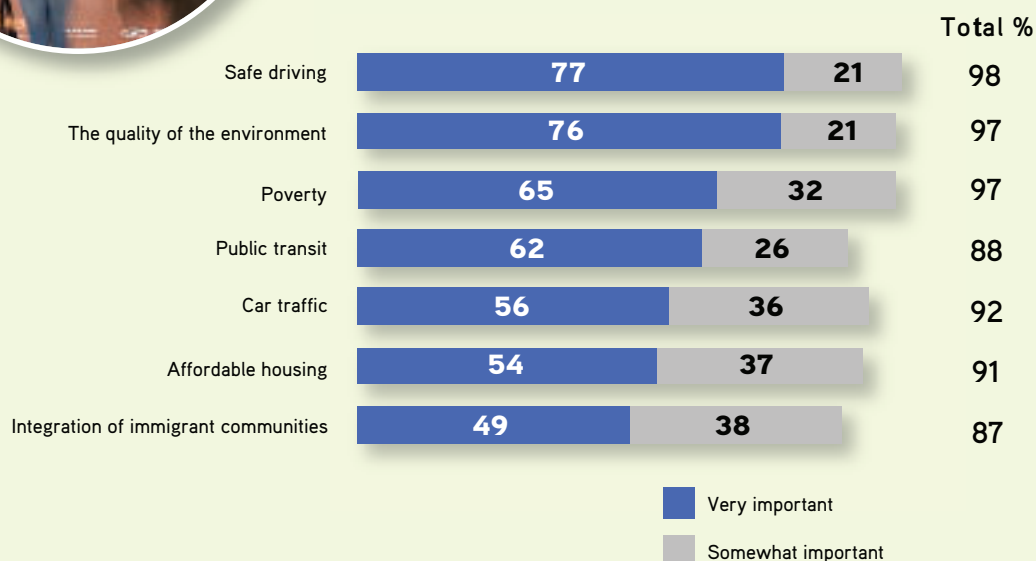


PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

In August 2008, CROP conducted a public opinion survey on behalf of the Foundation of Greater Montreal to ascertain the perceptions of Montreal metropolitan area residents about the quality of life in the region and the ways in which they contribute to it in their daily activities.



For each of the following, please indicate whether, in your opinion, this issue or problem is very important, somewhat important, not very or not at all important to the residents of the Greater Montreal.



Montrealers are very aware of the issues affecting the quality of life in the region. Among the problems they were consulted on, they were especially concerned about road safety, the environment and poverty.

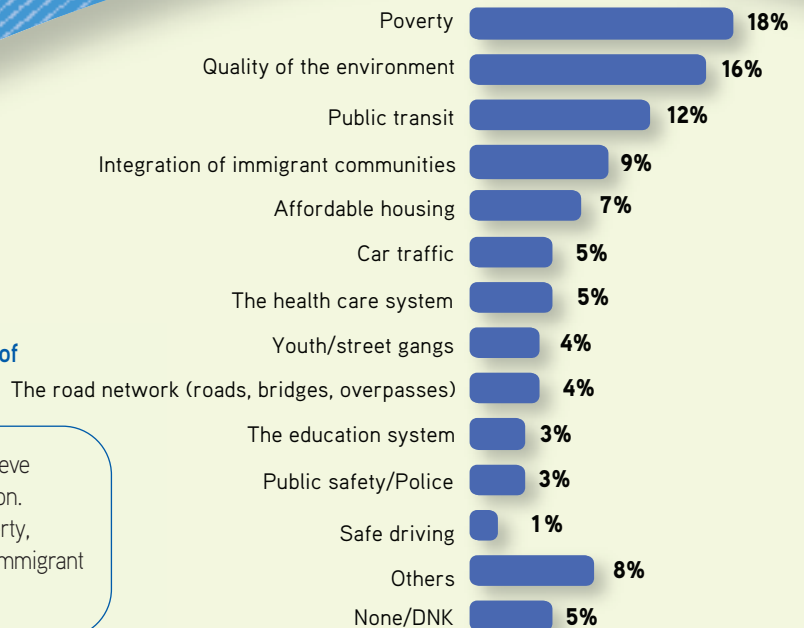
SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The results of the survey are based on 502 telephone interviews conducted in the Montreal metropolitan area between August 14 and 24, 2008, as part of the CROP Express omnibus survey. Respondents were chosen at random among people aged 18 and over in the households selected who could answer the questions in either French or English. The results were weighted on the basis of the 2006 Census of Canada to reflect the distribution of the adult population of the Montreal metropolitan area by gender, age and the language commonly used at home. From a statistical point of view, a sample of this size (n=502) is accurate within 4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.



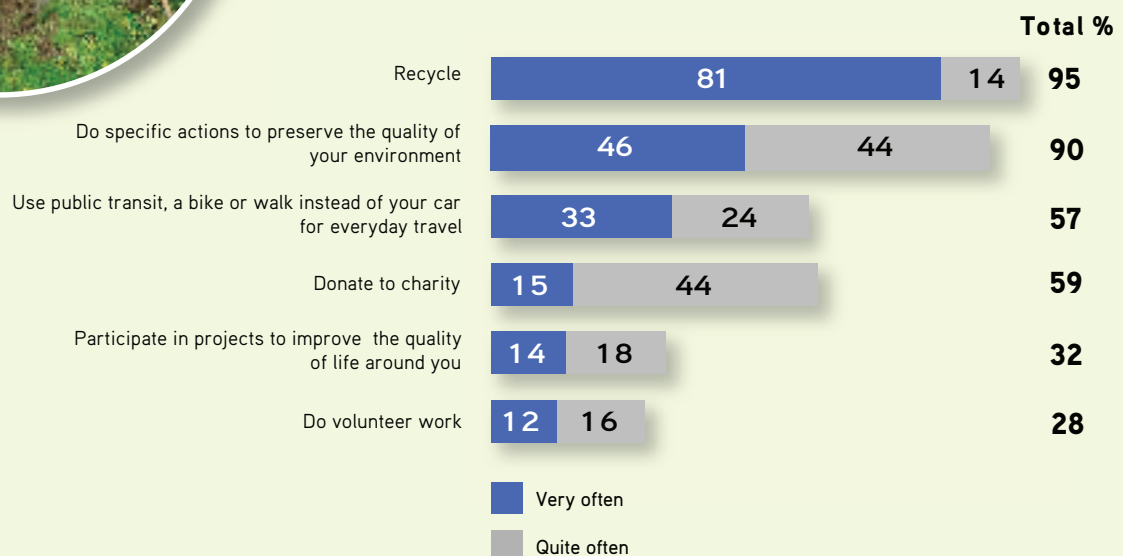
What is the single most important issue or problem you would like to see addressed first to improve the quality of life in general in the Greater Montreal Area?

Respondents are very divided on the priority issues they believe should be addressed to improve the quality of life in the region. However, more than half of them identified four issues: poverty, quality of the environment, public transit and integration of immigrant communities.



A group of proud gardeners gathered in one of *Action communiterre's* collective gardens in N.D.G.

Over the last 12 months, have you done each of the following very often, quite often, rarely or never?



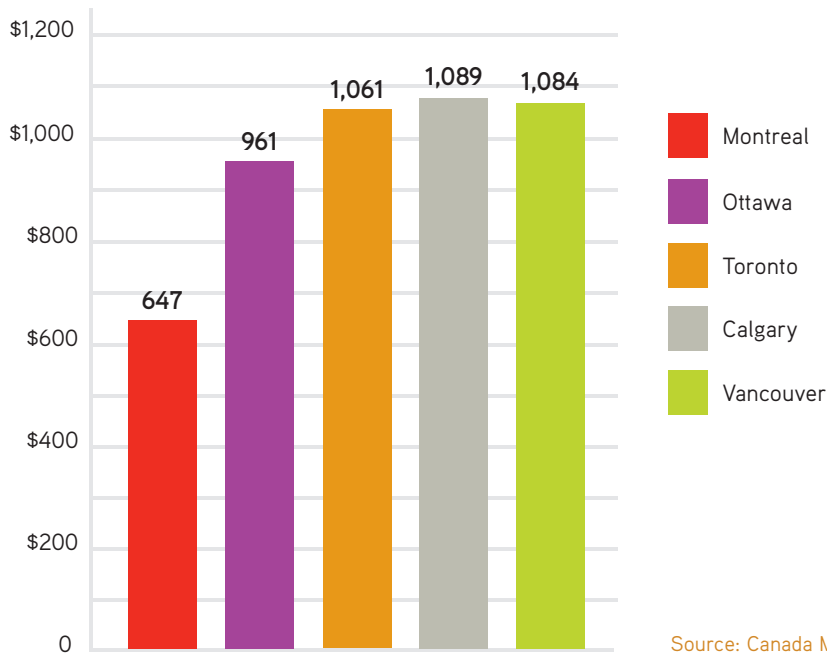
Montrealers are willing to take steps to improve the quality of life in their community, especially when they are given the right tools. Recycling is an excellent example of this.

HOUSING

In the area of housing, Greater Montreal stands out among Canadian cities. Rents are lower and at almost 3% the vacancy rate is deemed sufficient to create equilibrium between supply and demand. However, the stock of affordable housing remains too low to meet demand.

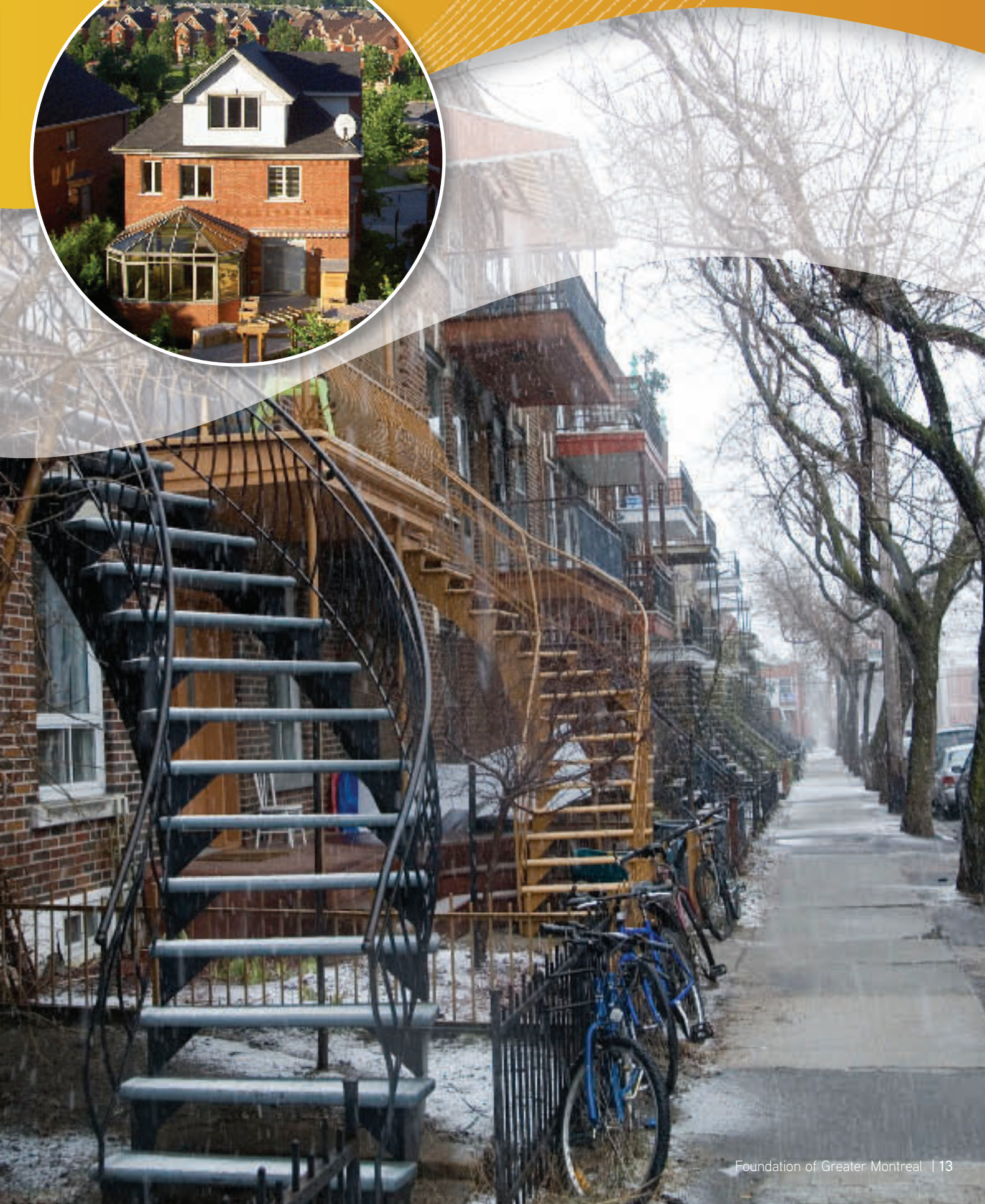


Average Monthly Rent for a 2-Bedroom Dwelling, 2007



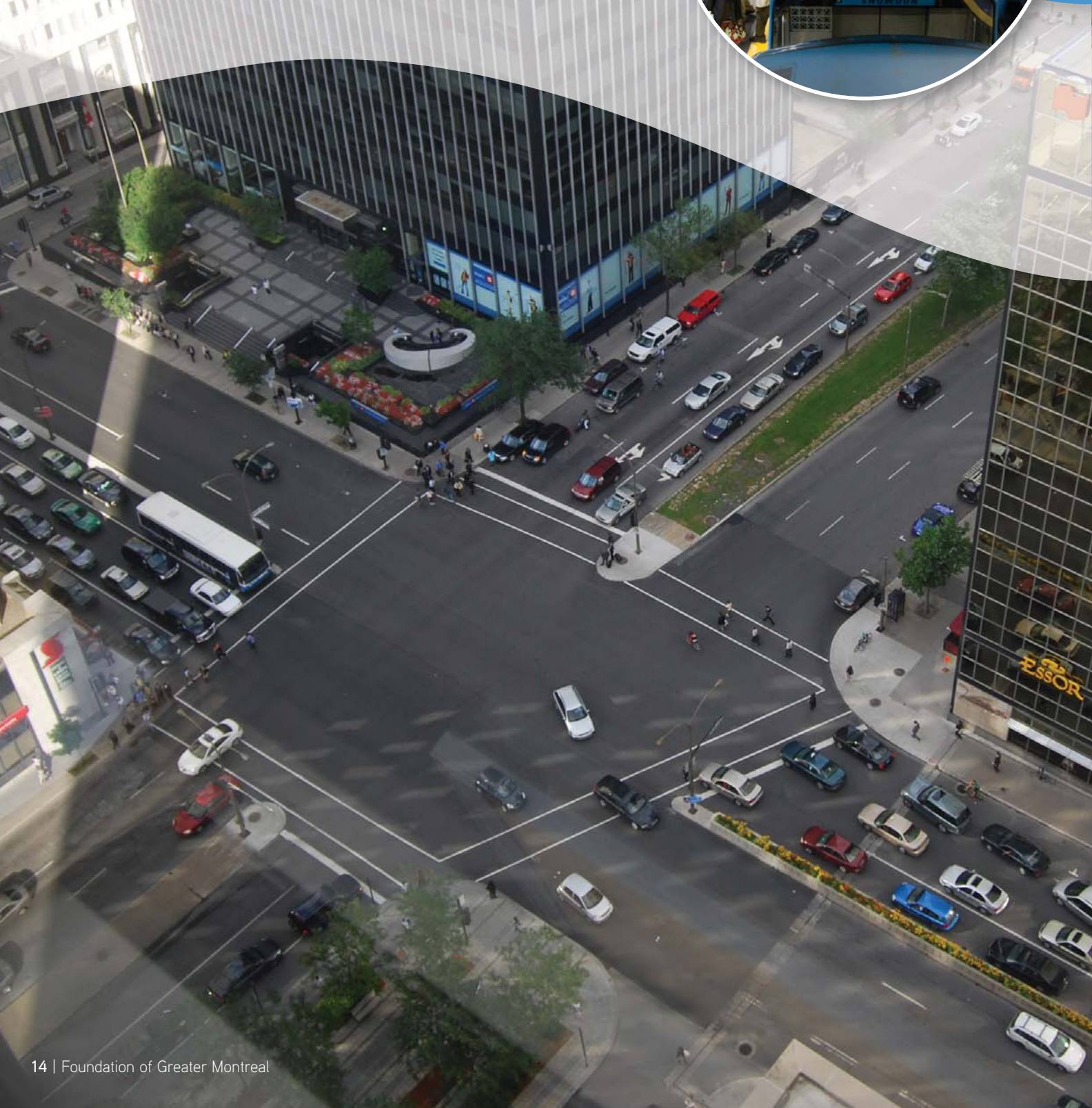
Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

- In 2007, the general vacancy rate in Greater Montreal was 2.9%, slightly higher than the previous year (2.7%). For two-bedroom dwellings, Toronto had the highest vacancy rate (3.2%), followed by Montreal (2.3%), while Calgary (1.5%) and Vancouver (1%) were far behind.
- In 2007, low-income families were still having difficulty finding adequate housing. The vacancy rates for affordable two- and three-bedroom dwellings (1.7% and 0.5%, respectively) were far below the equilibrium rate of 3%.
- In Greater Montreal, the proportion of home-owner households has increased steadily over the past six years, from 48.4% in 1996 to 50.4% in 2001 and 53.4% in 2006. Between 2001 and 2006, the increase was larger among young households (35 years old or less) than in other age groups.
- In 2006, a small proportion of private dwellings (1.6%) had more than one person per room. The corresponding proportions were higher in Toronto (3.7%) and Vancouver (2.8%).



GETTING AROUND

The utilization rate of public transit in Greater Montreal has increased slightly, but workers in the region still seem reluctant to give up their cars in their daily travels.





- The utilization rate of public transit rose by 1.5% in 2006. At the same time, there were more than 26 million trips in restricted lanes, and the utilization rate of park-and-ride facilities grew by 4% to reach 75%.
- Between 1996 and 2006, there was a slight reduction from 72.2% to 70.4% in the proportion of commuters who used their vehicles to go to work in the region. However, the rate has remained virtually unchanged since 2001 (when it was 70.6%).
- While the proportion of workers using public transit to go to work has increased in the past 10 years, rising from 20.2% in 1996 to 21.4% in 2006, it has barely changed since 2001, when it was 21.6%. In this regard, Greater Montreal ranked second among Canadian cities, behind Toronto (22.2%) and ahead of Ottawa (19.4%).
- Between 2001 and 2006, there was a substantial increase – from 29.5% to 32.9% – in the proportion of workers aged 25 to 34 in the region who used alternative transportation methods [walking, bicycle, public transit]. For all other age groups, however, in particular among those aged 65 years and over, this proportion declined.
- In 2006, the number of trips on the suburban train network increased by 3.2%, placing the region in sixth place in North America, behind New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Toronto.
- In four years — from 1999-2002 to 2003-2006 — the annual consumption of gas increased by 6.5%, due, among other things, to an increase of 6% (+51,317 vehicles) in the number of registered motor vehicles on the island.



On the move to school!, a program, launched in 2005-2006 by Vélo Québec in cooperation with the Canadian organization, Go for Green, encourages children to make active transportation a daily habit and, at the same time, seeks to reduce car traffic near schools. The program was implemented in six regions of the province in 2007, reaching more than 12,000 pupils in about 30 schools, including 11 schools under the *Commission scolaire de Montreal*. In addition to encouraging the adoption of active transportation by children, the program initiates the students and their parents to the rules that must guide cycling and walking in an urban environment, helps in the identification of hazards around schools and their neighbouring streets, encourages schools to install bicycle stands, etc.

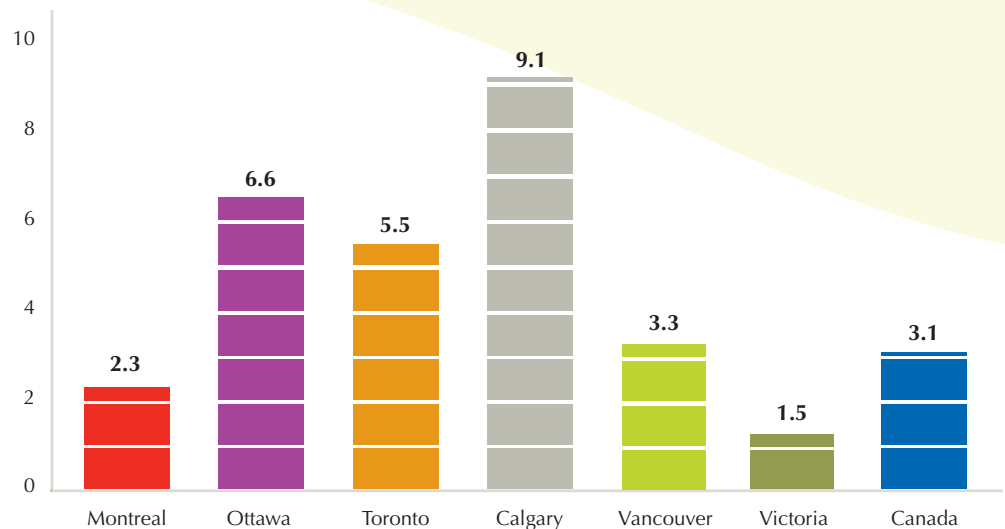
Source: Transport Canada, 2005. Vélo Québec and Accès transports viables, 2006.

SAFETY

Criminal behaviours involving spousal violence, sexual assaults and highway code violations are on the decline in Greater Montreal.

This is encouraging news.

**Rate of Hate Crimes
Reported To the Police
in 2006
(per 100,000 Residents)**



Source: Statistics Canada

- In 2007, the rate of criminal violations of the highway code was 350 per 100,000 residents, a 56% reduction relative to 1991, when the rate was 793 violations per 100,000 residents. The region is in a favourable position in that regard, as its rate of violations is lower than the averages for Canada (400 per 100,000) and Quebec (461 per 100,000).
- Between 2005 and 2006, the rate of spousal violence on the island declined from 400 per 100,000 residents to 343 per 100,000. This downward trend has been observed since 2001.
- In 2007, the number of sexual assaults on the island declined from 1,694 to 1,320, the second consecutive annual reduction. Thanks to this 22.1% reduction, Montreal had its lowest level of sexual assaults of the last 10 years.
- Also in 2007, the rate of hate crimes in Greater Montreal was lower than the national average and the rates in other major Canadian cities. Hate crimes are criminal offences that target an identifiable group (race, religion, sexual orientation, etc.). They are unique in that they affect not only the victim but an entire community. It is interesting to note that, nationally, 38% of the perpetrators in 2006 were between 12 and 17 years old. According to the data for 2005, the victims of hate crimes were also mainly found in the 12-to-24 age group.
- In 2003, 12% of Grade 4 students on the island said they had been the victims of bullying and 16% said they had been the targets of intimidation. Thus it is not surprising that 32% of these students (40% among girls) stated they were afraid of being victimized on their way to school. This feeling of insecurity diminished with age, but it remained significant: one in four Grade 6 students said they were fearful on their way to school.
- In terms of personal safety, in 2004, 94% of Greater Montreal residents felt generally satisfied. This widely shared sense of satisfaction can also be found throughout Canada as well as in other metropolitan areas such as Toronto (93 %), Calgary (96 %) and Vancouver (90 %).



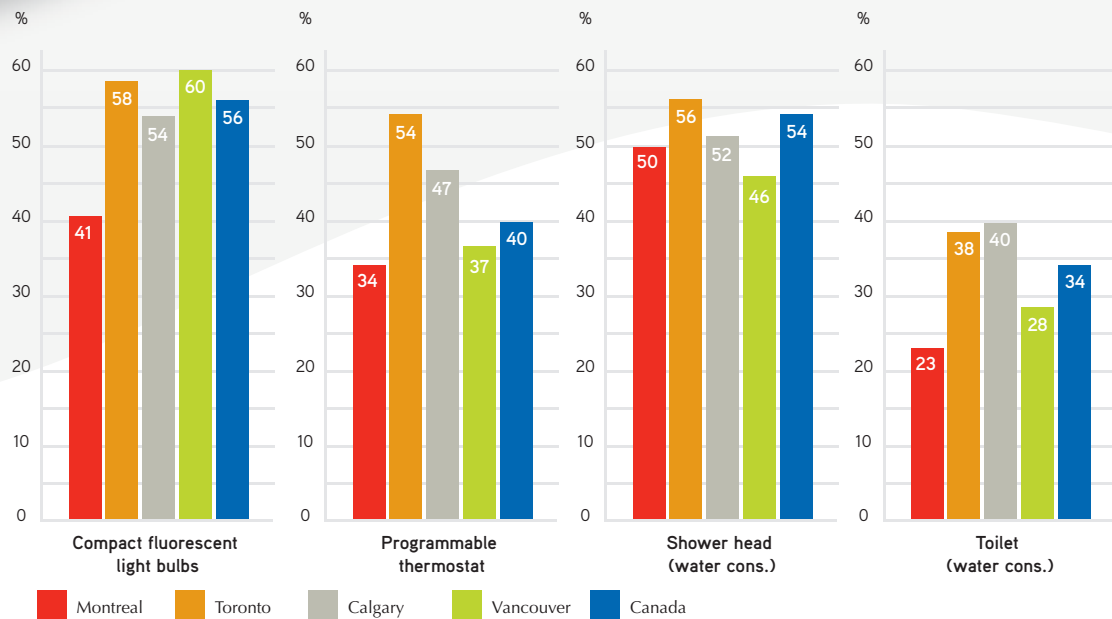
ENVIRONMENT

While more than nine in ten take part in recycling programs, Greater Montreal residents seem less concerned about saving energy than their counterparts in other large urban regions.



Pierre Dénommé, director of *Sentier urbain*, showing us an urban heat island in Centre-Sud.

Proportion (%) of Households Conserving Energy or Water in 2006



Source: Statistics Canada

- In 2007, 91% of the region's residents took part in recycling programs, compared with 78% in 2003. As well, 62% of residents disposed of hazardous wastes through voluntary disposal facilities.
- In total, 1,880,000 tonnes of residual matters (household waste, recyclable and compostable materials) were generated in 2006 by the residents of Greater Montreal; 70% of this amount was transported to landfills.
- Greater Montreal experienced only four days of poor air quality in 2006, down from 17 days in 2005. Since 2001, the annual average has been 11 days.
- Plant cover in the area of the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM)* dropped by 18% between 1998 and 2005, equivalent to 310 hectares. Whereas woodlands represented 25% of the CMM area in 1965, that proportion had declined to 15% by 2005. On an annual basis, this is equivalent to the loss of 7 km² of woodlands every year.
- The loss of wooded areas leads to the development of urban heat islands, where summer temperatures are higher than those of immediate surrounding areas by between 5 and 10 degrees Celsius. The Saint-Laurent and Anjou industrial parks, as well as the Plateau Mont-Royal and large shopping centres, are all especially affected by this phenomenon, with temperature differentials sometimes reaching 17 degrees.
- The three Canadian urban regions that used the least amount of pesticides in 2005 were Saguenay (12%), Montreal (14%) and Sherbrooke (15%), thanks to the legislation in place in Quebec. In areas where similar legislation does not exist, close to one household in two uses pesticides – for example, in Winnipeg (47%), Regina (46%) and Saskatoon (46%).
- On the island, 16.1% of children between the ages of 6 months and 12 years suffer from allergic reactions associated with ragweed. The prevalence of these allergic reactions is proportional to the degree of exposure within a radius of less than 1 kilometre. It varies by some 6% across the island of Montreal, with the east end and west end zones being most affected.

ARTS AND CULTURE

As a major cultural centre, the majority of Quebec's cultural resources can be found in the Greater Montreal region. Cultural offerings aimed at children are particularly generous whether in the area of performance arts, museum programs or library activities.



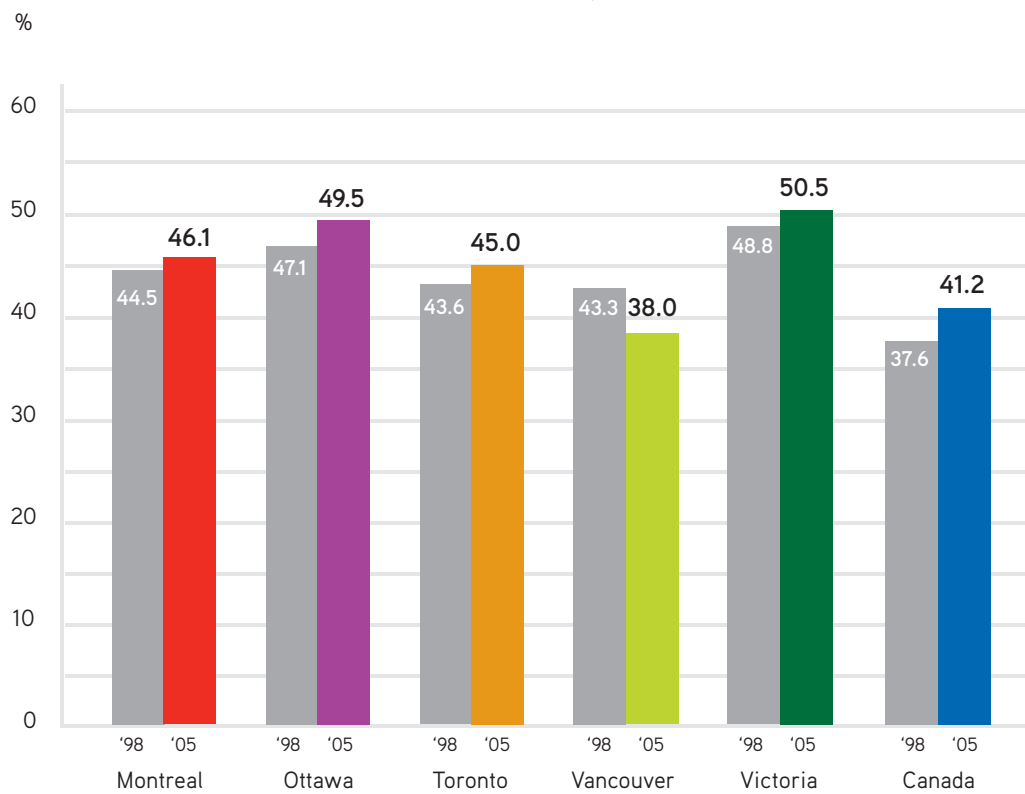
- In 2006, more than 1,400 stage performances were aimed at Quebec youth. Attendance was highest on the island of Montreal, where more than half of children below the age of 15 attended at least one performance that year.
- The "Culture in the Schools Program", established in 2004, encourages the development of cultural activities in order to provide students with multiple opportunities to experience culture in its many forms. In 2005-2006, more than 400 projects were completed across the island, 80% of them by children at the pre-school and elementary levels of the public system.
- On average, 10% of those who visit Montreal's 64 museums are students at the elementary and secondary school levels. In 2007, two-thirds of them (68.6%) were children enrolled in elementary schools.
- In 2005, there were 561 performances by professional dance companies on the island, with attendance averaging 70%. That number represented 78% of all performances given across the province. Three of every four recipients of grants from the *Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec* lived on the island, which was also home to 22 production companies averaging 20 years' experience.
- In 2005, Greater Montreal was first (32.8%) among major cities with respect to the attendance of cultural festivals, followed by Ottawa (30.8%), Victoria (29.8%), Toronto (25.2%) and Vancouver (20.5%).

Thanks to the existence of programs adapted to their clientele, the libraries on the island of Montreal play a major role in encouraging reading among the young. The program, *Livres dans la rue*, for example, targets disadvantaged children in the 4-to-12 age group, many of whom have few opportunities to read. The program, *Contact, le plaisir de lire*, is especially designed to encourage the practice of reading and the use of French among immigrant children up to 5 years old. In 2002, more than 15,000 children were given an opportunity to engage in reading through these programs.

Source: Ville de Montréal, 2005.



Proportion of the Population Attending a Concert or an Artistic Performance, 1998 and 2005

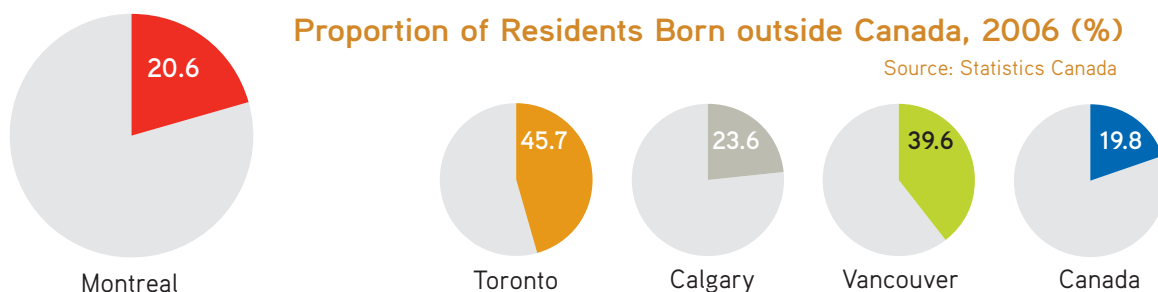


Source: Statistics Canada

GETTING STARTED IN THE COMMUNITY



The median income of immigrant families in Greater Montreal has declined since the year 2000, and it remains lower than the median income of non-immigrant families. The challenges faced by immigrants who wish to enter the labour force, even those with diplomas, have been discussed in many forums in recent years, including by the Foundation of Greater Montreal in the last edition of Vital Signs.



- In 2005, the median family income of immigrants living in Greater Montreal (\$49,257) was significantly lower than that of non-immigrants (\$68,430), and it had been declining since 2000 (\$50,733*). A similar situation was found in other major Canadian cities. The smaller differential seen at the national level (\$67,874 vs \$62,842) suggests that the situation is quite different in smaller communities.
- In 2004-2005, new immigrants were more likely to start a new business than were Canadian-born residents, especially in Montreal (10.5% vs 7.9%). However, there were fewer immigrants than Canadian-born heading established businesses (in existence for 42 months or more).
- Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of allophones in Greater Montreal rose from 19% to 21.8%. The allophone linguistic groups most responsible for this growth were those who speak Arabic, Spanish and Chinese.
- In 2006, 90.2% of Quebec's visible minorities lived in Greater Montreal. They accounted for 16.5% of the region's population, a proportion that has been rising in the past 10 years (from 12.2% in 1996 and 13.5% in 2001). In Canada overall, visible minorities represent 11.6% of the population. These proportions are greater in Toronto (42.9%) and Vancouver (17.3%).
- In 2006, the majority of same-sex couples in Canada lived in the three largest urban regions: Toronto (21.2%), Montreal (18.4%) and Vancouver (10.3%). In Montreal, only 10.5% of same-sex couples were married, a proportion that was lower than the Canadian average (16.5%) and than the proportions in Toronto (24.8%) and Vancouver (18.9%). According to Statistics Canada, this situation is due to the greater propensity of all couples in Quebec to choose common-law unions over marriage.

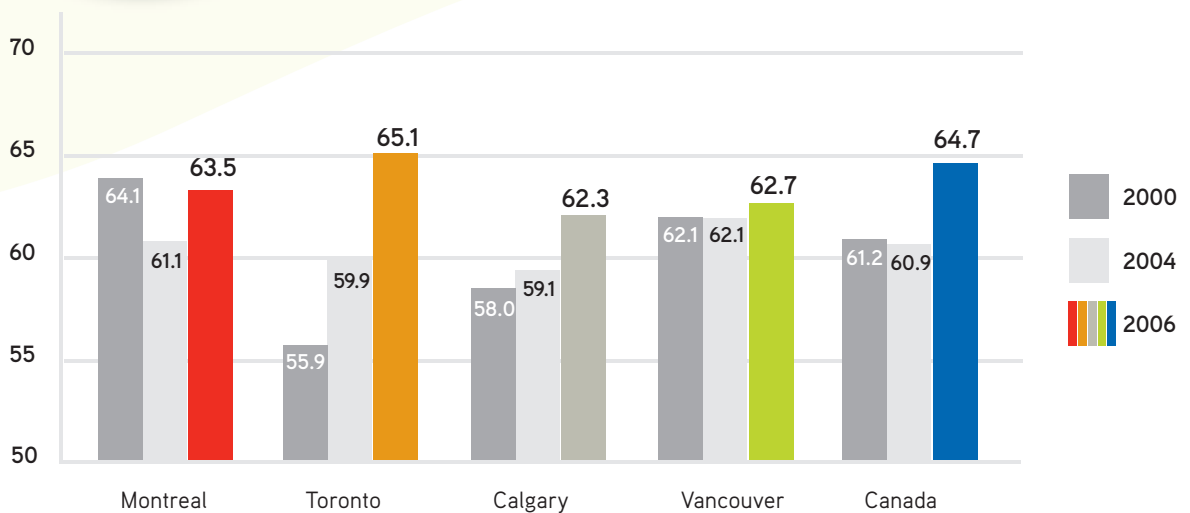
*In 2005 dollars.

BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP



The proportion of women elected for Montreal's municipal administration is among the highest in Canada.

**Rate of Participation in Federal Elections (%)
2000, 2004 and 2006**



Source: Elections Canada

- In 2007, 36.2% of elected representatives for the city of Montreal were women; among district mayors, 42.1% were women. Vancouver (36.4%) was the only large Canadian city with a rate similar to Montreal's.
- In 2006, 21.8% of taxpayers in Greater Montreal made a donation to a charity organization, compared with 24.6% for all Canadian taxpayers. The median donation of Montrealers (\$150) was also lower than that of all Canadians (\$250). The median donation level has been rising throughout Canada over the past 10 years, and a similar trend can be observed in the Montreal region, where the median level grew by 36.4% between 1997 and 2006.
- The 2007 campaign of Centraide of Greater Montreal raised over \$54 million – \$2.5 million more than the previous year. With these funds, Centraide supports 360 organizations, mainly on the island. The Centraide campaign is supported by more than 22,000 volunteers in some 2,000 workplaces.



*Hasbro, the game and toy company, has recently launched a new global edition of its famous *Monopoly* board game, originally created in 1935. The choice of cities appearing in this special edition is the result of an online vote that took place following an invitation to all cities in the world. From now on, thanks to the massive participation of Montrealers, millions of investors all over the world will dream of building houses and hotels in Montreal. Our city was voted first in the world and will occupy the most desirable box in the traditional version of the game, Boardwalk. Does this mean that Montrealers are better connected than others? Or simply that they are more proud of their city?*

PARTNERS AND SOURCES

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Advisory Committee

The mandate of the Advisory Committee is to provide guidance to the Foundation of Greater Montreal in the preparation of *Vital Signs*, in particular with respect to the choice of indicators and data sources. The committee also plays an important verification role in addition to advising the research team on information and data gathering and processing.

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Copies of this report may be ordered by visiting our website. The site also contains a more comprehensive version of the report, with a larger number of indicators as well as data sources and links to those sources.

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