

GREATER MONTRÉAL'S

# VitalSigns® 2012

OUR  
REGION'S ANNUAL  
CHECK-UP



PEOPLE  
ECONOMY  
PLACE  
SOCIETY



Foundation of  
Greater Montreal

*Committed to the community, forever*

[www.fgmtl.org](http://www.fgmtl.org)

# ABOUT **THIS** REPORT

*Vital Signs* is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada. It measures the vitality of our communities, identifies major trends, and assigns grades in a range of areas critical to our quality of life. *Vital Signs* is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. This year, 13 Canadian community foundations will simultaneously publish local reports.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Message from the FGM
	<b>PEOPLE</b>
2	Demographic Context
4	Belonging and Leadership
6	Getting Started in the Community
	<b>ECONOMY</b>
8	Economic Context
10	Gap Between Rich and Poor
12	Housing
14	Work
	<b>PLACE</b>
16	Environment
18	Safety
20	Getting Around
	<b>SOCIETY</b>
22	Arts and Culture
24	Learning
26	Health and Wellness
28	Partners and Sources

## HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

**START CONVERSATIONS. TAKE ACTION.** If you or your organization is moved or motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

**PASS IT ON.** Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, neighbours, library, community centre, or an elected official at any level.

**CONTACT US.** We know the issues and organizations in our community. If you are looking for ways to make a difference, we can help.

**FIND OUT MORE.** Learn about the many organizations in our community working to improve it, and see how you too can help.

To view the entire report, including all indicators and data sources, as well as links to these sources, please visit our website at:

<http://www.fgmtl.org/vitalsigns>

For more information about *Vital Signs*, visit:

<http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca>

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*Aussi disponible en français.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE FGM

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WE MUST ESPECIALLY KEEP IN MIND THAT  
MONTRÉAL, DESPITE ITS EXTRAORDINARY  
STRENGTHS, HAS NOT GROWN TO ITS FULL  
POTENTIAL, AND MUCH REMAINS TO BE  
ACCOMPLISHED.

As one of many community foundations across Canada, the Foundation of Greater Montréal presents *Greater Montréal's Vital Signs 2012*, which is in keeping with its commitment to the community. *Vital Signs*, our region's annual check-up, paints a portrait of our community by underlining the challenges that we face, as well as highlighting salient improvements that are needed in certain areas.

We encourage each of you to commit to doing something so that Montréalers will live better, businesses will become more prosperous, and the city will continue to attract more talent and investment.

The 2012 report provides welcome information regarding improvements in various areas such as education, the environment, and the economy. However, it also identifies mixed results compared to other Canadian cities. For example, while the unemployment rate remained high (9.7%), the poverty rate decreased (from 19% in 2000 to 14% in 2010), although it remains high in comparison to the Canadian

average (9%). We see a similar trend with the poverty rate among seniors, which is significantly higher in Montréal (12.4%) than in all of Canada (5.3%). In the education sector, even though the high school dropout rate decreased from 25.5% in 2007 to 22.5% in 2010, we are a long way from Victoria's dropout rate of 11.8%!

We must especially keep in mind that Montréal, despite its extraordinary strengths, has not grown to its full potential, and much remains to be accomplished. We appeal to all of you to become even more committed to your community. Get involved, if you are not already. Every action makes a difference and the sum of all our actions can make a huge difference.



**Richard W. Pound**  
Chairman of the Board

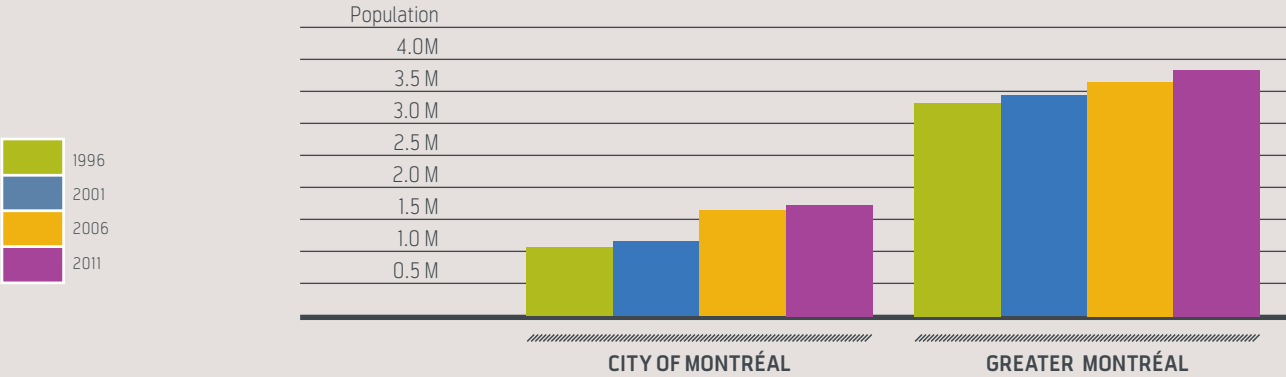


**Marina Boulos-Winton**  
President & CEO

# PEOPLE/DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

AS ELSEWHERE IN CANADA, THE POPULATION OF GREATER MONTRÉAL IS AGING, BUT LESS RAPIDLY THAN IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THIS IS DUE TO THE HIGH NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUR NORTH AND SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITIES, WHICH LOWER THE AVERAGE AGE.

POPULATION OF THE CITY OF MONTRÉAL AND GREATER MONTRÉAL, 1996-2011



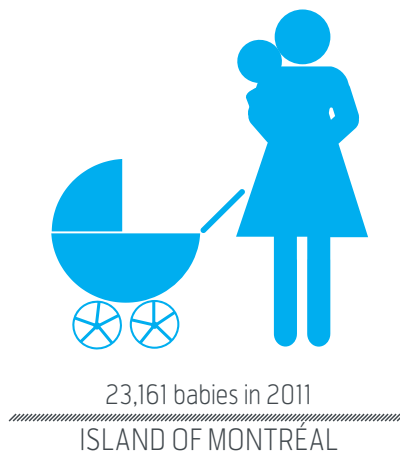
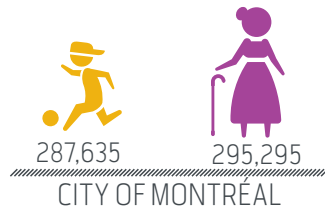
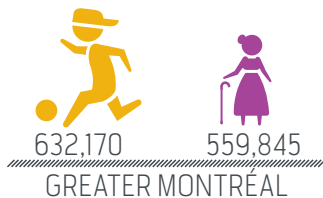
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION (%) BY AGE GROUP, ISLAND OF MONTRÉAL AND METROPOLITAN AREA OF MONTRÉAL, 2011 CENSUS\*

**1,886,480**  
TOTAL POPULATION OF THE ISLAND  
OF MONTRÉAL

**3,824,221**  
TOTAL POPULATION  
OF GREATER MONTRÉAL

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	% OF THE POPULATION	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	% OF THE POPULATION
0-14	287,635	15.25%	632,170	16.53%
15-24	239,555	12.70%	493,490	12.90%
25-34	301,560	15.99%	533,470	13.95%
35-44	266,095	14.11%	539,830	14.12%
45-54	272,555	14.45%	597,525	15.62 %
55-64	223,780	11.86%	467,900	12.24%
65-74	145,840	7.73%	300,755	7.86%
75 +	149,455	7.93%	259,090	6.77%

\*Some population figures have been rounded up to a multiple of 5.



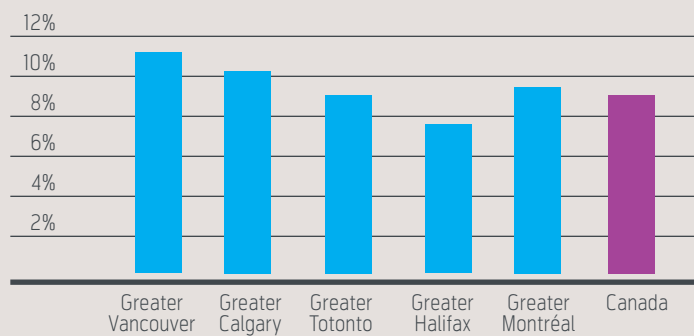
The Greater Montréal region has more children under the age of 15 (632,170) than seniors over 65 years of age (559,845), and they are most numerous in the North and South Shore communities (Saint-Colomban, Mirabel, Laprairie, etc.). It is the opposite on the Island of Montréal, where there are more seniors (295,295) than children (287,635).

On the island, Montréalers gave birth to 23,161 babies in 2011, which is 107 fewer than in 2010. The highest proportion of young people under the age of 15 was in Outremont (21%) and in Ville Saint-Laurent (19.2%).

In 2011, the average age was: 39.7 in Greater Montréal 39.2 on the Island of Montréal 41.9 in the Province of Québec 40.6 in Canada

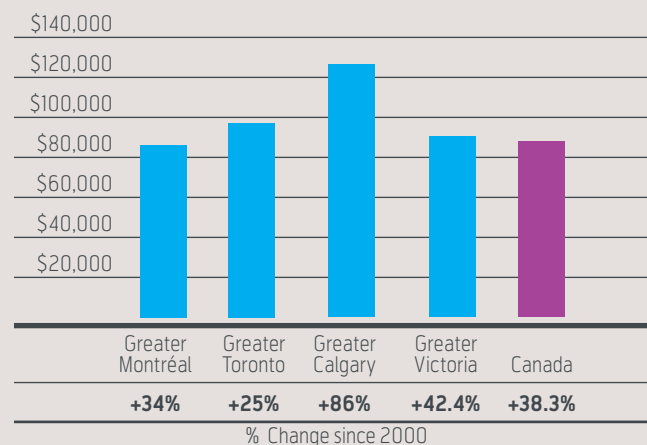
## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND INCOME

### PERCENTAGE OF SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS, CANADA AND METROPOLITAN REGIONS, 2011 CENSUS



### AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME, METROPOLITAN REGIONS, 2010, AND % CHANGE SINCE 2000-2010

(CURRENT DOLLARS)



# PEOPLE/BELONGING AND LEADERSHIP

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## 1, 2, 3... ACTION!



Municipal elections always have poor participation rates. However, this level of government is closest to citizens and involves many of the decisions that affect our daily lives. The next general municipal election will be held in November 2013. Vote!

IN 2012, MONTRÉAL WAS THE SCENE OF NUMEROUS DEMONSTRATIONS. LARGE GROUPS, COMPRISED MAINLY OF YOUNG ADULTS, PROTESTED AGAINST THE POLICIES OF THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT, THE INCREASE IN TUITION FEES, AND THE THROES OF NEO-LIBERALISM. THIS PUBLIC DEBATE BY MONTRÉALERS SPARKED DISCUSSION THROUGHOUT QUÉBEC SOCIETY.

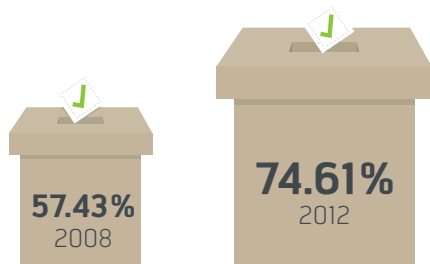


## L'INSTITUT DU NOUVEAU MONDE

L'Institut du Nouveau Monde (INM) is a non-partisan organization that encourages citizens to participate in order to renew ideas in Québec. Founded in 2003, the INM offers several programs (such as summer school) and activities where stakeholders and citizens are invited to discuss the issues of the day.

[www.inm.qc.ca](http://www.inm.qc.ca)





## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

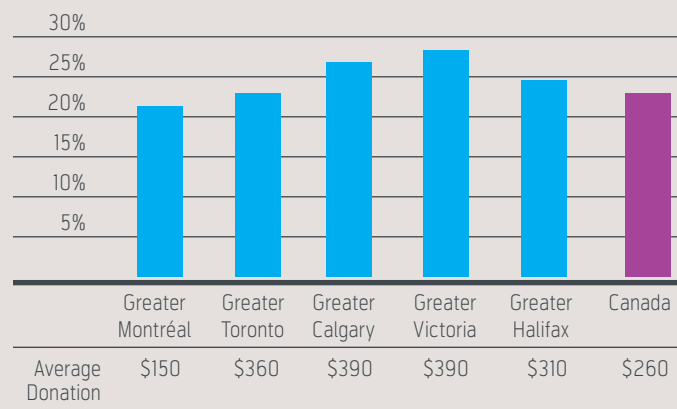
74.61% of registered eligible voters went to the polls in the 2012 provincial election. In 2008, the participation rate was 57.43% (including a mere 41.2% among young between 18–24 years of age).

Single parents, new immigrants and people in low-skill occupations vote less often than other citizens.

A sense of belonging among residents of Greater Montréal decreased between 2010 and 2011. 54.3% of those polled said they felt a strong or rather strong sense of belonging to their community, compared to 56% in 2010. Residents of Laval experienced the largest decrease (from 52.4% to 45%). On the other hand, residents in Montérégie identified more with their community (from 51.1% to 53.2%).

47% of Canadians did volunteer work in 2010. Mostly in and around major metropolitan areas, the proportion of residents who volunteered increased in 2010, and was 56.5% in Halifax, 47.6% in Toronto, 50.3% in Calgary, and 46.8% in Victoria. Montreal ranked last with 36.7% of the population volunteering.

## PERCENTAGE OF TAXPAYERS WHO GAVE TO CHARITY AND AVERAGE DONATION, CANADA AND METROPOLITAN REGIONS, 2010



Indifferent youth? Not necessarily. They are leaving traditional politics in favour of student and charitable associations, or informal movements. Their commitment starts with the individual, then embraces collective interests (i.e. composting, doing volunteer work) and revolves around three main causes: the student cause, the environment and human solidarity.

## SENSE OF SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

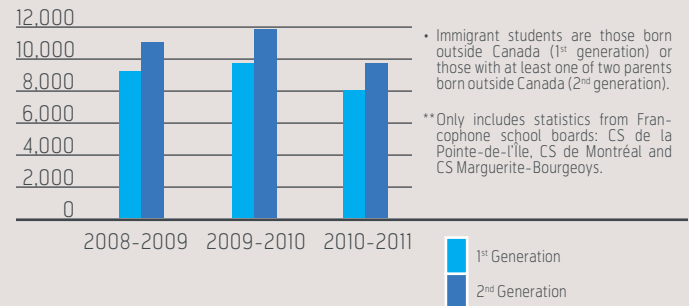
In 2011, a very large proportion of Greater Montréal residents (93.7%) said they were satisfied or very satisfied with life. Greater Torontonians were less satisfied (90.9%), as were residents in Greater Calgary (93.3%) and in the country as a whole (92.3%).



# PEOPLE/**GETTING** STARTED IN THE COMMUNITY

DUE TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH, THEIR HIGH QUALIFICATIONS, AND THEIR EXTENSIVE PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLITAN REGION, IMMIGRANTS ARE INTEGRATING MORE AND MORE INTO QUÉBEC SOCIETY. YET, WHEN IT COMES TO INTEGRATING INTO THE LABOUR MARKET, THEY STILL FACE DISCRIMINATION.

**NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT STUDENTS (1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION)\* ATTENDING ACCUEIL OR FRENCH-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS\*\***



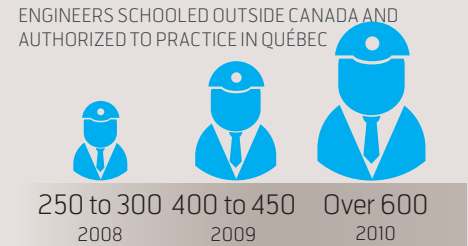
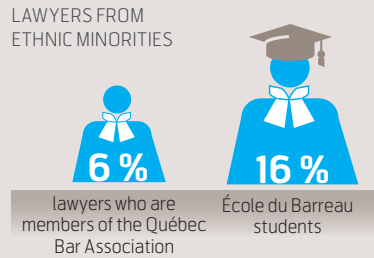
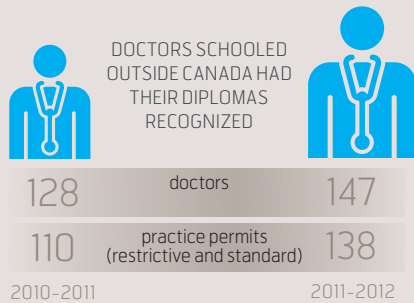
## CUISINES ET VIE COLLECTIVES SAINT-ROCH

This thematic cooking workshop project, Cuisines et vie collectives Saint-Roch, introduces new immigrants to Québec's cultural food. The project familiarizes immigrants with local products and complements their French-language skills with a culinary vocabulary and lectures on the subject.





## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OPEN THEIR DOORS



## ...BUT DISCRIMINATION PERSISTS

Québecers with foreign surnames looking for work in Greater Montréal face a discrimination rate of 35%. One in three is excluded from the interview process. A candidate with a French surname and equal skills and competencies has at least a 60% chance of being granted a job interview, compared to someone with an African, Arab or Latin-American name.

## BROADENING HORIZONS

Immigrants tend to leave Greater Montréal sooner than they once did. In January 2011, 65.7% of immigrants who arrived in Québec between 2005 and 2009 still lived in Montréal. In comparison, 70.8% of immigrants who arrived in Québec between 1999 and 2003 were still living in Montréal in January 2005. New arrivals settle mainly in Montérégie and Laval. These two regions have seen their immigrant populations increase by 1.4% and 1.9% respectively.

The Aboriginal population of Montréal, which is rather young, is mainly comprised of new arrivals and first generation Montréalers who do not intend to return permanently to live in their community of origin (44%). The men move to Montréal to look for work and the women often follow in order to prevent challenging family situations and/or to find a better place to raise their children.

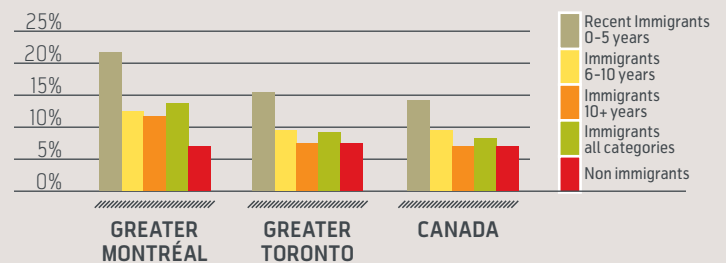
## KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH

In 2011-2012, 12,602 adult immigrants took advantage of full-time French-language programs (compared to 13,230 in 2010-2011), and 13,950 were enrolled in part-time programs (compared to 13,073 in 2010-2011).

In the first quarter of 2012, 10,928 people immigrated to Québec. 12.2% came from China, 9.5% from France, 8.3% from Haïti, 5.9% from Algeria, 5.4% from Morocco, and 4.4% from Colombia.

An increasing number of immigrants hope to start a new life in Québec by moving outside the city centre. In the first quarter of 2012, 71.5% of immigrants stated that they intended to move to Montréal, 7.9% to Montérégie, and 5.8% to Laval.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) OF IMMIGRANTS AND NON-IMMIGRANTS, METROPOLITAN REGIONS, 2011

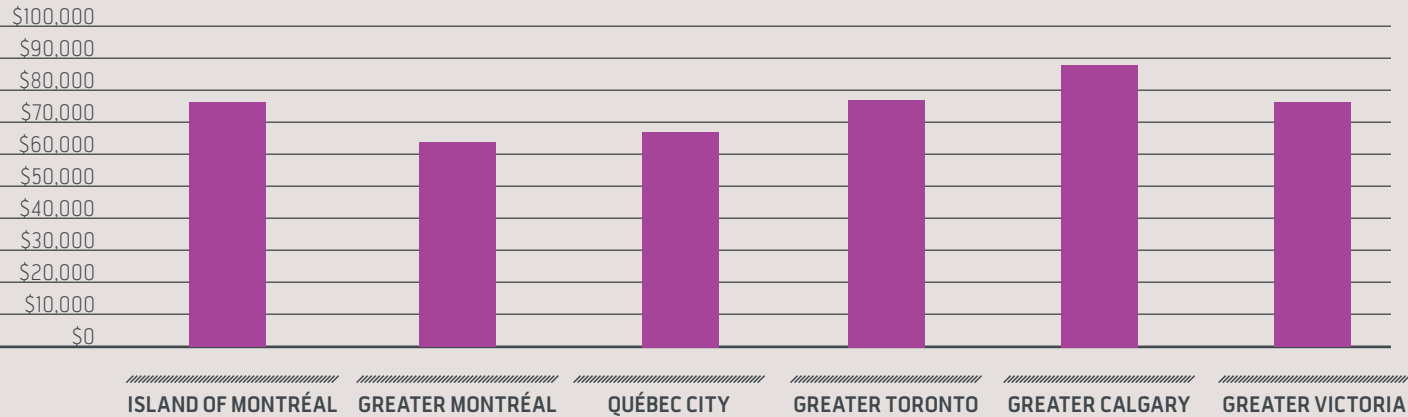


# ECONOMY/**ECONOMIC** CONTEXT

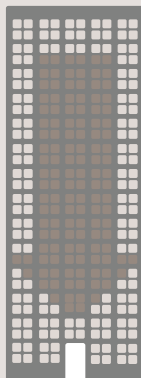
GREATER MONTRÉAL HAS ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE ECONOMIES IN CANADA. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES, COMPETITIVE PRICES AND NUMEROUS CONSTRUCTION SITES THAT DEMONSTRATE ITS VITALITY, THE REGION STRUGGLES TO ATTAIN AN ECONOMIC LEVEL THAT IS COMPARABLE TO OTHER MAJOR METROPOLITAN REGIONS.

## 2011 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) PER WORKER

IN 2002 CONSTANT DOLLARS (ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION)



## VACANCY RATE DECREASE FOR OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL SPACE



### DOWNTOWN

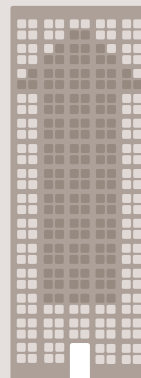
Office	2010	8.1%
	2011	6.4%
Industrial	2010	8.7%
	2011	7.8%

### WESTERN SUBURBS

Office	2010	17.3%
	2011	1.8%
Industrial	2010	10.4%
	2011	10.2%

### EASTERN SUBURBS

Industrial	2010	13.1%
	2011	12.0%



### EASTERN SUBURBS

Office	2010	7.0%
	2011	10.2%



22,719

residential housing starts in 2011

GREATER MONTRÉAL



## HOUSING STARTS

In 2011, there were 22,719 residential housing starts in Greater Montréal, 3.3% more than in 2010. However, the largest increases in housing starts were seen in the metropolitan regions of Kingston (46.9%), Toronto (36.1%), and Halifax (23.6%). Overall, Canada experienced an increase of 2.1% in housing starts.

Montréal has the most competitive business location costs among 30 major Canadian and American metropolitan areas (two million residents or more).

## HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES, BUT FEWER PATENTS

Is Montréal losing ground in terms of vision and creativity, despite the presence of important high-tech industries?

With nearly 120,000 jobs in 5,000 companies, Greater Montréal is a world leader in information and communications technologies (ICT). In addition, the region has nearly 7,700 university students enrolled in programs related to the ICT industry.

In 2011, 378,900 people between the ages of 25 and 64 were employed in science and technology in Greater Montréal. This number represents 29% of workers in this sector throughout the entire province.

In 2011, 98% of Québec's aerospace industry was concentrated in Greater Montréal. One out of every 92 jobs was in this sector with an average salary of around \$65,000, and about 70% of Canadian aerospace R&D was carried out in Montréal.

The number of patents for new inventions registered in Greater Montréal decreased from 510 in 2008 to 428 in 2010.

# ECONOMY/**GAP** BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

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## MAISON THÉÂTRE

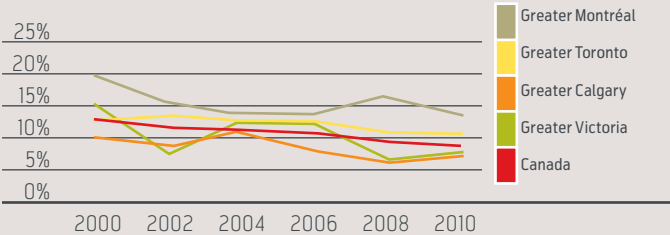
The Découvertes théâtrales project gives theatre access to 2,100 students from disadvantaged backgrounds. During the year, children whose families cope with serious problems of poverty and social exclusion participate in workshops and attend professional shows. The goal: break the isolation and allow these children to develop a sense of belonging within their community.

[www.maisontheatre.com](http://www.maisontheatre.com)

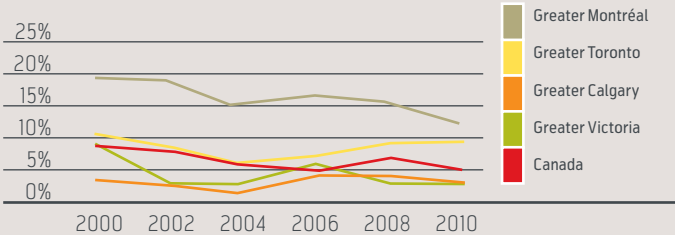
ALTHOUGH IT HAS MADE PROGRESS IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY, GREATER MONTRÉAL STRUGGLES TO CURB INSTABILITY AND REDUCE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR. THIS SITUATION IS WORRISOME, AS IT HAS AN IMPACT ON ALL SPHERES OF OUR SOCIETY.



### POVERTY RATE (%) BASED ON AFTER-TAX INCOME, METROPOLITAN REGIONS



### POVERTY RATE (%) OF RESIDENTS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER, BASED ON AFTER-TAX INCOME, METROPOLITAN REGIONS



### POLARIZATION AND POVERTY

Montréal is showing signs of polarization. More than in Toronto or Vancouver, families with household incomes between \$60,000 and \$100,000 are more likely to leave the city centre for the suburbs than families with low or high incomes.

The number of residents using emergency food aid in 2011-2012 remained relatively stable (-1.6%), while the number of children receiving food aid increased by 13% in one year (59,891 children helped per month) and now represents 40.9% of all clients served by organizations affiliated with Moisson Montréal.

Homelessness is increasing and becoming more complex on the Island of Montréal. Allophone immigrants, drug addicts, women, and more recently, pregnant women, are more likely to have no place to stay. During the winter of 2011-2012, the demand for shelter by homeless men increased by 8% compared to the previous year.



### UNEQUAL ACCESS TO DAYCARE SERVICES

Low-income areas on the Island of Montréal offer fewer daycare spaces for children than other areas on the island.

### IMPACT ON HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

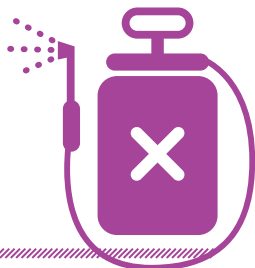
The gap between the life expectancy of more affluent Montréal men and poorer Montréal men dropped from 10 years to 6 years. In some neighbourhoods, this gap can reach 11 years.

### 1, 2, 3... ACTION!

Hunger doesn't only happen at Christmas. Food banks receive numerous donations during the holidays, but they face food shortages the rest of the year. Why not make it a habit to give some food every month?

## 1, 2, 3... ACTION!

Bedbugs? If you wait before you act, or decide to tackle them yourself, you'll only aggravate the problem and allow the little pests to spread. Contact a professional exterminator...quickly!



VACANCY RATES DECREASED AGAIN IN 2012. DESPITE A SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING, REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS SHOWED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE RENTAL MARKET. MEANWHILE, COMPLAINTS ABOUT UNSAFE HOUSING ARE ON THE RISE IN MONTRÉAL AND TENANTS SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE RECOURSE.



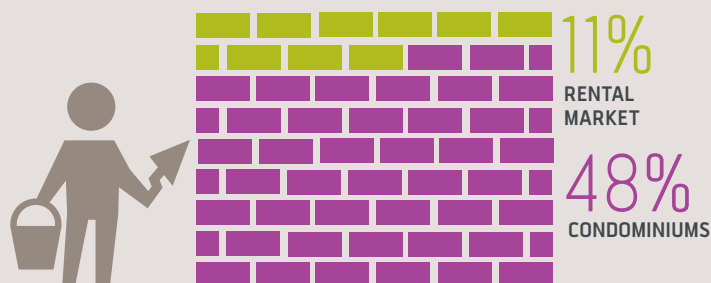
## PROJET CHEZ SOI

Created in 2009 by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the Chez Soi project provides housing and services to the homeless living with mental health issue. Projet Chez Soi believes that once homeless people have a place to live, they can focus on their other problems and improve their quality of life. And it works!

[www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)



## RESIDENTIAL HOUSING STARTS IN GREATER MONTRÉAL IN 2010



Twenty years ago, these rates were 13% for condos and 30% for rental apartments.

## ACCESS TO HOUSING

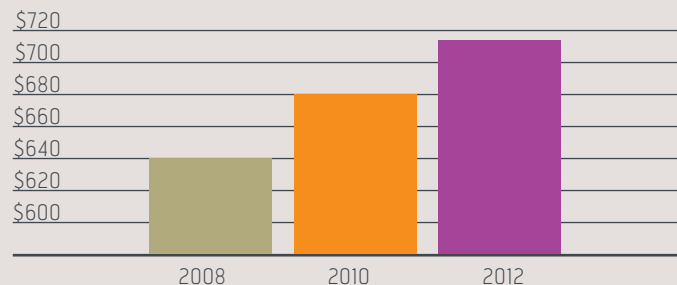
In 2010, the average sale price of a home in Greater Montréal was equal to 4.52 times the average gross income of families living in the region, compared to 3.99 in 2009. In comparison, this ratio is 4.96 in Greater Toronto, 4.25 in Greater Calgary, 3.29 in Greater Halifax, 5.85 in city of Victoria, and 4.56 in the rest of Canada.

## UNSANITARY HOUSING CONDITIONS

In 2011, 23,000 households – 2.8% of Montréal households – struggled with bed bugs, compared to 2.7% in 2010.

Over the last five years, the Régie du logement received 1,638 complaints about unsanitary housing conditions, two-thirds (1,057) of which involved Montréal homes. However, Montréal has only one-third of the rental properties in the province (487,600 of 1.3 million homes).

## AVERAGE RENT (\$) FOR 2-BEDROOM APARTMENTS, GREATER MONTRÉAL



## HOMELESSNESS

In 2011, in the majority of Canadian cities, the number of available beds in emergency shelters decreased in comparison to 2009. In Montréal, shelters offered 1,313 beds (15.73% fewer than in 2009); in Toronto, 3,253 (-3.67%); in Calgary, 1,606 (-11.86%); and in Victoria, 145 (-24.48%). In contrast, there was an increase in the number of beds in Halifax (6.88%), Kingston (18.92%), and London (35.56%).

In 2011-2012, the occupancy rate for emergency beds at La rue des Femmes women's shelter was 195%. The shelter turned down 3,619 requests for lodging.

Projets Autochtones du Québec is the only overnight shelter on the Island of Montréal that welcomes both male and female Aboriginals. It has 28 beds for men and 9 beds for women. 50% of those seeking shelter are Inuit. They represent only 10% of Aboriginals in Montréal, but make up 45% of the homeless Aboriginal population.



EMPLOYMENT DECLINED IN GREATER MONTRÉAL, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO FACE THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN COMPARISON TO OTHER AGE GROUPS. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, THE NORTH AND SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITIES RECORDED THE LARGEST LOSSES.



## ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE D'EMPRUNT DE MONTRÉAL

It's not easy to get a job when you've been trained abroad. Thanks to its loan program, l'Association communautaire d'emprunt de Montréal makes it possible for immigrants to pay accreditation fees to recognize the qualifications they acquired in their country of origin.

[www.acemcreditcommunautaire.qc.ca](http://www.acemcreditcommunautaire.qc.ca)

### 1, 2, 3... ACTION!



Despite their importance in everyday life, corporate culture and norms in different professional environments aren't taught in school. Mentoring a new immigrant or a recent graduate can make a big difference to their integration into the labour market.



### EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Despite a growth in employment of 1.6% in Canada between 2010 and 2011, the employment rate in Greater Montréal decreased by 1.1%. The employment rates in Greater Victoria, Vancouver Island and the Coast also declined (-0.8% and -4.4%).

Even though the unemployment rate among young people decreased slightly throughout Canada, it remained high in large metropolitan regions.

### JOB LOSSES: INDUSTRIES AFFECTED

In the services sector, industries that were hardest hit are those that made significant gains following the recession. Since 2008, the production of goods has slowly declined and the manufacturing industry continues to lose ground.

### NORTH AND SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITIES MORE AFFECTED THAN THE ISLAND

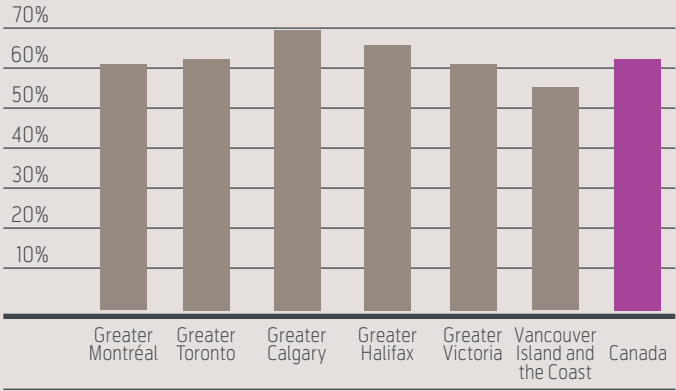
Employment experienced a slight decline (-0.6%) on the island in 2011. Financial services (-4%), professional services (-2%), scientific R&D (-7%), and retail (-1.7%) were particularly affected. However, these losses were offset by growth in the aeronautic and information and communications technologies (ICT) sectors, among others.

The cities of Laval and Longueuil are showing stability, while the North and South Shore communities are those most affected by job losses.

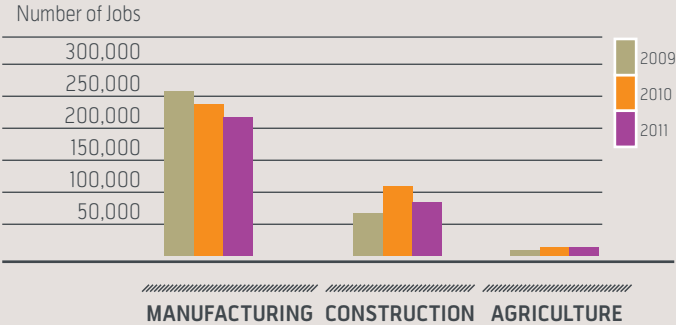
### HOUSEHOLDS INCOME AND HOURS WORKED

In 2011, the average hourly wage in the country was \$19.17. Greater Calgary workers earned the most (\$21.14/hour), while workers in Greater Montréal were paid \$18.50/hour, which is \$0.35/hour more than in the province as a whole.

### 2011 EMPLOYMENT RATES (%) OF WORKERS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER BY METROPOLITAN REGION



### EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, OF GOODS-PRODUCING SECTORS, METROPOLITAN REGION OF MONTRÉAL



The Island of Montréal lost 6,800 part-time jobs in 2011. Nevertheless, Greater Montréal had the highest proportion of workers without a full-time job who were resigned to take up a part-time job (3.1%). In comparison, 2.5% of workers on Vancouver Island and the Coast, and 2.2% of those in Greater Toronto found themselves in the same situation.

# PLACE/ENVIRONMENT



## 1, 2, 3... ACTION!

Montréalers consume – and waste! – large quantities of water. We can easily reduce our consumption by trading in 18L toilets for 6L models, and by replacing regular showerheads with low-flow models.

THE PRESERVATION OF GREEN SPACES IN GREATER MONTRÉAL IS NOT RECEIVING THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES. IN GREATER MONTRÉAL, WE ERECT NEW BUILDINGS AND PARKING LOTS ON VACANT LAND, LEAVING BEHIND CONTAMINATED SOIL. MEANWHILE, THE AGRICULTURAL ZONE ON THE CITY OUTSKIRTS IS SHRINKING IN FAVOUR OF REAL ESTATE SPECULATION. FORTUNATELY, THE CITY'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN INCLUDES SEVERAL MEASURES TO PRESERVE OUR GREEN SPACES.



## RÉSEAU D'ENTRAIDE DE VERDUN

Working in the area of neighbourhood food security and communal kitchens, this organization aims to drastically reduce its garbage by composting food waste generated by its members and users. Participants are also offered introductory workshops about composting.

[www.entraideverdun.org](http://www.entraideverdun.org)



**GREEN SPACES: PROTECTED OR WASTED?**

Parking lots occupy 8.5% of Montréal's downtown core. That's twice as much space as in Toronto and Boston, and 16 times as much as in New York City.

In 2009, 6% of the Montréal region contained contaminated soil that, despite its development potential, was abandoned due to the high cost of decontamination (which could reach up to \$800 million). However, the re-naturalization of this land would increase biodiversity in the city.

**THE CITY'S AGRICULTURAL AREA DECREASES**

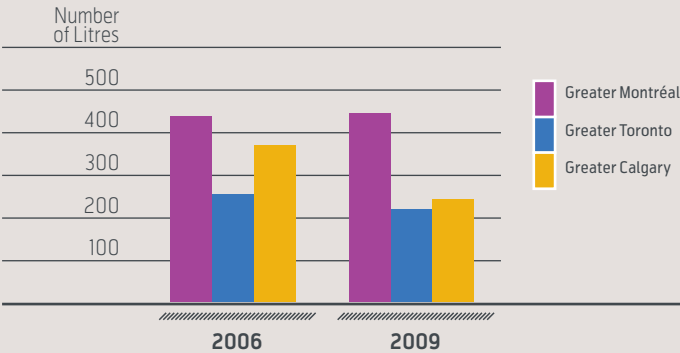
The proportion of crop land, which represent 62%, decreased by 3% between 2001 and 2006. In addition, 10,000 hectares of arable land are currently fallow due to land speculation. Faced with urban sprawl, the landowners neglect their land, hoping to withdraw from agricultural zoning.

**METROPOLITAN PLAN FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (PMAD) CONTRIBUTION**

At the beginning of July, The Canadian Institute of Planners (CID) presented the 2012 Award for Planning Excellence, in the Urban and Regional Planning category, to the Metropolitan Community of Montréal (MCM) for its Metropolitan Plan for Planning and Development (PMAD). The aim of the plan, which got underway in March 2012, is the sustainable development of the metropolitan area. The PMAD proposes, among other things, to guide population growth around public transit infrastructure, to increase the share of travel on public transit, and to better protect the region through the establishment of la Trame verte et bleue.

The PMAD provides for the creation of a Green Belt around Greater Montréal. This will protect 17% of the region and will include wooded land, wetlands and streams. Forest corridors will connect these environments, thus facilitating public access to nature, and allow for increased movement of local wildlife. Currently, only 6% of the land is protected in Greater Montréal, much less than the standards set by the international community (17%).

**WATER CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA, METROPOLITAN REGIONS**



**WASTE MANAGEMENT: SERIOUS DELAYS**

The proposed project for the treatment of organic waste in Greater Montréal has been delayed; the choice of one of four sites for biogas plants and composting is still outstanding. The Québec government has set the recovery rate for organic matter at 60% by 2015. Currently, Montréalers' garbage bags contain only 40% residual organic matter, of which only a meagre 10% is collected – and it must be transported tens of kilometres away.

**GREEN CONSTRUCTION**

In October 2011, after 10 years of hard work the Maison du développement durable (Centre for Sustainable Development) opened its doors in the heart of the entertainment district. The Centre, which is aiming for a LEED Platinum certification, houses numerous organizations involved in the sustainable development field and is building one of the most environmentally-sustainable structures in its class.

There are an increasing number of LEED-certified (new construction) and BOMABEst (renovated buildings) on the Island of Montréal. In May 2012, Montréal's real estate market included 35 LEED-certified structures (compared to 24 in 2011) and 58 BOMABEst buildings (compared to 36 last year). Montréal is doing better in this area than the country as a whole; however, it still lags behind Calgary and Victoria.

# PLACE / SAFETY



**1, 2, 3... ACTION!**

Traffic congestion is steadily increasing, creating more and more problems for pedestrians, cyclists and cars. A little patience and courtesy never hurt anyone!

GOOD NEWS! SERIOUS CRIME IS ON THE DECLINE ACROSS THE COUNTRY, EVEN IN MONTRÉAL! HOWEVER, A LACK OF CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS REALLY LEAVES A MARK ON PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES, WHETHER IT INVOLVES ROAD RAGE, OR ABUSE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.



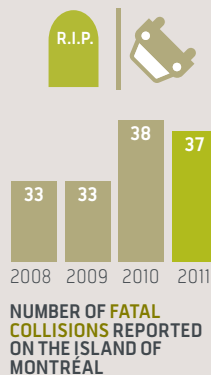
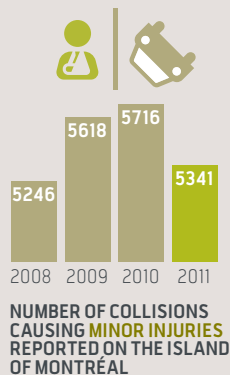
## LOVE — LEAVE OUT VIOLENCE

SnapShot sur la violence scolaire is a photo-essay project that is part of a program to prevent violence in schools. Each participating school invites 15 to 25 of its students – bullies, victims, observers – to document school violence through writing and photography. The final work will be presented in order to communicate the message of non-violence to the entire school population.

[Leaveoutviolence.org/quebec](http://Leaveoutviolence.org/quebec)







From 2010 to 2011, the number of cyclists who were seriously injured increased from 26 to 32 on the Island of Montréal. The number of minor injuries decreased from 711 to 599.

## CRIMES AGAINST A PERSON

In 2010, Greater Montréal had the highest number of victims of domestic violence in the country (12,083 victims or 315/100,000 residents) followed by Greater Toronto (10,409 victims or 202/100,000 residents), Greater Vancouver (5,292 victims or 223/100,000 residents) and Edmonton (3,230 victims or 275/100,000 residents). Across the country, there were 294 victims/100,000 residents.

In 2011, 1,256 sexual assaults were reported on the island, a decrease of 21.4% compared to 2010.

In 2010, street gangs committed 908 crimes on the island, a rate of 47 crimes/100,000 residents. This is a significant increase compared to 640 crimes (33.6/100,000 residents) committed in 2009.

## NUMEROUS INFRACTIONS

A higher number of motorists parked illegally in spaces reserved for handicapped persons. In 2011, the City of Montréal issued 4,032 tickets for these offenses, which is 227 more than in 2009.

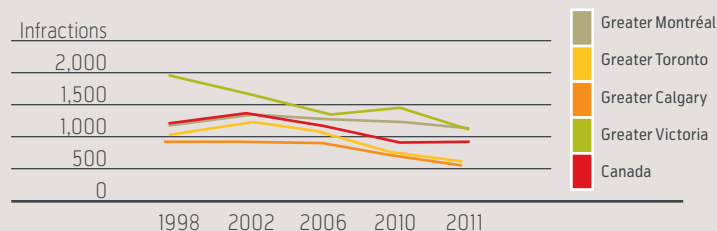
The homeless were issued 6,562 tickets for violating municipal regulations in 2010, six times as many than in 1994.

## ROAD SAFETY REPORT

After a spectacular decrease in 2010, the number of impaired driving incidents increased in 2011, rising from 1,777 to 1,797. Thirty-eight victims (14 more than in 2010) suffered physical injuries from these crimes.

In 2011, 112 pedestrians were seriously injured by motorists, 13 fewer than in 2010. The number of pedestrians who sustained minor injuries increased from 1,265 in 2010 to 1,283 in 2011.

## CRIMINAL CODE INFRACTIONS – VIOLENT CRIME, CANADA AND METROPOLITAN REGIONS



# PLACE/GETTING AROUND



1, 2, 3... **ACTION!**

Considering the high price of gas and the traffic congestion on our roads, why not carpool? Carpooling is a great way to share fuel costs and reduce your travelling time by using specially designated traffic lanes.

CONSIDERING THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC CONGESTION, MORE AND MORE MONTRÉALERS ARE TURNING TO ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, AS EVIDENCED BY THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT. HOWEVER, MEASURES AND INVESTMENTS RELATED TO GETTING AROUND DO NOT SEEM TO REFLECT THIS NEW REALITY.



## COMMUNAUTO

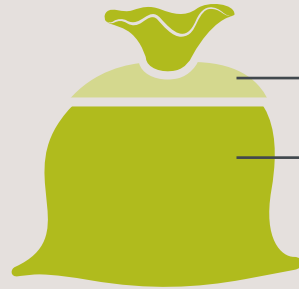
Communauto is the oldest and largest car-sharing service in North America. Since its inception in 1994, the organization has continually innovated. Early in 2012, Communauto acquired a fleet of self-service electric cars. At the end of July, 18 electric cars were available in Montréal, which were rented by 1,025 drivers and used for 3,700 trips. But this is only the beginning, as more electric cars will be added over the next several months.

[www.communauto.com](http://www.communauto.com)





## FOUNDING FOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS (GOVERNMENT OF QUÉBEC) DISTRIBUTION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



**18%: \$ 2.9 BILLION**

PUBLIC TRANSIT

**82%: \$ 16.5 BILLION**

ROAD NETWORK

### NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN CIRCULATION (CARS AND SMALL TRUCKS), ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS, 2011

Region	Number of vehicles	Change (%) 2011/2010
Montréal	716,841	0.3 %
Laval	219,289	1.7 %
Laurentians	348,493	1.7 %
Lanaudière	296,711	1.9 %
Montréal	878,540	1.5 %

### PUBLIC TRANSIT

In 2011, Montréalers were the biggest per capita users of public transportation in North America, with 214 rides/person. This is more than Torontonians (188) and residents of other large American cities (which averaged 93 rides/person).

### NETWORK OF SUBURBAN TRAINS, GREATER MONTRÉAL

	1996	2011	Change (%) 1996-2011
Ridership	6.9 million	16.6 million	+ 140 %
Lines	2	5	+ 150 %
Stations	30	51	+ 70 %
Park & Ride	22	38	+ 73 %

With over 97% of its suburban trains running on time in 2011, the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) ranks at the top of sub-way organizations in North America when it comes to punctuality.

In 2011, 70% of AMT park-and-ride lots had usage rates above 75%.

### THE CYCLING NETWORK IS IMPROVING...SLOWLY

Montréal is North America's leading cycling city, ranking eighth in the world. The city has a 560-km cycling network, a self-serve bicycle system with 411 stations, and 5,120 BIXI, as well as numerous parking spaces for bicycles.

Traffic on Montréal's bicycle paths increased by 40% between 2008 and 2010. Despite the increase in use, cycling on bicycle paths, as opposed to on the street, reduces the risk of accidents by 28%.

In 2013, the AMT opened its first bikezone. This secure parking space for bicycles encourages the use of bicycles to access city transit stations and facilities.

# SOCIETY/ARTS AND CULTURE

NUMBER OF ITEMS LOANED PER CAPITA BY PUBLIC LIBRARIES,  
MUNICIPALITIES, 2010



Victoria - 19 documents



Calgary - 16 documents



Toronto - 12 documents



Laval - 8 documents



Montréal - 7 documents

AGENDA 21C, ADOPTED IN 2012, PROPOSES NOTHING SHORT OF A REVOLUTION, BY ENCOURAGING DECISION-MAKERS TO CONSIDER CULTURE AS A PILLAR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS DIDN'T PREVENT SIGNIFICANT CUTS TO KEY CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.



## SOCIÉTÉ POUR LES ARTS EN MILIEUX DE SANTÉ

Music has been liberated from the concert hall, and, like a balm, comforts patients within the healthcare community. Advocating a cross-cultural approach outlined in Agenda 21C, the Société pour les arts en milieux de santé is planning to hold 80 new concerts in geriatric and psychiatric facilities.

[www.samsante.org](http://www.samsante.org)



**LIBRARY USE**

Forty-three public libraries on the Island of Montréal registered 6,419,818 visits in 2010, compared to 6,284,226 in 2009. This puts Montréal in second place among Canadian cities with a population of over 500,000 with regard to the total number of annual visits recorded. In addition, there were 2,738,033 visits made in 2010-2011 to the city's Grande Bibliothèque, and 4,836,820 documents on loan.

**MONTRÉALERS EMBRACE ART**

In 2011-2012, the Libres comme l'art program, created by the Conseil des arts de Montréal, sent 11 arts organizations with creative artists in residence into four elementary schools and seven secondary schools on the Island of Montréal. Over 300 students were given the opportunity to meet professional artists, participate in the creation of a dance or theatre performance, mount an art exhibit, or write a collection of short stories.

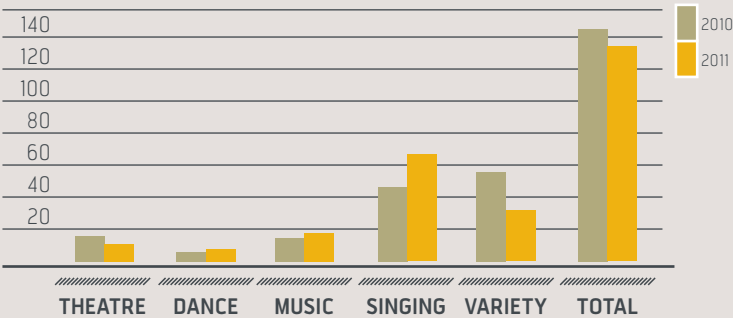
In 2011, the arts moved outside the box to inspire the health sector. To celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) presented the *Humains*, an exhibit about healthcare workers, the vision of photographer Christine Bourcier. Other projects are underway to integrate the arts into the new hospital centre, as well as concerts by the Société pour les arts en milieux de santé.

Research has determined that studying and practicing the arts is very important to student success. More and more schools are integrating the arts into their curricula, thus enabling children to learn, create and think differently. The Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys initiated the Verdun en arts program, which promotes the arts in its neighbourhood schools.

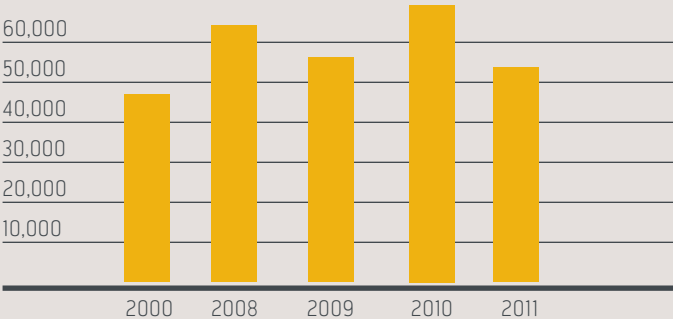
**MONTRÉAL, CULTURAL CITY OF INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE**

More and more people around the world are talking about Montréal. Among other achievements, the city is ranked first in Canada and third in North America when it comes to musical events, after Nashville and Los Angeles. Its International Jazz Festival was named Festival of the Year by the Canadian Music and Broadcast Industry, and it has become the second North American city to be recognized as an Inter-cultural city by the Council of Europe; and it is among the top 20 destinations for history and culture, according to TripAdvisor.

**BOX OFFICE INCOME, PERFORMING ARTS PAID PRESENTATIONS, MONTRÉAL**  
(IN MILLIONS, EXCLUDING TAXES)



**NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, METROPOLITAN REGION OF MONTRÉAL**





## 1, 2, 3... ACTION!

Foster a love of reading in your child by visiting the local library, and start at an early age.

GREATER MONTRÉAL SHOWS PROGRESS IN KEEPING STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT THE DROPOUT RATE REMAINS HIGH IN LOW-INCOME AREAS AND AMONG MINORITY GROUPS. WHILE POST-SECONDARY GRADUATION RATES IN GREATER MONTRÉAL ARE IMPROVING, QUÉBEC UNIVERSITIES HAVE DISTURBING DROPOUT RATES.



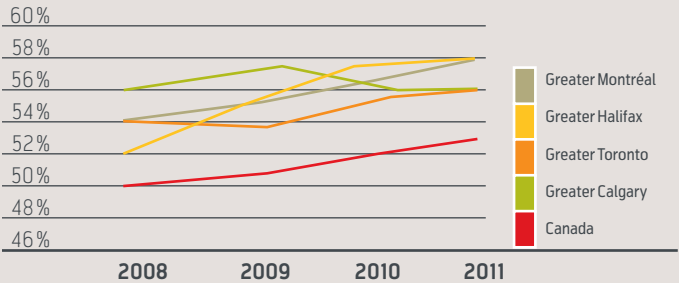
## ASSOCIATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES TROUBLES D'APPRENTISSAGE

The Association québécoise des troubles d'apprentissage (AQETA) trains educators in the early detection of learning problems among children who attend daycare and low-income childcare centres in Greater Montréal. Early childhood support increases a child's chance of success in school.

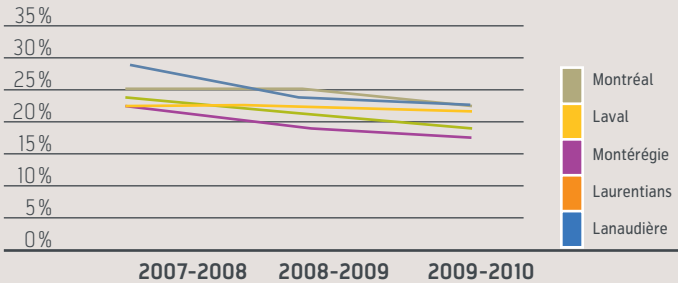
[www.aqeta.qc.ca](http://www.aqeta.qc.ca)



### POST-SECONDARY GRADUATION RATES (%) AMONG STUDENTS OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE, CANADA AND METROPOLITAN REGIONS



### ANNUAL DROPOUT RATE (%) OF STUDENTS LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL WITH GENERAL SCHOOLING, PUBLIC SYSTEM, ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



### POST-SECONDARY GRADUATION

Greater Montréal has now surpassed other Canadian metropolitan areas with regard to post-secondary graduation rates.

These favourable results can be explained, in part, by the strong presence of immigrants and foreign students. At the end of 2011, 26,090 foreign students attended Montréal universities.

Québec universities have high dropout rates. In fact, 32.4% of students who begin a bachelor's degree don't finish it, compared to 14.8% in the rest of Canada.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

In 2011, 19.1% of Greater Montréal residents over the age of 15 did not have a high school diploma, which is slightly less than in Canada as a whole (19.5%) and across Québec (22.5%). The regions of Toronto (16.4%), Calgary (14.1%) and Victoria (11.8%) fared better in this regard.

### HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA – SUB-POPULATIONS

Throughout their academic careers, students from low-income backgrounds encounter numerous difficulties that could jeopardize their chances of obtaining their diploma. As proof, the graduation rate in Québec's public system in 2008-2009 was 88% (in very affluent areas) and 69% (in disadvantaged areas).

### LEARNING

The proportion of handicapped students and students with learning difficulties or attention deficit disorders in normal classrooms has risen over the last few years. In the administrative region of Montréal, this proportion increased from 61.3% in 2002-2003 (60.1% across Québec) to 65.5% in 2009-2010 (65.1% across Québec). This increase is due, in part, to redefining the process of identifying and supporting these students.

### WORK-STUDY BALANCE

Over 50% of Québec university students had jobs in 2009, compared to 25% thirty years ago. In the fall of 2009, students worked an average of 18.7 hours per week, and 41.4% of them spent more than 20 hours per week at a job. Their average annual income was \$10,500.

In 2009, 43.6% of full-time university students felt their jobs had a negative impact on their academic performance, and 32.4% said that working forced them to extend their studies.



# SOCIETY/HEALTH AND WELLNESS



1, 2, 3... ACTION!

Teaching your child to cook simple things is a great way to introduce basic food concepts that they will use throughout their lives.

ACCESS TO FRONT-LINE SERVICES REMAINS PROBLEMATIC FOR RESIDENTS OF GREATER MONTRÉAL. THE PRIVILEGED FEW WHO HAVE ACCESS TO A FAMILY DOCTOR OFTEN HAVE TO WAIT A LONG TIME FOR AN APPOINTMENT.



## JEUNES POUSSSES

"This summer, I will plant a garden," sing elementary school children. Un trésor dans mon jardin is a project that encourages youngsters to start a garden in their school courtyard. Learning where food comes from teaches healthy eating habits.

[www.jeunespousses.ca](http://www.jeunespousses.ca)





### GREATER MONTRÉAL HAS A SHORTAGE OF PALLIATIVE CARE BEDS

10,000 INHABITANTS:	1 BED
MONTRÉAL:	- 59 BEDS
MONTRÉGIE:	- 29 BEDS
LAVAL:	- 16 BEDS
LAURENTIANS:	- 12 BEDS
LANAUDIÈRE:	- 10 BEDS

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS

On March 31, 2011, the administrative regions of Montréal and Montérégie accounted for 12% and 15% respectively of the 223 Family Medicine Groups (FMG) in the province. Yet these regions are home to 24.5% and 18.3% of the population of Québec respectively.

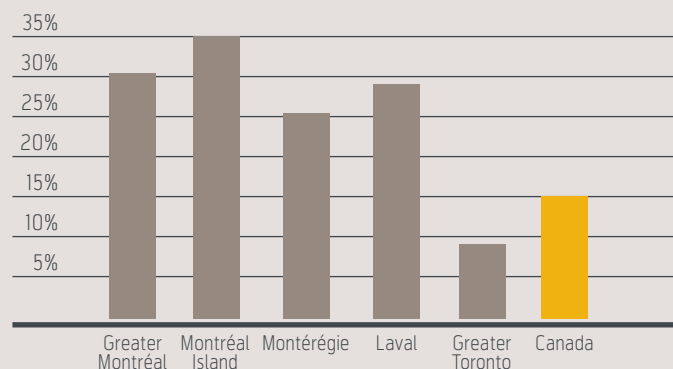
### PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION

Young adults are contracting HIV at significantly younger ages. In 2011, 34% of youth who had recently contracted the virus were not yet in their thirties, compared to 20% in 2010. The average age of those suffering from HIV dropped from 38 to 35 in 10 years. Of note: 70-80% of all HIV cases in province of Québec are in Montréal.

The participation of women in the Québec Breast Cancer Screening Program (QBCSP) is significantly lower in Montréal (45.5% in 2009-2010) than in the rest of Québec (57.4%), and is unevenly distributed on the Island of Montréal.

It is of note that areas with low participation rates in the QBCSP also have higher proportions of women who have little education, who have recently immigrated, or who live below the poverty line.

### PERCENTAGE (%) OF RESIDENTS OVER 12 YEARS OF AGE WITHOUT A FAMILY DOCTOR, 2011



### LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS

In 2010-2011, 5.7 out of 100 babies born in Greater Montréal were low birth weight infants, compared to 5.8 in 2009-2010. Montérégie had the best results (5.2, compared to 5.7 in Laval, and 6.1 in Montréal). In Canada, 6.2 out of 100 newborns were low birth weight babies.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND STRESS

In 2011, three-quarters (75%) of Greater Montréal residents perceived their mental health to be good or excellent, compared to 72.6% of Canadians.

In 2011, 29.1% of Greater Montréal residents over 15 years of age said they were somewhat stressed, compared to 23.6% of Canadians across the country.

### APPROPRIATE CARE FOR ABORIGINALS?

Half of the Aboriginal population of Montréal (49%) consider their health to be good or excellent. However, their life expectancy is lower than most Canadians, and they have higher rates of diabetes, infectious diseases (HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis C), parasitic infections, mental illness, and chronic illnesses.



# PARTNERS **AND** SOURCES

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## TO PREPARE THIS CHECK-UP REPORT ABOUT GREATER MONTRÉAL, WE CONSULTED NUMEROUS SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Visit [www.signesvitauxmontreal.ca/en](http://www.signesvitauxmontreal.ca/en) for all sources.

Aéro Montréal  
Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal  
Agence métropolitaine de transport  
Association québécoise des retraités des secteurs public et parapublic  
Avenir d'enfants  
Barreau du Québec  
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec  
Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal  
BOMA BESt  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Canadian Council on Learning  
Canadian Institute of Planners  
CB Richard Ellis  
CBC/Radio-Canada  
Centre de santé et de services sociaux  
CIRANO  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Clinique médicale L'Actuel  
Collège des médecins du Québec  
Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse  
Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys  
Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal  
Communauto  
Community Foundations of Canada  
Conseil des arts de Montréal  
Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal  
Cornell University  
Council of Ministers of Education, Canada  
Culture pour tous  
Directeur général des élections du Québec  
Direction de santé publique de Montréal  
Environment Canada  
Équiterre  
Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec

Injury Prevention  
Institut de la statistique du Québec  
Institut national de la recherche scientifique: urbanisation, culture et société  
Institut national de santé publique du Québec  
KPMG  
La rue des Femmes  
Maison du développement durable  
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Government of Québec  
Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, Government of Québec  
Ministère des Transports, Government of Québec  
Moisson Montréal  
Montréal International  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts  
National Film Board of Canada  
Observatoire des sciences et des technologies  
Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec  
Projets Autochtones du Québec  
Régie du logement du Québec  
Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal  
Réseau de transport de Longueuil  
RÉSEAU pour la stratégie urbaine de la communauté autochtone à Montréal  
Service de police de la Ville de Montréal  
Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec  
Société de transport de Montréal  
Statistics Canada  
Statistics Canada Library  
TechnoMontréal  
Téléfilm Canada  
TRANSIT Alliance pour le financement des transports collectifs au Québec  
Tourisme Montréal  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Université de Montréal  
Université Laval  
University of Ottawa  
Vélo Québec  
Ville de Montréal

THE FOUNDATION OF GREATER MONTRÉAL  
WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE  
TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR  
VALUABLE ADVICE AND TIME:

**Lise Bertrand**, Direction de santé publique de Montréal  
**Lyse Brunet**, Avenir d'enfants  
**Coralie Deny**, Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal  
**Ludwig Desjardins and Floriane Vayssières**, Agence métropolitaine de transport  
**Aïda Kamar**, Vision Diversité  
**Marie McAndrew**, Faculté des sciences de l'éducation, Université de Montréal  
**Dr Marie-France Raynault**, Direction de santé publique de Montréal  
**Sidney Ribaux**, Équiterre  
**Danielle Sauvage**, Conseil des arts de Montréal

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**Chantal Vinette**: Director of Communications and Marketing

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Vice President and General Manager, Citoyen Optimum

**Sheila Goldbloom**, Honorary Member  
Past Chairwoman, Red Feather Foundation

The Foundation of Greater Montréal (FGM) is a charitable organization dedicated to the well-being of the Greater Montréal community. It establishes and manages permanent endowment funds and distributes their income in the form of grants to charitable organizations working in the areas of health, social services, arts and culture, education, and the environment.

The FGM currently manages over 340 funds worth over \$120 million. Since its creation, it has distributed grants totalling almost \$9 million to non-profit organizations in the Greater Montréal area and beyond.

The FGM is a member of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), an organization that includes over 180 community foundations and reaches thousands of communities across Canada, and whose collective assets total more than \$3 billion.



**Foundation of Greater Montreal**

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[www.fgmtl.org](http://www.fgmtl.org)**

The FGM is a registered charity (#88197 9124 RR 0001)  
with the Canada Revenue Agency.