

MESSAGE
FROM THE FOUNDATION OF
GREATER MONTREAL

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It is with great pride that we present the fourth edition of *Vital Signs* of Greater Montreal, our region's annual check-up. *Vital Signs bears witness to the vitality of the communities that comprise Greater Montreal while emphasizing the city's major challenges.*

Montreal should be proud of its quality of life; our metropolitan region ranks well on the quality of life scale. The same results apply to our labour market, which somehow managed to resist the global economic crisis. However, our environment, education and health sectors still face major challenges from year to year.

We must tackle these challenges. The support and aid efforts that Quebecers demonstrated subsequent to the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti prove that this region is more than capable of rallying. *We can take action.*

Vital Signs epitomises the mission of a community foundation such as ours. This report is an excellent opportunity for us to build bridges, and to exchange social, artistic and environmental information with other organizations. It is the essence of what we do. We also support these organizations, albeit modestly, by allocating annual grants. In addition, *Vital Signs* is an opportunity for us, as well as for our team, donors, *and all those who are interested in improving and learning about the real needs of our region.* This information helps to define our communities' priorities and to target our investments within the community.

We hope that *Vital Signs* will inspire and guide you in your philanthropic actions. Together, our gestures of any size can make a big difference. Altruism is in the fabric of our great city and its founding.



Marina Boulos-Winton

Marina Boulos-Winton
President and CEO



Marcel Côté

Marcel Côté
Chairman of the Board



The Heart of Jeanne Mance

What do the following have in common? The Hasidic on Durocher Street hurrying to Synagogue, Marie Chouinard practising her dance routine in her studio and the roaring crowd at the Bell Centre, electrified by the Habs scoring a goal?

They have Montreal. They have the fervour, the call to push their boundaries, and the quest to transcend that dwells in Montreal's soil.

Indeed, I feel that a mystical deposit is buried beneath our feet, influencing and embracing us, and therein lies our greatest wealth – much more so than shale gas.

This conviction came to me while revisiting the fabulous history of Montreal. We forget that Montreal was an absolutely crazy undertaking – the *Mad Endeavour*, as it was referred to back in the 1640's – without commercial outlets (unlike Quebec City or Trois-Rivières), without profit potential, without any aspiration other than altruism, managed for over twenty-five years by exceptional laypeople who were devoid of ego, carried away by their passion to give to others, and permanently connected to the Sublime. They were all laypeople - Jeanne Mance, Maisonneuve, Marguerite Bourgeoys - and not cassock-wearing believers-in-God – and had yet to have parks or streets named after them!

And so, at the time of her death, Jeanne Mance bequeathed her heart to *Montrealers*.

I maintain that her heart still beats beneath the busy streets of Montreal, that the city still creates a longing for the Absolute and an innate need for beauty. I feel that it is not by chance that so many artists live in Montreal, that the Stanley Cup is wished for like the Holy Grail, and that the world's third largest community of Hasidic Jews chose to lay down roots here.

The quest for greatness, our hidden inheritance, seeps through the potholes and the tired concrete roads of Montreal, working its way into our bodies.

It is either a hair-brained, esoteric idea, or an inspired one. It all depends on how deeply we look at Montreal.

In any case, it's a darn good subject for a book.

Monique Proulx

September 2010

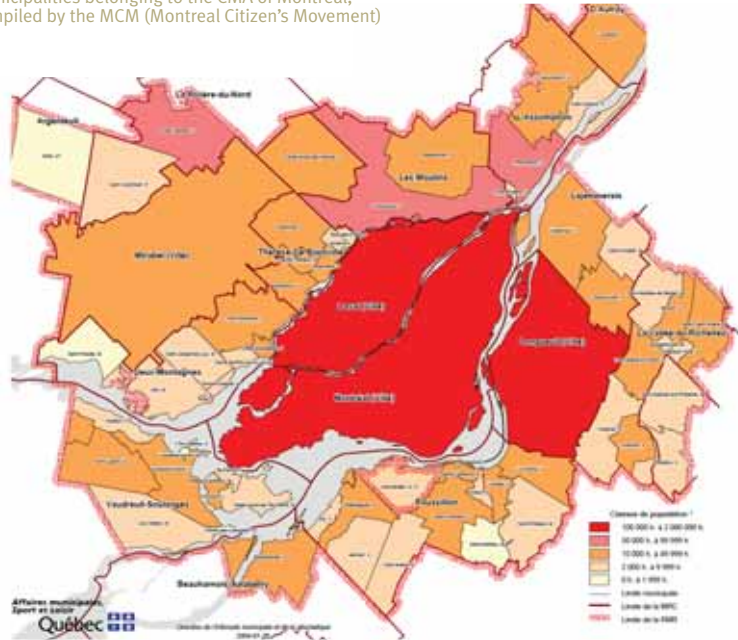
© Catherine Gravel



Monique Proulx was born in Quebec City and lives in Montreal. She is a short story writer, novelist and film scriptwriter. Her short story collection, *Les Aurores montréalaises*, available in more than ten countries, is now in its 15th printing. Her last novel, *Champagne*, was translated into English under the title 'Wildlives'.

The Census Metropolitan Area of Montreal

Municipalities belonging to the CMA of Montreal, compiled by the MCM (Montreal Citizen's Movement)



Source : Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire

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.

DEMOGRAPHIC

Context

Here we are at the dawn of a very special year in terms of demographics. In fact, the first wave of the populous baby boomer generation, born between 1946 and 1965, will reach 65 years of age in 2011. This suggests the likelihood of numerous adjustments on many levels.

In 2009, there were **3,814,738 inhabitants** in the Greater Montreal region, close to half (48.7%) of the population of Quebec. With 1,906,811 residents, the island itself accounted for close to one quarter of Quebec's population. It is worth noting that the population was equally divided between the island and its shores; the latter housed an additional 1,116 inhabitants.

In 2007, the region successfully retained **24% of the total number of immigrants** (intra-provincial, interprovincial and international) in its territory. Toronto (42%) and Vancouver (44%) had much higher statistics in this respect.

Between 1999 and 2009, in Greater Montreal, the average number of children per reproductive-aged woman **increased from 1.46 to 1.65**, lower than the generational replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman.

In 2009, the 15 and under age group represented 16.2% of the population of the region, **a decrease of 2.1 percentage points** over the last ten years. Over the same time period, the 65-and-over age group gained 1.4 percentage points to reach 13.9%.

While Laval and Longueuil will each have **23% of their populations be senior citizens** in 2026, it is forecast that Montreal will surpass the urban centre status of “old enough” compared to the average Quebecer, to that of “relatively young”, since one person in five (20.7%) will be a senior, compared to one in four (24.4%) in Quebec. This situation will be partly attributed to the fact that the island population is expected to experience a growth of 15% by 2026.

Between 2001 and 2006, among 25 to 44 year olds, a greater proportion of francophones (17%) than anglophones (11%) and allophones (11%) **left the city of Montreal** and relocated in neighbouring municipalities. And, among all of these, francophones chose to stay on the island less often (3%) than anglophones (26%) and allophones (11%).

In fifteen years, in 2026, with regard to the language spoken at home, it is expected that **18.8% of the population** of Greater Montreal will be allophone (an increase of 4.8 percentage points since 2006), 15% anglophone (-1.7%) and 66.2% francophone (-3.2%).

■ *The Every Senior's Choir addresses the isolation problem faced by seniors by providing a social activity for musical expression. In addition to developing cultural, linguistic and religious diversity, the Every Senior's Choir is also an intergenerational collaborative experience involving youth: the Every Kid Choir! By uniting two generations with the universal language of music, Montreal City Mission hopes to build a bridge that will create dialogue, as well as improved mutual understanding between generations and cultures.*

www.montrealcitymission.org/en/



The best land in Quebec is in Greater Montreal, where **54% of the territory is agricultural**. Even in Laval, where this activity is essentially located in the suburban area, and occupies approximately 28% of the land. Of course, developers heavily covet these areas.

Among the 30 most important economic regions in Canada, Montreal **was ranked second for the size of its population** in 2009, but 20th in terms of income per resident.

With **9.4% of its employees** in the high tech sector in 2007, Greater Montreal is ranked 5th in North America. Toronto ranked 8th (8.3%).

Between 2003 and 2007, Montreal went from 27th to 19th rank **among the most dynamic technological centres** in North America. During the same time period, Toronto's rank climbed from 25th to 15th.

Having proved its strong dynamism in terms of research and innovation, and endowed with the necessary assets to confirm its worth, Montreal is in a position to develop even further.

ECONOMIC

Context

With 628 patents granted in the region, Montreal **ranks second for innovation**, behind Toronto (633). With regard to patented inventions, Montreal (13%) scores between Vancouver (9.8%) and Ottawa (15.2%), with Toronto winning the highest honour with double the score (26.9%).

In 2009, among 215 large international cities, Montreal ranked 22nd for its quality of life and 15th for its infrastructure [electricity, water, transportation, communications]. **If we only consider the Americas, quality of life puts Montreal in 4th place**, behind three Canadian cities, while its infrastructure puts it in second place, tied with Atlanta, but behind Vancouver.

Among 41 urban centres with over 2 million inhabitants, Montreal sits comfortably in **4th place** in terms of business operating costs, ahead of Toronto (5th), but behind Vancouver (1st), after placing 6th in 2008. In the research and development sector, Montreal is first among North American cities and ranked second in the world behind Melbourne, Australia.





WORK

Despite a marked increase in unemployment in the last few years, Montreal is in better shape than Toronto. Our young people have less difficulty finding work, while we expect an increase in worker retirement.

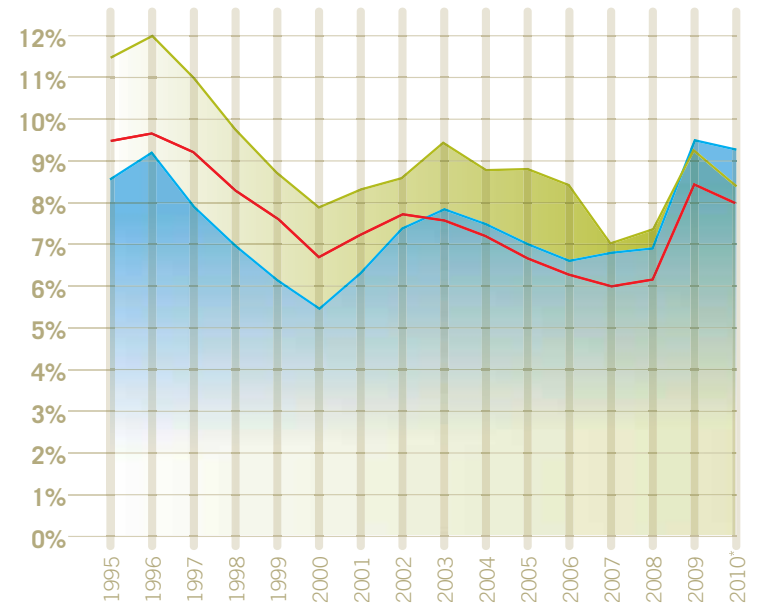


In 2009, **those younger than 25 experienced an unemployment rate of 17.8%, lower than that of Toronto (18.5%), but much greater than that of Vancouver (12%).** This rate is 93.5% higher than that of the entire active population of Greater Montreal.

In 2009, the region had **1,880,400 workers** in the employment market, 1% less than in 2008, a decline equal to that in Quebec, but less than that of Canada (-1.6%). Since 2000, annual employment growth was on average 1.4% in the region, 1.5% in Quebec, and 1.7% in Canada.

Evolution of Unemployment Rates

Montreal and Toronto CMA



Montreal — Toronto — Canada

Source : Statistics Canada

* Seasonally adjusted data from July 2010, in a 3 month running average

In 2009, **18.2% of workers in the region were part time.** For a quarter of these workers, it was an involuntary situation. And twice as many workers were looking for full-time employment (8%) than those who weren't looking at all (16.4%). In total, 27,300 people working part time and actively seeking full-time employment accounted for 1.45% of the workforce.

In ten years, Montreal will be the **second largest Canadian city in terms of the number of retirees, after Vancouver.** This population will mostly be women with more education, who have acquired relative financial autonomy.



In 2008, **18% of the population** of Greater Montreal lived below the low-income¹ threshold - the highest proportion in Canadian cities – increasing by 3 points from last year, and nearly 40% since 1985.

On the island, in 2009, **31% of public** elementary students attended disadvantaged schools. A large gap existed between the West Island sector (1%) and that of South-West Verdun (69%). And, this trend was even more notable among high school students (0% vs. 77%), of which 28% overall attended a disadvantaged school.

In 2008, if things cost an average of \$100 in all major Canadian cities, **they cost \$95 in Montreal**. Fruit and vegetables (\$106), as well as water and energy (\$107) were more expensive, while at the opposite extreme, housing and rent (\$82), or ownership (\$86), as well as recreation, reading and training (\$86) were more affordable.

In January 2010, on the island, the cost of healthy nutrition was estimated at **\$6.90 per day** per person for a typical family [40 year-old parents, 16-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter], or **\$837 per month**. This represents an increase of \$175 (+26.4%) in five years, since in January 2005, the same monthly grocery basket totalled \$662.

Since its inception in 1980, the cost of a metro bus pass (CAM) represented 2.9% of a minimum wage earner's monthly income. **This proportion reached 5.1% in 2010** after declining for several years.

In 2009, public elementary and high school students were **twice as likely to live in a low-income sector** on the island if they were born outside Canada like their parents (46%), or if they were born in Canada to immigrant parents (39%), or born here like their parents (22%), or one of their parents was born outside Canada (20%).

Based on a study conducted in Laval and Montreal of 1,206 students in eight high schools, several factors predispose youth to play video lottery: boys (twice the risk), those who do not go directly home after school (3 times), and those who have friends who play on these terminals (6 times). It was also noted that these systems were significantly more accessible in lower income areas. **Video lottery terminals are also the most lucrative game activity. Less than 10% of the adult population** play these games. In 2007, video lotteries generated close to half of the net earnings of all national games.

■ In 1994, armed with the experience of foreign humanitarian aid, Daniel Germain founded the **Club des petits déjeuners** in a low-income elementary school in Longueuil. The goal was simple, and the results speak for themselves: attending class after eating well is essential to academic success. In the last year, Club volunteers served more than one million breakfasts to some 7,500 students from 96 schools in Greater Montreal, and 51 schools off the island. But there is much more. All Club activities strive to promote respect, nourish self-esteem and stimulate cooperation among youth. And to close the circle, the Club is also a partner in the United Nations global food program, in order to provide help to improve the lot of children in the world.

www.clubdejeuners.org



© Marie-Reine Maitera

The little money that low-income residents have is definitely a major preoccupation in their lives. They need money not only for transportation and pursuits, but first and foremost, for healthy eating and proper housing.

Gap Between

RICH AND POOR



¹ Relative measure of low-income families, based on 50% of their median income (after tax) according to the census, and adjusted relative to their type and size.



LEARNING

Academic achievement is the most effective means of overcoming social inequality, and it also expands professional and personal perspectives. This is a philosophy that some immigrant youth seem to have grasped.



© Le Plateau Foundation



■ *École Le Plateau was founded in 1973 as the first music-oriented school within the Montreal Catholic School Commission (CECM). The philosophy behind this project is to introduce underprivileged children to a musical experience in a school setting in order to contribute to and enrich their basic development and independence.*

www2.csdm.qc.ca/leplateau

In 2006, in Greater Montreal, **29% of youth 15 to 24 years of age did not attend school.** Twenty-five percent of these students spoke English as their mother tongue, while 25% were allophone and 31% francophone.

On the island, in 2009, **40.6% of public elementary and high school students spoke a mother tongue other than English or French,** which now surpasses the proportion of those whose maternal language is French (38.1%). Similarly, the proportion of students who did not speak English or French at home (26.8%) was similar to those who spoke English (26.6%).

The **graduation rate of high school students** is 82% among Montreal students whose language spoken at home is Vietnamese, 78% who speak Chinese, 67% for Arabic [Maghreb and Libyan], 65% Persian [Iran], 52% Spanish [Latin American] and 40% for Creole students, in comparison to almost 62% for francophones. And in Toronto and Vancouver, certain immigrant groups were more successful than anglophone groups, but this advantage is generally less notable, except in the case of Chinese-speaking students.

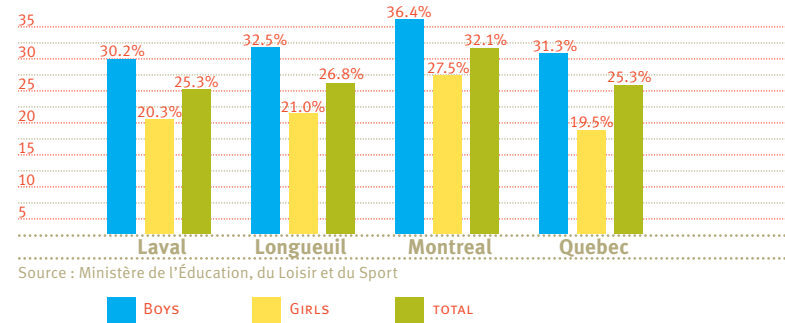
The proportion of students born in Canada to immigrant parents (23.4%) has reached a ceiling since 2005, while the proportion of students born outside Canada, like their parents (22.4%), grew rapidly since 2006. **With students with one parent born outside Canada (10%), in 2009, 55.8% of public elementary and high school students on the island came from culturally diverse origins.**

In 2009, in the region, **55.6% of the population** 15 years of age and older had a diploma for post secondary studies, which is more than in Toronto (54.1%) and Vancouver (51.6%), but less than in Ottawa (62.9%) and Calgary (57.2%).

With 26.5% of its population from 25 to 64 years of age holding a university degree in 2006, **Montreal ranks 29th** among 31 metropolitan regions in North America. The city is behind Calgary (20th with 30.6%), Vancouver (19th with 30.7%), Toronto (14th with 33.6%) and Ottawa (9th with 35.4%). Washington came first with 48% of university grads. Washington D.C. came first with 48% of university graduates.

School Dropout Rates

2006-2007 Population Centres





■ **Camp des P'tits Cuistots** - a Maison d'entraide Saint-Paul / Émard project. This program teaches young people from 6 to 12 years of age about the fundamentals of healthy eating, and encourages them to apply their knowledge and to share it with their families. Daily educational activities include : a morning cooking activity with the chef, taste-testing prepared dishes at noon, and afternoon themed activities about diet and a healthy lifestyle.

<http://maison-entraide.org>

In 2009, in Greater Montreal, 972 births were attributed to mothers 19 years of age or less, **which represents 2.2% of the total**. Ten years ago, the proportion was higher (3.8%).

In 2008, there were 111 family doctors for 100,000 residents in Greater Montreal, more than in Toronto (90) and Vancouver (103). Yet, in 2009, **30.4% of the population 12 years of age and older didn't have a family doctor**, a rate that increased to 34.6% on the island, while the situation was clearly less worrisome in Toronto (8.2%) and Vancouver (14%).

In 2009, **16.6% of adults in Greater Montreal were obese**. Toronto (13.9%) and Vancouver (11.5%) had better results, even though these figures were no less disturbing.

In 2009, **21.6% of the population in Greater Montreal smoked** at least occasionally, while Toronto (15%) and Vancouver (13.1%) achieved better results. However, the island (19.2%) is not as bad as Montréal (23.8%) and Laval (25.8%) in terms of this major health issue.

In 1971, the average age that children on the island started watching television was 4 years of age. Then it dropped to 5 months. Today, more than **90% start before 2 years of age**. What's more, it is estimated that preschool children spend an average of two hours per day in front of the television.

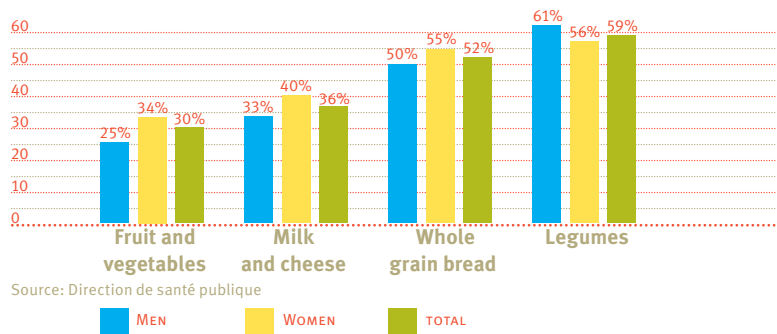
In 2009, close to half (49.9%) of the people 12 years of age and older in Greater Montreal **participated in recreational activities**, more than in Toronto (45.3%), but less than in Vancouver (58.6%).

On the island, in 2003, **life expectancy** for men [at birth] was 76.5 years, and 82 years for women. If we only consider those individuals who have already reached 65 years of age, men can expect to live another 16.7 years (13 of which in good health) and women 20.5 years (15.4 of which in good health).

Between 2001 and 2007, **1,389 people took their own life** on the island, approximately 230 per year. From 2004-2007, the rate remained stable at 12.2 suicides per 100,000 residents. Men committed three-quarters (74%) of all suicides, which were more prevalent among 24 to 44 year olds, whereas women committed suicide more frequently between the ages of 45-64.

Consumption of Sufficient Quantities of Healthy Food

For People 15 Years of Age and Older, Island, 2002-2007



HEALTH

and Wellness

Practicing prevention should be as pleasurable and natural as healthy eating, and participating in recreational activities. Should you be in need of a doctor, be prepared to travel far.



© MU - Habitations Jeanne-Mance

■ **MU - Habitations Jeanne-Mance** - A mosaic mural created by residents, part of a Habitations Jeanne-Mance revitalization project, dedicated to beautifying their living environment. The mission of the MU is to educate the population about mural art by creating beautiful works of art in the Montreal area. Since its inception in 2006, the MU has embellished the city with over 20 murals and hopes to create an outdoor art gallery throughout Montreal that will resonate and shine within the community.

www.mu-art.ca

HOUSING



Housing in Greater Montreal is less expensive than elsewhere, but property ownership is more difficult than it used to be, and there is always a shortage of low-rent housing. Already, housing conditions for seniors who live alone has become a very important issue.



In 2009, it is estimated that the purchase of a detached bungalow was likely to **require 39% of the average income** of a Montreal household. This was greater than in Edmonton (33%) and Calgary (37%), but less than in Ottawa (40%), Toronto (49%) and Vancouver (69%). This figure, which should not exceed 32% of gross annual income, had already reached 36% in Montreal in 2006.

In 2006, the great majority of seniors on the island lived at home (92%); after 75 years of age, **one in two seniors** lived at home. And, a more significant proportion of seniors lived alone (35.9%) than elsewhere in Quebec (29.5%). Furthermore, Montreal's female seniors were twice as likely to live alone (45.8%) than their male counterparts (21.5%); and 59.4% of these seniors were over 75 years of age, which is also the case for 47.5% of men in a similar situation.

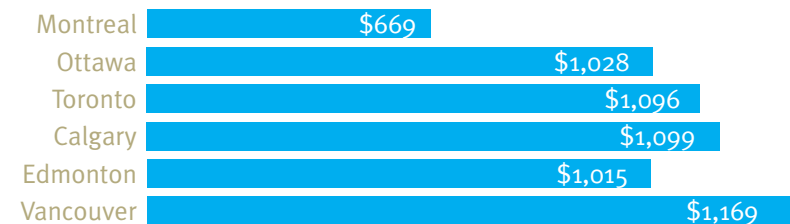
Undeniably, Montreal is the **Canadian capital of living alone**. In 2006, even though Greater Montreal had 1.5 million inhabitants less than Toronto, 69,000 more residents lived alone.

At the beginning of 2010, **more than 22,250 households** were waiting for low-income housing (HLM - Habitations à loyer modéré) on the island, and the average wait was four and a half years.

In 2010, in Greater Montreal, **30,404 people** of the average age of 82 spent \$1,454 monthly for a standard room in a senior's residence and close to three-quarters of these seniors lived alone (72.9%). On the whole, 3.5% of these seniors required full-time care, which boosted their rent to \$3,065.

Average Monthly Rent for a 2-bedroom Property

CMA, 2009



Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

■ *The majority of disputes within the city involving neighbours, business people, visitors or itinerants are easily resolved. But when they persist, and communication between parties isn't possible, these disputes are often turned over to the police or the courts. Now, thanks to the work of several local business people, there is a viable and impartial alternative in which conflicts may be resolved: a team of urban mediators, located in the downtown core, have helped resolve the tensions of the homeless for the last three years; their focus is on harmonious social cohabitation in the public domain. It is a unique and innovative approach – voluntary, confidential and free – that will hopefully extend to other neighbourhoods in the future.*

In 2008, the rate of hate crimes at a specific group was **1 in 100,000 residents**, while in metropolitan areas of a similar size, it was at least four times higher (4.2).

In 2007, **adolescents** were involved in 12% of violent crimes, a figure that represents 6.5% of the population on the island. The percentages were similar for sexual assault (13%) and assault (12%). In particular, nearly one in five robberies (18%) can be attributed to youth, a finding which highlights a particular problem among youth: bullying with extortion.

On the island, in 2007, adolescents were frequently involved in **street gang-related** crimes (one in three cases), but these violent occurrences only represented a small number (one case in ten) of juvenile crimes.

On the whole, crime attributed to **street gangs represented 1.6%** of criminal acts committed in the Montreal area in 2009; 0.3% involved property crimes, 3% assault, and 4% crimes against a person. Even though these numbers have decreased in the last 3 years, the proportion of homicides (16%) and attempted murder (35%) related to street gangs should be vigilantly monitored.

In 2007, 26% of victims of sexual assaults that were reported to the Montreal Police force were adolescents, which accounts for 3% of the population on the island, **almost nine times their demographic mass**; also, girls were the victims of 12.8% of sexual assaults (twice their mass). Boys from 12 to 17 years of age, who represented 3.3% of the population, were the victims of 12.6% of all robberies reported in 2007 (close to four times their mass).

If we have a tendency to overestimate street gangs, it's undoubtedly because of their extreme violence and because they pave the way for a life of crime. Even though Montreal is a relatively safe place, we must not let down our guard.

SAFETY



In 2001, on the island, in cases where at least one presumed perpetrator was 12 to 17 years of age, **the victims were in the same age group** (44%), or were between 18 and 24 years of age (15%), and residents 65 years of age and older only accounted for 1% of victims.

Since 2003, the Montreal Police force listed an average of **4,500 runaways** per year.

In 2008-2009, on the island, one in four reports of **youth who were in need of protection** (77%) came from the health sector (28%), the police department (28%) and the school sector (21%); others stemmed from families (15%) or half as often, from someone in the community (8%). Of all of these reports, 3,679 were acted on, representing 45% of the total: two out of three involved cases of negligence (33%) and physical abuse (30%); poor psychological treatments affected less than half of young people (15%), while behaviour problems (11%) and sexual abuse (11%) affected a similar proportion of youth. Children 5 years of age or younger suffered more from negligence and from poor psychological treatments; behavioural problems were more frequent among adolescents [12 to 17 years of age], while physical and sexual abuse particularly affected the 6 to 11 year old age group.

In 2006, the average number of Montreal drivers involved in an accident with injuries was **5.2 out of 1,000 license holders**. For drivers 65 years of age and older, the average number was 2.8, and for drivers 75 years of age and older, 3.4. Seniors, who represented 13% of all licensed drivers on the island, were on average involved in 7% of accidents with injuries per year. However, they were also overrepresented in serious or fatal accidents.





GETTING AROUND

The number of cars is increasing faster than the population, but there is a slight drop in vehicle usage, which can be attributed to a significant increase in the use of public transit, bicycles, and walking.



© Bixi

In 2008, it was estimated that there was a fleet of **1,789,000 vehicles** in Greater Montreal, an increase of **10.5%** compared to 2003, while the population only increased by **5%**. This growth in the number of vehicles was more significant in the suburbs (+17%) than on the island (+6%), with an increase that was much greater than the population (+10% vs. +2%). Also of note was the fact that the number of men who owned vehicles remained constant, while there was an increase among women and seniors.

Every morning in 2008, residents of Greater Montreal moved from one place to another **2,213,000 times**, mainly for work (51%) and school (29%). On the whole, 89% of this movement took place in motorized vehicles and 22% on public transit.

Between 2003 and 2008, in Greater Montreal, there was an increase in the use of public transit (+15%), bicycles (+10%), and walking. Conversely, a slight decrease in vehicle usage was noted (-1%), which was observed for the first time since 1970, as well as in the number of passengers per vehicle (**now 1.23/vehicle**).

Between 2003 and 2008, morning use of vehicles decreased everywhere, **except in the suburbs (+6%)**. On the other hand, off-island areas experienced the greatest increase in the use of public transit, notably in the north (+40%) and south shore communities (+52%), and also in Laval (+31%), which has only been accessible by metro since April 28, 2007.

At the 25th edition of the Tour de l'Île de Montréal, in 2009, **more than 80%** of participants in this major cycling event wore a bicycle helmet. It remains to be seen what the rate will be among Bixi users.



■ How can you not salute the popularity of **Bixi**, this self-serve bike system that claims a place in public transit as an alternative to the car? After only three months of operation on the island, 278 stations serviced 8,419 members, and 77,070 occasional users who travelled 3,612,799 km, or the equivalent of 87 times around the planet, while saving 909,053 kg in greenhouse gas emissions. And the idea is catching on in Melbourne, Minneapolis, Washington, Boston, London...

www.montreal.bixi.com

Montreal is one of the Canadian cities with **the least amount of green space per inhabitant**. Between 1986 and 1994, half of the forests on the island were wiped out by development. Between 1994 and 2001, 750 additional hectares were lost to development. Historically, it is estimated that the disappearance of 90% of the island's forests led to the loss of 60% of its biodiversity. Montreal has 48 vulnerable or endangered green species, Laval has 30, and in Greater Montreal, 63 plant species have disappeared, or are in the process of doing so.

Urban density is much less harmful to the environment than urban sprawl, which necessitates more movement and contributes to more greenhouse gas emissions. **In 2006, with 58% of its population living within average density zones, Greater Montreal was second to Toronto (64%)**. Sixteen percent of the region's population live in high density areas, the highest rate of any large Canadian city, including Toronto (11%).

In 2007, Greater Montreal emitted **1,219 kg of CO₂ per capita**, or 21.3% less greenhouse gas attributable to personal vehicles than in the average Canadian city.

Garbage recovered on the island [recyclables and organics] increased **26% between 2004 and 2008**, while the tonnage of garbage (household waste) decreased by 5%. Overall, the total amount of individual garbage produced increased by 7%.

In 2008, every resident on the island produced **330 kg of household waste**.

From 2004 to 2008, the **amount of organic matter collected on the island increased (+12.2%)**, as did recyclable matter (+37.5%), dangerous household waste (+182%), and bulky residue or residential construction matter (+200.7%).

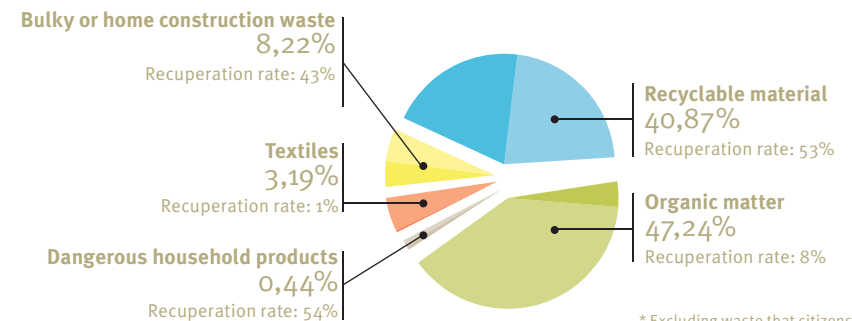
Overall, some **300,000 tonnes** of garbage were collected on the island in 2008, approximately 30% of the total generated by residents. And 84% of the remaining waste was disposed of at off-island sites. Regarding organic matter, which comprises half of all household waste, only 8% is currently recovered, while the goal is to reach 60% by 2014.

■ **Consortium Évolution** is an organization dedicated to educating young people about environmental challenges. The aim of the organization's *Edu-covert* program is to heighten awareness among young people about the effects of overconsumption and their impact on the environment. Third and fourth grade students are encouraged to donate an old toy to the *Lutins Verts* organization, which will restore the toys and sell them in their *Biosphere* workshop in December 2010.

<http://consortium-evolution.org/accueil.html>

Types of Recyclable Matter Left by Residents for Curbside Pickup *

Island, 2008



* Excluding waste that citizens take to recycling facilities and special waste collection items.
Sources : Recyc-Québec and Ville de Montréal

■ **The mountain and the river weave close and vital relationships for a large portion of the population of the island. In the majority of cities in the world, water is distributed by water towers, reservoirs perched at the summit of a tower overlooking the community. These facilities are expensive and unsightly. In Montreal, Mount Royal, thanks to its central location and altitude, serves as a water tower. Drawn 610 metres from the river upstream of the Lachine Rapids, the water is first led by four concrete pipes to two treatment plants. Once drinkable, some of the water is pumped into six reservoirs dug into the mountain and, by gravity, the water supply exerts the necessary pressure to maintain the flow through the entire distribution network. The area covered by each tank is identified on the surface by the colour of the hydrant heads. To distribute the water to taps, the network has more than 2,700 km of piping, which is equal to the distance between Montreal and Winnipeg.**

ENVIRONMENT

As worrisome as they are, greenhouse gas emissions from personal vehicles are lower in Quebec than elsewhere in Canada. But, the rate of recycling organic matter is discouraging.



© Le Mondial Choral Loto-Québec

■ *The Loto-Quebec World Choral Festival was created by visionary Gregory Charles in Laval in 2005. Currently in its sixth year, this very dynamic form of art and leisure is enjoying increasing popularity in Quebec. Last year, 300,000 festivalgoers attended more than 250 performances given by ten thousand choral singers from all over the world. Today, considered to be the largest gathering of choirs and vocal ensembles in North America, this event showcases the great city of Montreal, bringing together the largest number of choristers in Quebec.*

www.mondialchoral.org

ARTS & CULTURE

Culture is a major indicator of development, most certainly for individuals, but also for the economy of a city. Although they are at the very heart of creation, artists, writers and performers are often paid less than other cultural workers.

In 2008, cultural sector earnings totalled **\$12 billion**. The direct contribution to the economy was \$7.8 billion, or approximately 6% of the GDP of Greater Montreal. What's more, the cultural sector generated 60,798 indirect jobs, a better result than the majority of service industries.

The cultural sector is rapidly growing in Greater Montreal, where **69% of its jobs** are concentrated, compared to 49% for Quebec's entire industrial sector. In 2008, there were 96,910 direct jobs, accounting for 5.1% of all Montreal jobs, compared to 3.9% in 1998. During this time period, the annual increase was nearly three times greater than that of the entire labour market (4.6% vs. 1.7%).

In regard to the **concentration of artists** in the region, according to the last census, Montreal (1.53%) is now behind Toronto (1.6%). Just like 15 years ago, Victoria (1.87%) and Vancouver (2.35%) remain in the lead.

In 2008, the average annual income of workers in the cultural sector was **\$44,000**, which is 10% less than that in other industries (\$48,547). But the sector is characterized by large disparities. With just over half (55%) of the sector's average income, its 11,200 artists, writers and performers were the lowest paid (\$24,400), a precarious situation since 75% of these workers were self-employed. On the other hand, architecture, publishing, radio and television broadcasting, and interactive gaming offered much more lucrative salaries (\$60,000 to \$65,000).

In 2006, the average income of **Montreal's 13,425 artists** was 21% less than that of the local working age population, and similar to that of Laval's 930 artists (-22%). This income disparity was much less significant for Longueuil's 1,005 artists (-7%), but was much greater in Vancouver (-29%) and Toronto (-30%).

Overall, 300 arts organizations supported by the **Montreal Arts Council** in 2009 were financed by the public sector (45%) and by self-financing sources (34%). One-fifth (21%) of the income from private sources came as donations (14%) or sponsorships (7%). However, this increased relative to the budget, and 15% of the more affluent organizations shared 84% of private funding. This also varied according to the organization's activities; thus literature (3%), dance (10%) and theatre (13%) received much less private funding than music (24%), movies, visual arts, media-related arts (25%), and festivals (38%).

In the last twenty-five years (1981-2006), the population of Greater Montreal grew by 27% while the number of immigrants **increased by 64%**.

Greater Montreal had 12% of Canada's immigrant population in 2006, occupying **3rd place among Canadian cities**, behind Vancouver (13.4%) and Toronto (37.5%). But the island ranked 4th in respect to the proportion of immigrants within the population (20.6%), exceeded by Calgary (23.6%), Vancouver (39.4%) and Toronto (45.7%).

More than three-quarters (77.6%) of immigrants admitted between 1998 and 2007 and still located in Quebec in January 2009 live in the metropolitan area. The island of Montreal welcomed two out of three new immigrants, making it the major centre of attraction (64.3%), followed by the Laval region (7.1%) and the urban area of Longueuil (6.2%).

Between 2001 and 2006, adults [24 to 44 years of age] of parents born in Canada were more likely **to leave the central municipality (18%)** than were immigrants, which was the opposite case in Toronto (11%). Among those who moved off the island of Montreal, the municipality of Laval was clearly more popular among immigrants (41%) than it was among residents whose parents were born in Canada (16%).

Immigrants are less isolated in Montreal than they are in Toronto and Vancouver; in 2001, an average of 31% of Montreal's residential population were immigrants, compared to 50% in Toronto and 42.5% in Vancouver. In other words, on average, seven out of ten people in the immediate environment are not immigrants. On the residential front, immigrants are more exposed to members of the Montreal community, more so than in Toronto or Vancouver. The situation is the same for visible minorities, who are less isolated in Montreal, compared to Toronto and Vancouver.

In 2006, Greater Montreal housed **4.4% of mixed-race** couples, which puts the city in 8th place out of 33 metropolitan regions in Canada. Toronto (7.1%) and Vancouver (8.5%) share the lead.

In 2006, in Greater Montreal, approximately **one immigrant in three** spoke French at home, one in five spoke English, and one in two spoke a third language.

In 2006, in comparison to people born in Canada, the unemployment rate for recent immigrants was 1.9 times greater in Canada, 3 times greater in Quebec, and **3.5 times greater in the region**. Nowhere has the difference decreased in the last five years.

² If only one member of a couple belongs to a visible minority group, or if both spouses or partners belong to different visible minority groups.

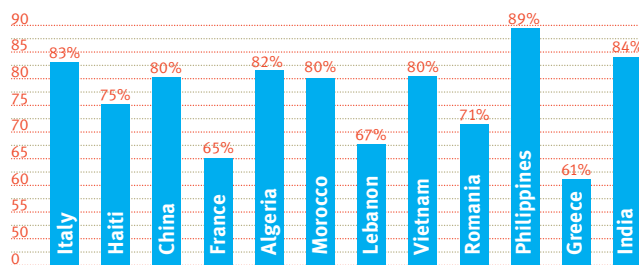
Language, neighbourhood, work, and marriage are just several aspects involved in integrating into a welcoming society. Encompassing every aspect of life is a daunting challenge to say the least, which is not likely to lessen in the years to come.

Getting Started in the

COMMUNITY

Breakdown of Immigrants

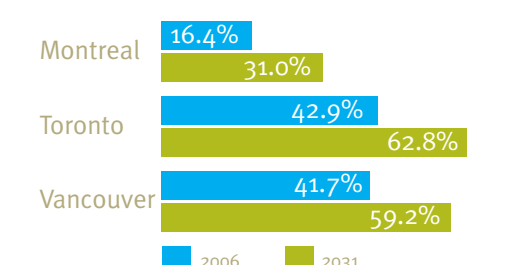
Between the Island and the remaining CMA, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada

Proportion of Visible Minorities

CMA, 2006 and 2031



Source: Statistics Canada

La Maison d'Haiti is a non-profit organization created in 1972. Its areas of activity include: social integration, education, and welcoming low-income immigrant families who have difficulty assimilating into the community. The organization's mission is to improve living conditions for Haitians living in Quebec, as well as for other immigrants who face similar situations. Since the earthquake last January, in addition to its regular activities, **La Maison d'Haiti** has become a **Help Centre** for those in distress within the Haitian community. The Centre also implemented a series of post-crisis activities to help integrate families, such as art therapy workshops, to encourage mourning and to start the healing process.



BELONGING

and Leadership

There are numerous ways to be an active member of society. You can share your knowledge, your vision or your beliefs. You can also volunteer your time, your money, or your blood. This is a large area, where nothing is taken for granted and where working together makes all the difference.

■ **Santropol Roulant** is an innovative community organization founded and run by young people in Montreal. More than one hundred volunteers per week, most between the ages of 14 and 35, devote their time to all aspects of the life of this organization. Food is the means used to counter social isolation and promote intergenerational solidarity. For fifteen years, thanks to the energy of thousands of volunteers, Santropol Roulant has prepared and delivered more than 400,000 hot, nutritious meals to individuals living with a loss of autonomy, primarily seniors, by car, on foot, or most often by bicycle. That's nearly one hundred meals per day, six days a week all year long. The organization is working to create a sustainable urban food system, by cultivating rooftop gardens, and by working in the spirit of developing a family of volunteers.

www.santropolroulant.org

In 2009, **54.9% of the population** of Greater Montreal experienced a strong sense of belonging to their social environment. The Canadian average is 65.4%, while for Quebec it is 56.4%.

In 2006, **82% of the population** of Greater Montreal was Christian, a percentage that could drop to roughly 70% by 2031, still a higher proportion than now exists in Toronto (62%) and Vancouver (50%). The number of Montreal residents who follow a religion other than Christianity could increase from 9% to 16%, while those of no religious affiliation could grow from 9% to 13%.

In Quebec, **the annual blood donor ratio** for 1,000 residents 18 to 79 years of age has risen to 58. Laval, Montreal and Longueuil had the lowest ratio (40). On the island, the ratio is only 36. Municipalities on the west island had the highest donation rate. Conversely, in ethno-cultural municipalities and boroughs, ratios were much lower.

On the island, **men who give blood outnumber women** (52.8% vs. 47.2%), as is the case throughout Quebec (57.4% vs. 42.6%).

In 2009, **18.8% of mayors and 31.3% of municipal councillors on the island were women**. On the other hand, women are better represented as presidents of school boards (60%) and as school commissioners (41%).



© Santropol roulant

The Foundation of Greater Montreal wishes to thank the following partners for their generous in-kind support .



PARTNERS and Sources

To prepare this check-up report about Greater Montreal, we consulted numerous online information sources:

- Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal
- Agence métropolitaine de transport
- Association de médecine vétérinaire du Québec
- Association québécoise des retraité(e)s des secteurs public et parapublic
- Bixi – Montréal
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Centre de santé et de services sociaux Jeanne-Mance
- Centre jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire
- Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal
- Club des petits déjeuners du Québec
- Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal
- Commission des normes du travail du Québec
- Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal
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- Canadian Council on Social Development
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- Montreal Diet Dispensary
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- Environment Canada
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- Institut national de santé publique du Québec
- KPMG
- Les amis de la montagne
- Les Entretiens Jacques-Cartier
- Loto Quebec World Choral
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- Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles
- Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire
- Mondial Choral Loto-Québec
- Montreal City Mission
- MU
- Régions et de l'Occupation du Territoire
- Office québécois de la langue française
- RBC Economic Research
- Recyc-Québec
- Santropol Roulant
- Service de police de la Ville de Montréal
- Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec
- Société de transport de Montréal
- Société d'habitation du Québec
- Statistics Canada
- Table de concertation des aînés de l'île
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The Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM) is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the well-being of the Greater Montreal 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 263 funds worth over \$100 million; 45% are endowment funds. During 2009 and 2010 the FGM distributed over \$3 million to more than 250 organisations of the Greater Montreal area.

The FGM is a member of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), an organization numbering 173 community foundations that reaches thousands of communities across Canada, and whose collective assets total more than \$2.9 billion.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

The Vital Signs report is a national initiative coordinated by the Community Foundations of Canada. This year, 16 Canadian community foundations will simultaneously publish local reports.

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Greater Montreal's Vital Signs – 2010

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

www.fgmtl.org

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Foundation of Greater Montreal

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