The Right of Initiative to public consultations

Take the initiative to obtain a public consultation

ville.montreal.qc.ca/right-initiative

Montréal ❁

The Right of Initiative to public consultations

Is there an idea or project that is close to your heart and that you would like to debate with other citizens?

The Right of Initiative allows you to obtain a public consultation by filing a petition in the form and within the timeframe provided for under the relevant By-law.

You may thereby propose new, constructive solutions or innovative, mobilizing projects to respond to the issues and challenges of the city or your borough, and thus contribute to its development.

Whether you are a citizen who actively participates in his or her community or a member of a community association, sports club or student or other group, the Right of Initiative gives you the opportunity to propose a novel idea, and to raise awareness of it and validate its relevance over the course of a public consultation.

A Ville de Montréal commitment

In effect since 2010, the **Right of Initiative to public consultations** was developed jointly by the Task Force on Democracy (2002-2014) – a work group bringing together citizens and civil servants – and the city.

That right gives effect to the city's commitment set out in section 16 h) of the ***Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities***:
ville.montreal.qc.ca/charterofrights

The Right of Initiative process may require time and energy. Before exercising it, you are invited to check with your municipal councillor to see if there is another way to meet your request.

By-law
The By-law concerning the Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities and the Right of Initiative (05-056) sets out the conditions for the application of the Right of Initiative to public consultations.

For more information, please see the **summary** on the Right of Initiative.

A two-step process

The **Right of Initiative to public consultations** makes it possible to obtain, by filing a petition, a **public consultation**:

- dealing with a subject under central city or borough jurisdiction;

- that raises **important and mobilizing issues for the community**.

For example:

  – urban agriculture in Montréal, the first formal application of the Right of Initiative;
  – the safety of bicycle paths;
  – the redevelopment of a road in a borough

The Right of Initiative supplements existing public consultation mechanisms. **However, certain conditions apply**.

To obtain a public consultation:

Step 1: Present a draft petition
Step 2: Collect signatures on the petition

Step 1
Presenting a draft petition

Procure the Form: ***Step 1 – Presenting a draft petition*** provided by the city on the Web site ville.montreal.qc.ca/right-initiative

■ Your draft petition must be signed by **at least 25 people**, including three signatories designated as representatives of your group.

■ The people entitled to sign the form must be **15 years** of age or older and **live** within the territory of Montréal or the territory of the borough concerned with the draft petition.

Submit your **draft petition** to the City clerk or borough office concerned **to make sure that it is eligible**.

Eligibility of the draft petition

Once your **draft petition** has been filed, the City clerk or person responsible at the borough in question checks to make sure that it is eligible and conforms to the By-law governing the Right of Initiative. You will be advised within 15 days of its filing.

The By-law provides a list of excluded subjects, **such as**:

■ the administrative organization of the city and its boroughs;

■ human resources management;

■ matters pending before the court.

Other conditions of the Right of Initiative:

■ It cannot replace consultation processes already provided for by law;

■ It is limited annually:

  – to three consultation by the city;
  – to two consultations by each of the boroughs.

Step 2
Collecting signatures on the petition

Once the eligibility of your **draft petition** has been established, the city or borough publishes a **notice** on its Web site announcing the beginning of the period for the collection of signatures on the **petition.**

For subjects under borough jurisdiction, the borough also publishes a notice in a local newspaper.

The notice must indicate the number of signatures required on your petition, i.e.:

■ **15,000** for a draft petition whose subject falls under central city jurisdiction;

■ **5%** of the number of people entitled to sign in the borough in question or a maximum of **5000** for a draft petition whose subject falls under borough jurisdiction.

The signatures must be collected on the Form: **Step 2 – Collecting signatures on the petition** provided by the city, within **a maximum of 90 days** from the publication of the notice.

The form is available on the Web site ville.montreal.qc.ca/right-initiative

To sign the petition, citizens must be **15 years** of age or older and **live** within the territory of Montréal or within the territory of the borough concerned by the petition.

From the petition to the public consultation

If you have collected the required number of signatures within the 90-day period, the city or borough must organize a **public consultation** pertaining to the subject of the petition, and it must do so within a reasonable timeframe.

The public consultation will be held in **two (2) parts**:

1st The city or borough in question presents the file and answers the citizens' questions. The people responsible for the petition reveal the reasons that motivated them to request a public consultation;

2nd After a maximum delay of 15 days, all interested citizens may express their opinions.

The authority responsible for the consultation must publish a report outlining the concerns and opinions expressed and providing an analysis complete with conclusions or recommendations.

The elected officials will carefully examine the report. Following that examination, citizens will be informed of the results of the consultation and the ensuing decisions as well as their rationale.