



Rights, Responsibilities and Commitments

CHAPTER I

Democracy

ARTICLE 15 | Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have democratic rights and participate with the Montréal administration in a joint effort to ensure the continued enjoyment of such rights. They contribute to this effort by performing activities consistent with the commitments stated in this chapter.

Citizens may exercise their voting rights and participate, within their means, in issues of concern to them and may respectfully express informed opinions in view of influencing the city's decisions.

ARTICLE 16 | Commitments

To foster participation by citizens in municipal affairs, Montréal is committed to:

- a)** Encouraging public participation and providing citizens with useful and clearly formulated information;
- b)** Facilitating access to documents pertaining to municipal affairs;
- c)** Ensuring that the public consultation process is credible, open and effective, by adopting and maintaining the appropriate procedures;
- d)** Providing annual summaries of the Montréal financial statements, budget and three-year capital works programme before public consultations are held and before their adoption;

- e)** Fostering civic values among citizens;
- f)** Promoting representation by women of all origins, Aboriginals, visible minorities and members of ethnic and cultural communities and young people within consultative and decision-making bodies;
- g)** Supporting equality between women and men;
- h)** Defining and establishing guidelines for, and granting, through a by-law, the right of citizens' initiatives regarding public consultations, prior to the deadline for revising this Charter as provided in article 42;
- i)** Combating discrimination, xenophobia, racism, sexism and homophobia, poverty and social exclusion, all of which serve to erode the foundations of a free and democratic society;
- j)** Planning for the renewal of Montréal's public service by facilitating the employment of young people within it and by recruiting employees who reflect the diversity of the city's population, in accordance with the applicable equal access to employment programmes.