

September 11, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Leader
Conservative Party of Canada
130 Albert St., Suite 1204
Ottawa ON K1P 5G4

Dear Mr. Harper,

Canadian citizens will be asked to elect the next federal government on October 14. The critical issue of urban development must be discussed during the course of this important democratic process. Our cities obviously serve as powerhouses of economic, social and cultural development.

With nearly 80% of all Canadians living in metropolitan areas we must urgently engage in serious discussions and understand your vision of the new partnership to be forged with cities so that a new dynamic can be brought to Canada's development.

Three clear and firm commitments are required in the course of this campaign:

1. The urban reality of our cities has become increasingly complex. In conjunction with the provinces and territories and out of respect for their powers a review of the roles and responsibilities of the three levels of government must be conducted and each level provided with appropriate financial resources.
2. Canada is the only G8 nation without a national transportation strategy. A commitment must be made during this election campaign to a strategy built around the use of public transit.
3. Our cities require predictable and permanent revenue sources that are linked to the economy to ensure their growth.

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Although cities have made some gains over the past few years the current model is clearly obsolete. I am very much looking forward to hearing your position on this matter of national importance.

While awaiting the outcome of the nation's serious dialogue on this subject, please find enclosed a list of issues and high-potential projects that are crucial to Montréal's development and for which I am also very much looking forward to positive responses. These projects include many issues that are regularly discussed with the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gérald Tremblay', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gérald Tremblay

APPENDIX

1. Continued investment in infrastructure

One of the main challenges facing municipalities is aging infrastructure and a growing deficit of such infrastructure, currently estimated at \$123 billion. We recognize efforts that have already been made in this area. However the challenge is considerable and will require substantial investments.

2. Sustainable development

In 2005, Montréal published its first strategic plan for sustainable development and then, in 2007, its ground-breaking and ambitious transportation plan (*Reinventing Montréal*), to chart a clear course toward good air quality and a superior quality of life. We must accordingly, be able to rely on federal support in accelerating implementation of:

- The *Reinventing Montréal* transportation plan,
- The tramway line covering Montréal's business centre, Old Port and harbourfront.
- The rail shuttle from Montréal's downtown area to Montreal Trudeau Airport.
- The high speed Québec City to Windsor train.
- A high-speed rail link between Montréal and the South Shore.
- Reconstruction of the Bonaventure Expressway.
- Decontamination of the Pointe St-Charles corporate park (former Adacport).

3. Social development

Our Administration also places the greatest importance on social development. Harmonious municipal development starts with affordable housing. The following actions are critical in meeting this goal:

- Renewing and perpetuating such existing initiatives as the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities, federal investments in affordable housing, the Homelessness Partnership Initiative and agreements to fund current social housing projects.

4. Public safety

Montréal certainly ranks among North America's safest cities. Yet additional effort is needed to further improve the public's quality of life. We are seeking clear commitments with respect to:

- Stepping up efforts aimed at eliminating and preventing street gangs.
- Banning firearm possession.
- Taking appropriate measures to combat the illegal import of firearms.

5. *Montréal 2025*: Metropolis of culture, innovation and knowledge

Culture, innovation and knowledge are central to Montréal's identity. The federal government should support our artists and producers, along with growth-generating projects.

With respect to culture, the city's priorities are:

- Completing the Quartier des spectacles.
- Incorporating plans to expand the *Musée d'archéologie et d'histoire de Montréal, Pointe-à-Callière* within the Old Port's development strategy.
- Conclusion of a tripartite agreement to preserve and present the *Maison Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine*.
- Amendment of *Bill C-10*, to eliminate any measures that would adversely affect funding for film productions.
- Reviewing recently cut federal cultural programs and policies, to develop new, properly oriented initiatives that are better geared to the needs of today's artists and producers.

Other high priority development projects in carrying out *Montréal 2025*, for which federal assistance and support remain essential:

- The Université de Montréal's plan to redevelop the former Outremont railroad yard.
- Formalization of the harbourfront plan, particularly through development of 1500 Ottawa Street and deployment of the Old Port of Montréal Corporation's investment plan.