



\$1.3 G megaproject in Griffintown

On November 22, Devimco announced the launch of a \$1.3 billion residential and commercial development project in the Sud-Ouest borough, along Montréal's

Lachine Canal. The city of Montréal has given the green light to a Special Planning Program (PPU) – the phase in an urban development project that must be completed before any ground is broken. The development project calls for 3,860 housing units, a 2,000-seat concert hall, two hotels, office space and 5,000 parking spaces. According to Devimco, this is one of the largest private investment projects ever in Montréal.

Modernizing rue Notre-Dame: Quebec and Montréal give the go-ahead

The Quebec government and the city of Montréal have given their go-ahead to the proposed modernization of rue Notre-Dame. The work, expected to cost \$750 million, will be carried out over a six-year period, starting next summer. The Quebec government will be contributing \$625 million, and the city the other \$125 million. Some 70,000 cars use Notre-Dame every day. The addition of two reserved bus lanes will allow four Société de transport de Montréal (STM) bus routes to handle 15,000 riders daily along this new artery.

World Anti-Doping Agency to remain in Montréal through 2021

Ottawa has successfully secured an extension to the agreement that will keep the headquarters of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in Montréal for an additional ten years. WADA is an independent international agency that the International Olympic Committee and governments established jointly in 1999 to promote ethical conduct and harmonize the global fight against doping in sport. The current agreement with WADA expires in 2011 and will now be extended until 2021.



Quartier des spectacles: Ottawa, Quebec and Montréal invest \$120 M

The Canadian and Quebec governments and the city of Montréal have announced investment totalling \$120 million in the Quartier des

spectacles Special Planning Program (PPU), to be carried out over four years. The professional partners of the Quartier International de Montréal (QIM), originator of the PPU, will be responsible for producing a detailed proposal for redeveloping the Place des Arts area. For its part, the Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal will manage the development of the Place du Quartier des spectacles.

Infrastructure project: MTQ and STM invest over \$100 M

The Quebec Department of Transport (MdT) and the Société de transport de Montréal have announced plans to expand the Centre de transport Legendre and build a new bodywork centre. The major project, estimated to cost \$102 million, will get underway shortly and should be completed by July 2009. It will allow the STM to replace much of its equipment with facilities for maintaining fibreglass bodies and which are configured for articulated buses.



Ubisoft Montréal releases Assassin's Creed

Ubisoft recently launched Assassin's Creed, one of the most ambitious and promising games from Ubisoft's Montréal studios. Some 300 people

were involved in producing the game, which has a promotional budget of over \$1.2 million in Canada alone, the company's largest to date. The Montréal Ubisoft studios also announced the upcoming launch of Rainbow Six Vegas 2 for next-generation consoles and PCs. The shooter game will hit stores in March 2008.



Video games company Cyanide sets up in Montréal

Amusement Cyanide Inc., one of France's largest video games development studios, is coming to Montréal with the goal of penetrating the North American market. The company, which was supported by Montréal International in setting up in the region, plans to hire approximately 65 employees over the next three years. Cyanide has turned out many successful games since it was founded in 2000, including *Cycling Manager*, *Horse Racing Manager*, *Pro Rugby Manager* and *Chaos League* for PC. In 2007, the French studio also produced *Loki* and *Pro Cycling Manager 2007*.

Vidéotron creates 600 jobs in Montréal in 2007

In response to record growth, the cable distribution company has launched a major recruitment campaign in order to fill 200 positions by the end of the year, 150 of them in Montréal. These new jobs come on top of the 450 others created since the beginning of 2007. The current hiring drive is intended to keep pace with the steady increase in Vidéotron's customer base and the addition of new products and services.



University research: Montréal ranks first in Canada

Greater Montréal ranks first among all metropolitan areas in Canada, both in terms of funding allocated to university research and the number of

university researchers. Such were the findings of an analysis conducted by Montréal International based on the rankings issued by Research Infosource. The study also found that in 2006 six of Montréal's main university establishments managed research funds totalling \$1 billion, i.e. 18% of the country's total research budget. These statistics once again confirm Montréal's status as Canada's capital of university research, a position it has held since 1999.

Sainte-Justine launches Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau pavilion

On October 29, the Sainte-Justine university health centre officially opened its new Centre de cancérologie Charles-Bruneau pavilion. This project marked the end of the first phase of the hospital's major modernization program, *Growing up healthy*. The new Lucie et André Chagnon pavilion doubles the amount of space dedicated to caring for children with cancer and severe blood disorders.

CHUM designated a supra-regional breast cancer centre

The Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) has announced that the Quebec Department of Health (MSSS) has designated its integrated breast cancer centre a supra-regional quaternary breast cancer centre. In order to qualify for this designation, a team must have ultraspecialized professionals in a variety of fields, cutting-edge technology and a high volume of activities, in addition to offering more-specialized training. It must also stand out in terms of its clinical, assessment and basic research programs in oncology.

Sustainable development: Montréal recognized by the United Nations University

The United Nations University has officially designated Montréal a Regional Centre of Expertise for Education in Sustainable Development. This makes Montréal the first city in the French-speaking world to obtain this designation. The announcement was made at the 8th Montréal symposium on environmental education.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics expands

On November 14, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) officially opened its new annex on the Université de Montréal campus. Since moving here in 2001, the international statistics organization has grown rapidly from its initial 9 employees to 97 today.

Exceptional tourism accreditation for Montréal

Montréal was recognized on October 18 by the National Geographic Society as the first city in the world to sign the Geotourism Charter. The Society's choice of Montréal as the first signatory underscores the work our city has accomplished in tourism and cultural outreach and promotion. As a signatory, Montréal must respect the World Tourism Organization's Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, as well as the principles of the International Cultural Tourism Charter of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.



Foreign film crews back in force in Montréal

Foreign film shoots were very busy in Montréal in 2007, with spinoff of some \$200 million for the city, up 100% from 2006. Note that in 2002 and 2003, spinoff from foreign film

shoots for the city of Montréal stood at around \$400 million, before dropping to \$150 million in 2005.