

**The *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* is celebrating its 10-year anniversary!**

**Montreal, 11 February 2013** – The Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Michael Applebaum, the Vice President of Montreal's executive council and its director of youth issues, Mme Émilie Thuillier, and the President of the *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* (CjM), Mr Jonathan Lesage, are pleased to highlight the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CjM. For Mr Lesage, « This is the perfect reason to come together with our friends and partners to reflect on our past successes and look forward to our future projects. It's also an opportunity to recognize all the hard work and dedication of our members, past and present, who have represented the interests of young Montrealers at City Hall over the last decade. »

« The City of Montreal is proud to have had the *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* as a partner these past 10 years. I would like to thank all the young Montrealers of the CjM for their passion and dedication, which has been demonstrated time and again through their numerous accomplishments. I'm delighted with our on-going partnership, which allows Montreal to innovate as well as build bridges between its generations, » underlined the Mayor of Montreal, M. Michael Applebaum.

« The *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* is an incubator of wonderful ideas and projects that not only provides us with valuable advice but also helps remind us that we all need to make more room for youth. Whether the subject is communications between the city and its young residents or youth citizen engagement, it's a pleasure to work with the CjM and bring forward their recommendations to my colleagues in the municipal council, » added Mme Émilie Thuillier, Vice President of Montreal's executive council and its director of youth issues.

**The Accomplishments of the *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal***

Established on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2003, the *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* is a consultative body that advises the City of Montreal on municipal issues affecting 12-to-30 year old Montrealers. Its 15 members, nominated by the municipal council, are tasked with assuring that the preoccupations of the youth of Montreal are represented in municipal decision-making. Its members come from boroughs across Montreal and are representative of the city's cultural and linguistic diversity. Almost 80 young Montrealers have sat on the CjM since its creation in 2003.

Over the course of its first 10 years, the *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* has published 25 policy papers on youth issues ranging from arts and culture, youth-municipality communications, civic belonging, and public transport, to graffiti and street gangs.

Among other high-profile CjM recommendations adopted by the City of Montreal are the *programme de parrainage professionnel*, a professional mentoring program that offers internship opportunities within the municipal administration, and the BIXI public bicycle sharing service.

The members of the *Conseil jeunesse de Montréal* have also represented the City of Montreal internationally on numerous occasions, including the *Hiroshima International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future* in 2011 and at *Espace Montréal* as part of the World Exhibition in Shanghai in 2010.

More recently, since September 2012, in an effort to inspire pride in the contributions of youth to Montreal, the CjM partnered with the Metro newspaper to shine a monthly spotlight on young Montrealers making a difference.

### **Upcoming Challenges**

In order for the City to fully take into account the views and needs of young people, young people need to be engaged in what happens in Montreal and contribute to the decision-making process. This is why the focus of the CjM in 2013 will be to promote the participation of young people in the municipal election in November, including voter turn-out initiatives and the publication of a policy paper on youth civic participation. The CjM will also support the City of Montreal in the implementation of the 2013-2017 *Stratégie jeunesse*, which will be unveiled in the coming months to direct youth policy development.

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