



NOTICE OF SUMMARY FOR

CITÉ jeune, participe!
Opinion on citizen engagement

PREPARED BY THE
CONSEIL JEUNESSE DE MONTRÉAL

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SUMMARY

Civic participation is a concept that is not always clearly defined due to the multiple and varied interpretations of meanings that the term has been given. It can take on a variety of concrete forms that relate to civic rights, political rights, and the social right of citizens. From this perspective, civic participation comprises three forms of participation: political, democratic, and social. It is through these three dimensions that we studied civic participation by young Montrealers and formulated recommendations to encourage it in all its forms.

Our analysis relies on extensive research as well as on meetings with experts in civic participation. We also collected the opinions of young Montrealers by means of a major survey, the results of which appear in the full notice.

The Conseil jeunesse de Montréal (CJM) noted that the Ville de Montréal supports numerous initiatives that contribute to civic participation by young Montrealers. Nonetheless, a number of obstacles to participation were also identified.

In light of these findings, 15 recommendations were developed to encourage youth civic participation in all its forms. Six recommendations address the political participation of youths, including several that encourage their participation in municipal elections, specifically by honing the civic competencies of Montréal youths.

The other nine recommendations relate to the democratic and social participation of youths. Among other things, they strive for the Ville de Montréal to promote youth participation by publishing open data, by adopting user-friendly formulae for public consultations and by drafting documents intended for youths in clear vernacular.

INTRODUCTION

In 2012, the members of the CjM decided to focus on the issue of civic participation by young Montrealers. This theme, which the CjM previously broached in its communication notice, appeared highly relevant to us, particularly in light of 2012 being a year of exceptional mobilization among students in the history of Québec!

Accordingly, the CjM developed this notice with in order to outline the current situation and formulate avenues for solutions that are adapted to the reality of the metropolis, so as to encourage all forms of youth participation.

First and foremost, this notice presents different forms of civic participation as well as the key concepts that will enable us to better understand this extensive topic. Second, it paints a portrait of the political participation of youths. As the general municipal election of 2013 approaches, we believe it is relevant to reflect on youth participation in elections. Last but not least, we discuss the democratic and social participation of young Montrealers. These forms of participation are very important among young people and cover so many fields that it would be impossible for us to pay them justice in this notice.

WHAT IS CIVIC PARTICIPATION?

The concept of civic participation is difficult to assess because it is the result of the conjugation of the numerous meanings it is given. Nonetheless, if we were to define citizenship as being the right and ability to directly or indirectly participate in public affairs, civic participation becomes the actualization of this potential, hence the active form of citizenship.

This active citizenship is expressed through a variety of forms of individual and collective mobilization that strive to achieve the social transformation of their milieu and of society as a whole. It is expressed through citizen involvement in the decision-making processes that affect them, and from a more individual perspective, through the integration of individuals into community projects. For a number of young Montrealers, civic participation is, first and foremost, a duty and not a concept requiring definition. In their opinion, civic participation involves taking responsibility and expressing an opinion in a democratic manner.

Civic participation can take several concrete forms that relate to the civic rights, political rights, and social rights of citizens. As such, its participation comprises three forms of participation in a public forum: political participation, democratic participation, and participation in civic society. The three dimensions of participation also provided inspiration for the structure of this notice.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Political citizenship has traditionally been associated with the advent of representative democracies and the generalization of the rights to vote. Voting is obviously not the only way for a citizen to participate in the decisions made by the municipality. Participation also means getting involved in municipal elections as a candidate, or sitting on the board of directors of a public agency, for example. These are all forms of political participation, because they give us the opportunity to be directly involved in the decisions that are made by public authorities. All of these examples of participation have a common thread: they are connected by the political authority of the municipality in question.

ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION BY YOUTHS

Declining electoral participation, particularly among youths, is a weighty and profound trend among democratic societies the end of the 1980s. Despite a certain degree of variation from one election to the next, the declining trend noted in Québec appears to follow the same vein as what has been observed in municipal and federal elections.

Voting data for young people are even more alarming because, in general, they translate into a drop in participation in elections. Electoral participation follows an age cycle: for various reasons of a structural, moral and economic nature, a lower percentage of youths are heading to the polls compared with their older counterparts, and as they age, these young abstainers become more likely to go and vote. This trend is known as the “lifecycle trend”.

Nonetheless, several recent studies have revealed that this trend can really only be verified based on the past, and the trend whereby people vote as they get older could in fact disappear as new generations of voters replace existing ones. For this reason, experts believe that one of the most promising avenues for effectively fighting the overall decline in voter participation would be to increase initial election participation, meaning that of young people.

Taking into consideration the extensive mobility of youths, part of the solution could lie in the installation of offices responsible for revising the electoral list as well as voting offices where there is a high concentration of youths: postsecondary teaching institutions. Students need the opportunity to register on the electoral list¹, at school or in their electoral district – at a site that is familiar to them.

¹ On April 23, 2013, the National Assembly adopted Bill 13 in order for students to be able to vote in their postsecondary academic institution however only for provincial elections. On May 8, 2013, the Montréal Executive Committee adopted a resolution for a request to this effect to be officially submitted to the ministère des Affaires

RECOMMENDATION 1

FOR ÉLECTION MONTRÉAL TO SUPPORT THE OPENING OF AN ELECTORAL LIST REVIEW OFFICE AS WELL AS POLLING OFFICES, WHERE THE ACT PERMITS, IN VENUES FREQUENTED BY YOUTHS SUCH AS POST-SECONDARY ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Other than age and mobility, several other factors influence participation in elections. According to a study conducted by Elections Canada on youth participation in elections, of these sociodemographic factors, instruction and origin (being born in Canada) are those with the greatest impact on electoral participation. The most important determining factors are nonetheless an interest in politics and the level of understanding about politics.

Several changes to our electoral system how municipal elections are held could also foster youth participation. For example, new voting mechanisms are often touted as a solution for bolstering participation. Of all these new voting mechanisms, remote voting by Internet would be the best way to improve access to the electoral process. People, and youths in particular, carry out more transactions than ever using their telephones or personal computer, and this phenomenon will only increase in the coming decade

A change to the legal voting age could also affect election participation. In Austria, where the voting age has been 16 since 2007, it was determined that granting this right stimulated participation and short-term interest.

Finally, the adoption of a polling method that is more proportionate could also foster participation. This increase in participation, which has been observed in countries that have opted for a similar voting method, would target voters who generally abstain but who, thanks to a broader political context, would find that their vote is no longer being wasted.

Several of these factors have the potential to encourage electoral participation among young Montrealers, and the CjM is of the view that Ville de Montréal should consult citizens on the topic. Once the population is consulted, the City could embrace a position and begin the necessary steps to amend the legislation with the provincial government.

RECOMMENDATION 2

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO ORGANIZE A PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO STUDY DIFFERENT METHODS FOR ENCOURAGING ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING NEW VOTING MECHANISMS AND LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 16.

municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMROT). We hope that the Ministère will grant this request for the municipal election in November 2013.

1.1 LINES OF THOUGHT WITH RESPECT TO ENCOURAGING THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG MONTREALERS

Fostering the development of civic competencies among youths

According to studies on youth participation, there are several ways to encourage them to vote, most notably through civic education. Studies have shown that civic education is linked to better knowledge about politics and a heightened intention to vote, which are two major indicators of electoral participation.

It is clear that the school system, under which citizenship education is an important prerogative, plays a key role in the development of civic competencies among youths. Our survey indicated that several respondents are of the view that schools should play a more active role in citizenship education in order to increase civic participation among youths. Although it is difficult to influence the orientation of civic education in their schools, some municipalities have embarked on interesting initiatives to increase student awareness of municipal life.

We believe that Ville de Montréal could draw inspiration from the “City Hall School” educational program introduced by the City of Calgary. This educational program, which is carried out jointly with the education sector, is intended for students at the primary and secondary levels. Teachers who are interested in participating must register their group before the start of the school year. The latter are given the opportunity to spend a full week inside the different departments of the municipal administration.

This type of program could significantly help to inform young people about how their municipalities function and thereby transform them into better citizens. Programs like this are in line with the goals of the Stratégie jeunesse montréalaise in that they increase the number of opportunities for discussions and fraternizing among youths, stakeholders, and elected officials, and contribute to leadership development among these youths.

RECOMMENDATION 3

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM INSPIRED BY CITY HALL SCHOOL IN CALGARY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MONTRÉAL SCHOOL BOARDS.

While it is easier to reach youths who are already involved in their community (generally students enrolled in college or university), the challenge is to entice those who are not in the habit of participating. An interesting option for encouraging this clientele to participate in activities that contribute to nurturing its sense of civic pride could be to organize an annual Montréal Citizen Action Week. The objective of this week would be to increase the awareness of

the importance of civic participation among young Montrealers, and to demonstrate the real impact of involvement in the community. The week would also provide the ideal opportunity to host young Montréal students at City Hall as part of an educational program inspired by the *City Hall School* of Calgary, which is mentioned previously.

This week on the theme of civic participation would be the ideal opportunity for the City and its partners in the social and community sector to encourage the different forms of civic participation. Thanks to adequate financial and technical support, these youth organizations would be able to offer their clients introductory activities, training, and development activities in line with civic participation. These two recommendations are directly in line with the goals of the Stratégie jeunesse with regard to citizen governance and engagement, mainly because they foster the launch of concerted initiatives and strategies between the City and its major Montreal-based partners.

RECOMMENDATION 4

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO ORGANIZE AN ANNUAL MONTRÉAL CITIZEN ACTION WEEK IN COLLABORATION WITH MONTRÉAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE INTERESTED, AND TO FINANCE INTRODUCTION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN LINE WITH THE CIVIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY AGENCIES UNDER THIS THEME WEEK.

Municipal general elections provide an excellent opportunity to inform youths about how the electoral process works, and how to participate in it. Several deputy returning officers must be hired for each general election which would provide youths with the opportunity to become familiar with the electoral process, while being paid to do it.

RECOMMENDATION 5

FOR ÉLECTION MONTRÉAL TO PUT A RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN IN PLACE TARGETING YOUNG MONTREALERS WHEN HIRING ELECTION PERSONNEL FOR MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Information about candidates and programs

Studies conducted by Howe, Johnston and Blais concluded that young people are not only unfamiliar with politics, but also with electoral campaigns in general. Young people are less likely than their elders to explain the different positions held by the political parties, even on issues that they feel to be priorities.

The CjM is of the opinion that developing an electronic voter assistance tool (e.g., [la Boussole électorale](#)), for example, would enable young Montrealers to learn more about political party

platforms, stimulate discussion on a variety of issues, and encourage electoral participation. In Finland, this type of tool, which was developed in the mid-90s, represents the biggest electoral information source for young voters and helped a large percentage of users decide for whom to vote.

RECOMMENDATION 6

FOR ÉLECTION MONTRÉAL TO CIRCULATE NEUTRAL INFORMATION THAT IS ADAPTED TO THE CONCERNS OF YOUNG MONTREALERS UNDER DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES AND PLATFORMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2013 ELECTIONS, SPECIFICALLY BY DEVISING AN ELECTRONIC VOTER ASSISTANCE TOOL.

Partner engagement

The engagement of partner organizations could be a good way to reach out to young people using new communication channels. The city of Toronto, for example, made a major commitment to increasing awareness among young Torontonians during the 2010 municipal election.

Within a three month timeframe, Toronto Election Services created a network of more than 40 partner organizations intent on encouraging youth participation in municipal elections. This network included youth aid agencies, community organizations, postsecondary academic institutions, student associations and other non-profit organizations. Several of these entities had not previously participated in an electoral engagement initiative.

We are of the opinion that the establishment of a youth engagement network could take place in Montréal and thereby help to bolster youth electoral participation.

RECOMMENDATION 7

FOR ÉLECTION MONTRÉAL TO ESTABLISH NETWORKS FOR PARTNERS IMPACTED BY THE CIVIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG MONTREALERS DURING THE UPCOMING MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTIONS SO AS TO PLAY A PROACTIVE INFORMATION DISPENSING AND COORDINATION ROLE.

Availability of data

The drafting of this notice enabled us to realize that there are no accurate data concerning youth voting rates in municipal elections for Montréal or Québec as a whole. The Jeunes et

démocratie municipale task force shares this same concern², and obtaining data on the youth participation rate in Québec municipal elections is included in its 2012-2015 action plan.

It is important for collated data to be used to analyze youth electoral participation rates in the different Montréal boroughs in order to accurately target future actions. Furthermore, it is essential that this initiative be repeated for every municipal general election, so as to document the progress of the electoral participation rate over time.

RECOMMENDATION 8

FOR ÉLECTION MONTRÉAL, IN COLLABORATION MAMROT AND DGEQ, TO DOCUMENT THE ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION RATE AMONG MONTREALERS YOUTHS DURING ALL MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTIONS.

The challenge of centralizing information

The Web offers communication possibilities with which youths are very familiar and is often considered a miracle cure, capable of conquering youth disengagement. In reality, the proliferation of websites and social media applications targeting youths has resulted in the creation of an incredible number of Web strategies whose value remains unclear.

The Conseil jeunesse previously broached this issue in its *De la parole aux actes : informer, impliquer, intégrer* notice that addresses communication between Ville de Montréal and youths. The Conseil concluded that Ville de Montréal does not have a transversal youth communication strategy. In light of our inquiry and the stakeholders with whom we met, the launch of a youth portal containing information from Ville de Montréal and its partners is essential, now more than ever, in order to reach young people and stay in constant touch with them.

We hope that L'Espace jeunesse, a new web portal that was launched at the same time as the Stratégie jeunesse montréalaise, could accomplish this. The city's challenge will be to make these websites dynamic, interesting, and current, thereby requiring City boroughs and the downtown core to contribute regular content. Websites that are not updated can be "repulsive" to young people, because the Internet remains a preferred source of information. Young people are looking for attractive and updated sites.

² The Jeunes et démocratie municipale task force, which operates under the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMROT), is staffed by a number of Quebec municipal partners who come together to discuss issues relating to youth participation. Specifically, this task force is devising strategies for promoting youth nominations for municipal elections.

RECOMMENDATION 9

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO MAINTAIN AND FACILITATE ESPACE JEUNESSE SO AS TO ENSURE THAT IT IS VIBRANT, DYNAMIC AND INTERESTING, AND THAT ITS PARTNERS WORKING WITH YOUTHS ARE ABLE TO CHANNEL AND RELAY INFORMATION INTENDED FOR YOUNG MONTREALERS.

Open data

With the expansion of information technologies and their increased accessibility, governments and public agencies are continuously being solicited to make their data public. Considering the scope of this phenomenon and pressure exerted by agencies like Montréal Ouvert and Nord Ouvert, some municipalities have embraced these guidelines and formulated ensuing policies. More specifically, this is the case for Ville de Montréal, which launched a open data policy and portal in October 2011 (donnees.ville.montreal.qc.ca). By opening its doors to everyone, Ville de Montréal accepts that the data will be shared in the community and reused for different purposes.

In the context of a knowledge-based society where digital capital is ever present, access to open data is essential to practicing informed civic participation. We believe that the next key challenge the City will face will be to implement a circulation culture in the different municipal departments, and give them the resources they need in order for citizens to have all the information they could possibly want in order to fully participate in City business.

RECOMMENDATION 10

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL AND ALL OF ITS BOROUGHS TO MAKE ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO PRACTICE ACTIVE CIVIC PARTICIPATION ACCESSIBLE ON THE OPEN DATA PORTAL.

1.2 MONTRÉAL AND YOUTH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Citizen involvement breathes vitality into neighbourhoods and cities. From this perspective, Ville de Montréal is seeking not only to inform the Montréal population, but also to listen and to encourage youth participation in the management of their city. Faced with public issues that are increasingly more complex, civic participation in the decision-making process helps to improve city projects and policies, while also valuing citizen involvement in the democratic gap between elections. Moreover, heightened collaboration between the public and elected officials will allow for a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each one, while also having the benefit of increasing reciprocal trust.

Public consultations and young Montrealers

There are several ways for Montrealers to participate in the decisions made by their City. The main type of public participation proposed by a municipality is most certainly the public consultation forum. A consultation can take on a variety of formats, and always varies depending on the mandate of the participating entity, its operations, the purpose of the consultation, the guests who are invited to participate, etc. Public participation nonetheless constitutes an unknown world for many young Montrealers. They do not understand the rules of democratic deliberation or those governing different municipal institutions. Participating in a public consultation, for example, requires a certain level of learning and can be daunting to some.

In order to foster civic participation by young Montrealers, it isn't enough just to pique their interest and give them the tools. They must also be given real, interesting, and accessible opportunities to participate. To bolster interest among the most marginalized youths, whose concerns are focused on their basic needs, it would be necessary to simplify the vernacular, loosen the protocol, and go to meet them wherever they are.

The practice of using consultation formulas that are innovative and adapted to the needs of youths should be adopted. A mobile public consultation entitled « Les communications entre la Ville et les jeunes : information, services et participation citoyenne », which was organized in fall 2010 by the Municipal Council Standing Committee on Citizen Services is a prime example. Produced in collaboration with the Conseil jeunesse de Montréal, this mobile public consultation unfolded in the same way as a discussion forum. During each of the four public sessions, discussions resulted in myriad public interventions, with most participants being involved in more than one.

The CjM is of the opinion that Ville de Montréal should increase these types of initiatives in order to make contact with new youth clients that are not in the habit of participating in public consultations taking place in a formal setting and the decorum required of the process.

RECOMMENDATION 11

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ITS ACTION PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN THE STRATÉGIE JEUNESSE MONTRÉALAISE IN ADDITION TO FOSTERING THE ADOPTION OF USER-FRIENDLY FORMULAS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WHEN YOUTHS ARE INVOLVED.

Involve young Montrealers in decision-making forums

A multitude of academic institutions, community groups, and organizations of all types headed by boards of directors, executive committees, or other entities, play key roles in the lives of

young Montrealers. Nonetheless, while youths represent a significant percentage of the Montréal population, their participation in these decision-making venues is very poor.

The presence of youths on decision-making panels is important not only to ensure representation, but also because young people are affected by the decisions made by these organizations. For example, those in the 12 to 30 age group represent approximately 40% of Société de transport de Montréal (STM) users. The creation of a seat reserved for this clientele on the STM Board of Directors in April 2012 seemed perfectly appropriate. For many youths, these forums constitute a real opportunity for their opinion to be heard and for them to acquire experience and knowledge, while sharing their energy and vitality.

The Conseil jeunesse de Montréal perceives the practice of reserving seats for youths as a real solution for enabling them to integrate into decision-making venues. This solution, which may appear constrictive, is however the only one that can ensure that all Montréal municipal and paramunicipal agencies make room for youths.

RECOMMENDATION 12

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ACTION PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN THE STRATÉGIE JEUNESSE MONTRÉLAISE BY RESERVING SEATS FOR YOUNG MONTREALERS ON THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF MUNICIPAL AND PARAMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2.3 Social participation by youths

Citizenship has become another social dimension that relates to social rights and appropriate living conditions. Social citizenship not only relates to the recognition of such spaces, but also to the possibility, through political action, to maintain, protect, and create them. For this reason, social citizenship, which is a third form of citizen participation, relates to participation in civic society. It is not demonstrated through participation with political parties or municipal governments, but rather through involvement with associations and movements that are more or less organized and that are seeking to defend social rights and ensure that these are upheld.

Although it is not the direct responsibility of Ville de Montréal to encourage participation in civic society movements and associations, we believe that the City and civic society have everything to win by encouraging all forms of citizen participation.

2.4 WAYS FOR REFLECTION TO ENCOURAGE THE DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG MONTREALERS

Circulating information in a clear and accessible language

Information is a key condition to civic participation in municipal affairs .In order for their commitment to be clear and their participation purposeful, citizens must understand the issues on which they are requested to opine, as well as the mandates and activities of City entities and the consultation and participation processes.

Despite the efforts made by a number of Montréal consulting firms to reach as many Montrealers as possible, the inherent complexity of some issues limits the participation of some citizens. In order to encourage the Democratic and social participation of youths, particularly those who have reading and language difficulties, the use of clear vernacular is preferred.

Writing in clear and simple language means, stating a message so that its recipients can immediately understand it the first time around. It contains no jargon and makes minimal use of technical terms so as to not cause confusion and in order for the public to understand quickly and easily.

Several public organizations in Québec, Canada, and the rest of the world already promote the use of clear and simple language in all of their communications with the public. We believe that clear communication from the municipality provides citizens with the feeling that they are being treated by a government that is open and accessible, in addition to one that really wants them to participate.

RECOMMENDATION 13

FOR MUNICIPAL DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE DIFFERENT CITY DEPARTMENTS AND BOROUGHES TO BE DRAFTED IN CLEAR LANGUAGE SO AS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH AS MANY YOUNG MONTREALERS AS POSSIBLE.

Follow-up on recommendations

Follow-up is another essential step in demonstrating the credibility of consultation activities or civic participation. Among other things, it allows citizens to feel that their participation is useful.

It is important for the citizens who are involved in a standing commission or advisory committee, or have previously participated in a public consultation to be informed of the results, reactions, and commitments made by the Executive Committee with respect to their recommendations. Without being required to provide a quick answer and follow-up, the democratic exercise has no solid scope for commissioners, stakeholders, and citizens. The latter question what their participation is really worth since they do not see any changes in the wake of their participation. By providing an official response and follow-up, the citizen consultation process benefits from heightened credibility and encourages participation.

RECOMMENDATION 14

FOR THE MONTRÉAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO COMMIT TO RESPONDING TO STATEMENTS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM A STANDING COMMISSION, A CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, OR THE OCPM WITHIN A TIMEFRAME OF 90 DAYS, AND TO SEND THE RESULTS TO PARTICIPANTS.

Consultation and public participation training

Public consultation and participation practices have gained a great deal of ground over the past 30 years. Now more than ever, Montrealers want to be better informed, be consulted ahead of time, and actively participate in the development of projects that will affect their quality of life. It is now imperative to consult citizens when it comes to the City's departments and boroughs.

For this reason, we believe that it is important for Ville de Montréal professionals and managers to be trained on civic participation. During the design of municipal plans, projects, or policies, the opportunity for a public consultation or public participation should be considered. All too often, public decision-makers have presumed the social acceptability of their project only to find themselves facing unexpected public resistance after the fact.

RECOMMENDATION 15

FOR VILLE DE MONTRÉAL TO TRAIN PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES AND MANAGERS ON PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION INCLUDING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT.

CONCLUSION

Civic participation is increasingly emerging as an essential component of the local landscape. Citizens aspire to opine about significant decisions made for their environments, and they strive to exercise greater authority in their communities. Municipalities like Ville de Montréal have a great deal to gain from encouraging civic participation. Bolstering participation means building healthy communities as it promotes awareness of local issues and drives both the motivation and ability to tackle these problems while reinforcing a sense of pride in belonging to a community.

Nonetheless, once there is intent to participate, the road to action can be long. Competencies must be acquired, particularly for young citizens who may need support in confronting municipal structures. Although Ville de Montréal is not solely responsible for citizenship education, we believe that it has an important role to play by offering opportunities, events and learning situations whereby youths can practice citizenship and learn what it means to be a member of a community. It must also be able to provide a positive and real participation experience that will not throw the citizen who has chosen to participate off-course.

This notice presents concrete and realistic recommendations for overcoming social obstacles to participation by instilling the desire and providing the means to participate, and by offering civic participation opportunities to as many young people as possible. We believe that these recommendations, if accompanied by strong political intent and the necessary resources for their implementation, are such that they will effectively heighten the civic participation of young Montrealers.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For Élection Montréal to support the opening of an electoral list review office as well as polling offices, where the Act permits, in venues frequented by youths such as post-secondary academic institutions. (p. 10)
2. For Ville de Montréal to organize a public consultation to study different methods for encouraging electoral participation, including new voting mechanisms and lowering the voting age to 16. (p. 12)
3. For Ville de Montréal to study the possibility of implementing an educational program inspired by *City Hall School* in Calgary, in partnership with the Montréal school boards. (p. 15)
4. For Ville de Montréal to organize an annual Montréal Citizen action week in collaboration with Montréal organizations that are interested, and to finance introduction, training and development activities in line with the civic participation opportunities provided by agencies under this theme week. (p. 16)
5. For Élection Montréal to put a recruitment campaign in place targeting young Montrealers when hiring election personnel for municipal general elections. (p. 16)
6. For Élection Montréal to circulate neutral information that is adapted to the concerns of young Montrealers under different political parties and platforms in preparation for the 2013 elections, specifically by devising an electronic voter assistance tool. (p. 16)
7. For Élection Montréal to establish networks for partners impacted by the civic participation of young Montrealers during the upcoming municipal general elections so as to play a proactive information dispensing and coordination role. (p. 17)
8. For Élection Montréal, in collaboration MAMROT and DGEQ, to document the electoral participation rate among Montreal youths during all municipal general elections. (p. 18)
9. For Ville de Montréal to maintain and facilitate Espace jeunesse so as to ensure that it is vibrant, dynamic and interesting, and that its partners working with youths are able to channel and relay information intended for young Montrealers. (p. 22)
10. For Ville de Montréal all of its boroughs to make all relevant documentation required to practice active civic participation accessible on the open data portal. (p. 22)
11. For Ville de Montréal to follow through with its action proposal presented in the Stratégie jeunesse montréalaise in addition to fostering the adoption of user-friendly formulas for public consultations when youths are involved. (p. 24)

- 12.**For Ville de Montréal to follow through with action proposal presented in the Stratégie jeunesse montréalaise and reserve seats for young Montrealers on the boards of directors of municipal and paramunicipal organizations. (p. 27)

- 13.**For municipal documents produced by the different city departments and boroughs to be drafted in clear language so as to make contact with as many young Montrealers as possible. (p. 28)

- 14.**For the Montréal Executive Committee to commit to responding to statements of recommendation from a standing commission, a consultation committee, or the OCPM within a timeframe of 90 days, and to send the results to participants. (p. 28)

- 15.**For Ville de Montréal to train professional employees and managers on public consultations and citizen participation including youth engagement. (p. 29)