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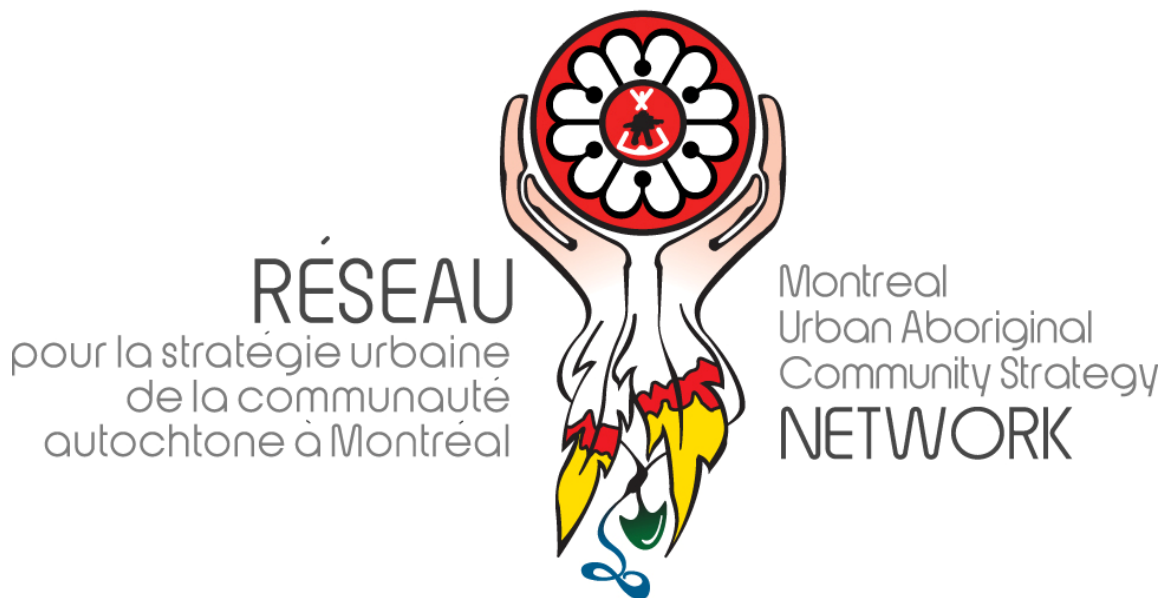
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Review of existing data, research, and safety action plans and strategies  
to inform the *Strategy for Community Safety and Wellbeing*



Project: Learning from Cabot Square – Developing the  
Strategy for Community Safety and Wellbeing

July 2013  
(Updated October 2013)



Secrétariat  
aux affaires  
autochtones



CENTRE  
INTERNATIONAL  
POUR LA  
PRÉVENTION  
DE LA CRIMINALITÉ



Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development Canada

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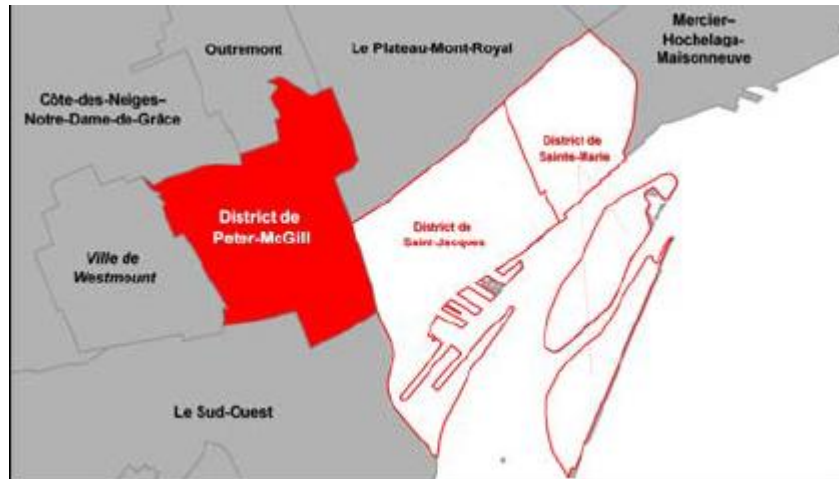
NATIVE WOMEN'S  
SHELTER OF MONTREAL  
FOYER POUR FEMMES  
AUTOCHTONES DE MONTREAL



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## THE PETER-MCGILL DISTRICT



Map of the Peter-McGill District

(NB: Updated statistics on the Peter-McGill district were not available at the time of writing. This is likely due to the changes made to the type of data collected in the 2011 census).

### a) Sociodemographic portrait of the area

Peter-McGill is one of three districts in the Ville-Marie borough, along with Saint-Jacques and Sainte-Marie. Situated in the west of Ville-Marie, Peter-McGill is delineated by University Street to the east, the Ville-Marie highway and Notre-Dame Street to the south, the City of Westmount to the west, and Camillien-Houde Way to the north.

The population of Peter-McGill is 29,130, representing 37% of the Ville-Marie borough. The district is characterized by its highly transitory population, including workers, students, visitors, tourists and homeless people. This poses several challenges, such as the cohabitation between the various populations, developing a feeling of belonging and maintaining the attractiveness of the district (Peter-McGill Community Council, Portrait, 5).

### b) Profile of Peter-McGill in numbers

- **Peter-McGill is a relatively young district.** 51.4% of the district is under the age of 35. The population consists largely of young adults, as 20.9% of the population is between the ages of 15-24 and 24.4% is between the ages of 25-34.
- **Most families in Peter-McGill do not have children.** 5,975 families live in Peter-McGill, 55% of which do not have children.
- **Peter-McGill has a low household size.** 54.3% of people living in the district live alone. The average household size is 1.7 people, compared to 2.1 people in Montreal.
- **A significant percentage of the population is bilingual.** 63.2% of the population speaks both French and English, compared to 53.8% in Montreal. 47.8% of the population speaks English at home, while 25.2% speak a language other than English or French at home. 22.4% of residents speak French at home.

- **Peter-McGill has a large population of immigrants.** 44.2% of the district's population was born outside of Canada, compared to 30.8% in Montreal. 34% of the immigrants in the district have been there less than five years. The most common nationalities are Chinese, Lebanese, French and Moroccan.
- **A significant number of visible minorities lives in the district.** 40.1% of Peter-McGill's population comes from a visible minority, compared to 26% in Montreal.
- **Peter-McGill is a highly educated district.** 58.1% of residents in Peter-McGill have obtained a university degree, compared to 30.1% in all of Montreal. Only 5.7% of its residents have no diploma, which is significantly lower than Montreal, where 22.8% of residents have not obtained one.
- **The average salary in Peter-McGill is higher than that of Montreal.** The average income in Peter-McGill is just over \$70 000, an average of almost \$20 000 more than in Montreal. However, a very significant percentage of the district's population, 45%, has a **low income**, which is almost 15% higher than in Montreal.
- **Peter-McGill's unemployment rate is relatively high.** 10.4% of the district is unemployed, which is higher than the unemployment rate in Montreal by just over one percent. However, the unemployment rate for 15-24 year olds is 20.1%, which is noticeably higher than that of Montreal, 13.1%.
- **The population of the district is highly mixed and transitory.** Peter-McGill is home to many students, workers, visitors, tourists and homeless people. This can pose challenges in terms of relations between populations and fostering a feeling of belonging in the area.
- **There is a relatively high amount of crime in the Peter-McGill.** Peter-McGill is served by the SPVM's Station 12 (Ville-Marie West and Westmount) and 20 (Guy to Bleury, Notre-Dame to Mont-Royal). A good deal of property theft is committed in this district, including fraud, auto theft and possession of stolen goods. Stations 12 and 20 also deal with a number of crimes against the person. A good deal of crime in the district takes place in and around Cabot Square, a detailed portrait of which follows.

## CABOT SQUARE

### a) A portrait

Cabot Square is located in the Shaughnessy Village neighbourhood – recently called the Quartier des Grands Jardins - in the district of Peter-McGill. Flanked by Ste-Catherine St. West, Atwater Avenue, Lambert-Closse St. and Tupper St., the Square is situated between the Pepsi Forum and the former Montreal Children’s Hospital. Due to its location within the district of Peter-McGill, Cabot Square also borders the City of Westmount and the borough hall of Le Sud-Ouest.

The history of Cabot Square dates back to 1870, when the City of Montreal purchased the land on which the Square is situated from the Sulpicians for \$13,163.80 (Peter-McGill Community Council, Cabot Square, 16).<sup>1</sup> The first reference to the Square – then known as Western Park - was made in official documents in 1890 (Peter-McGill Community Council, Cabot Square, 16). The park, the farthest west in Montreal at the time, housed a fountain that was replaced by a statue of Giovanni Caboto in 1935. This eventually led to the renaming of the park in 1957 to Cabot Square (Peter-McGill Community Council, Cabot Square, 16). In 1979, the City of Montreal designated Cabot Square and six other parks as flower markets (Peter-McGill Community Council, Cabot Square, 16). A kiosk was subsequently built near Atwater Avenue.

The Square has always been a main hub for public transportation in Montreal as tramways, buses and metros have all stopped at the Square. From 1955 to 1997, bus shelters bordered three of the park’s four sides and in 1966 the Square was made even more accessible to the public with the completion of Atwater station (Peter-McGill Community Council, Cabot Square, 17).

Cabot Square is known among Inuit to be a place to gather and form a community, as people have been frequenting the Square for over twenty years. Due to its location near the Children’s Hospital, the Module du Nord Québécois, stores and restaurants, and centres such as the YMCA and The Open Door, many Aboriginal people from northern communities gather in this area (Breitkreutz, 7). However, it is not clear as to why the area became a meeting space for Inuit. Breitkreutz’s paper, which uses Cabot Square as a case study to examine the appropriation of public space and its implications for social justice, gives the reader a clue as to why Cabot Square is used as a meeting point for Aboriginal peoples, it would be enlightening to find out when exactly the Square was first used in this capacity. For instance, in his research on Inuit in Montreal, Professor Kigishami – to whom we shall soon refer – alluded to the closing of Montreal’s Baffin House, a centre for Inuit patients coming to Montreal for medical treatment, by the Northwest Territories Government in 1998. Was it in close proximity to the Square?

### b) Homelessness and crime in Cabot Square

According to the *Canadian Homelessness Research Network*, homelessness is the “situation of an individual or family without stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it” (Canadian Homelessness Research Network, Definition, 1). The homeless population in Montreal has grown substantially in recent years. Each year, 25,000 to 30,000 people use emergency services, such as shelters, food and clothing banks and day/night centres. In the Peter-McGill district, the homeless population numbers around 115 to 150 (Peter-McGill Community Council, Portrait, 35). While immigrants make up only a very small portion of the homeless population in this area, a substantial number of homeless Aboriginal people frequently gather on the east side of Cabot Square and on Chomedey Street (Peter-McGill Community Council, Portrait, 35).

According to Marie-Pierre Gadoua, a McGill PhD student who did volunteer work with Exeko (an organization that conducts street work during the evenings), around 30 to 40 regulars frequent Cabot

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<sup>1</sup> The Sulpicians, who owned the Island of Montreal in 1667, divided it into lots that they sold to institutions and settlers between 1861 and 1928 (Peter-McGill Community Council, Cabot Square, 2).

Square in the summertime, and about 10 to 15 do so in the winter. In the wintertime, the population tends to stay more in Atwater metro. The population that frequents the square is quite mixed: there are Inuit, First Nations, Canadian-Caribbeans and South Americans (Gadoua, Interview, 2013; Reid, Powerpoint, May 2013). Some were born in Montreal, while others were born in other communities around Quebec and Canada. According to results from surveys conducted for the Cabot Square project, many people have been gathering at the square for over 6 years, while some have been visiting Cabot Square for a much shorter time period (Reid, Powerpoint, May 2013).

Not all of the regulars who frequent Cabot Square are homeless; many simply enjoy being outdoors and spending time with people they know. Cabot Square is seen as a type of “chez nous”. Each day, the regulars travel between Cabot Square/Atwater metro, the hallways in Place-des-Arts metro, and the area around Sherbrooke and St. Urbain. The “travel itinerary” varies according to the season.

There are also many mixed couples that include Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people. According to Gadoua, Inuit women who date non-Inuit men often prefer to sleep outdoors rather than in shelters, due to the fact that couples may not be allowed to sleep together in shelters. Overall, it appears that very few conflicts exist between the various groups in the Square (Gadoua, Interview, 2013).

### c) Crime statistics for Cabot Square

The SPVM Station 12 (west portion of Ville-Marie and Westmount) and 20 (Guy to Bleury, Notre-Dame to Mont-Royal) are responsible for ensuring the safety of the Peter-McGill district. The most common crimes committed in the area are fraud, car theft and possession of stolen goods. Station 20 also lists quite a high number of these crimes, as well as crimes against the person (Interaction, Portrait Peter-McGill, 2009, 35).

Statistics on crime rates in Cabot Square were made available for the two-month period from September 17 to November 14, 2012 (Bilan Final du Square Cabot, 2012):

Component	Statistics	Cumulative
Prevention	Verbal warnings, expulsions and awareness activities (park and metro kiosk)	312
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus « L'Anonyme » (2x)</li> <li>• Montreal Children's Hospital</li> <li>• UPS - References</li> </ul>	22
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People consulted</li> <li>• Research Report</li> </ul>	31 1
Intervention	<p>Arrests under the criminal code :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• breach of probation</li> <li>• breach of conditions</li> <li>• assault</li> <li>• simple possession</li> <li>• arrest warrant</li> <li>• uttering threats</li> <li>• break and enter (car theft)</li> </ul> <p>Violations of municipal regulations</p> <p>Reports noted on individual cases or cases involving groups</p>	59 71 44

	Distribution of pamphlets on community resources	42
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Source: Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal. "Bilan final du Projet Square".

The remainder of this document shall focus on issues facing the Aboriginal population and homeless population in Montreal as well as strategies and action plans being implemented at the provincial, municipal and local levels, developing ideas, and recommendations found in the research.

**(NB:** One major gap in the research is the lack of information found in the 2011 census. Statistics on the Aboriginal population in Montreal were nowhere to be found at the time of writing.)

Although a general idea of issues facing the Aboriginal population in Montreal can be garnered from existing documents and newspaper articles, in-depth studies about many subjects, such as homelessness or urban Aboriginal safety and justice, are greatly lacking (Carli, Existing Data, 2; Lévesque & Cloutier, La condition itinérante, 3). Unlike in Toronto, where a thorough study on Aboriginal people, the *Toronto Aboriginal Research Project*, was completed in 2011, information about Montreal's Aboriginal population is still quite limited.

More information about certain aspects of Montreal's Aboriginal population will be brought to light in coming years. For instance, Carole Lévesque and Edith Cloutier, at the behest of Québec's Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, are currently carrying out research on Aboriginal homelessness in Montreal and Val-d'Or as part of the *Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013* (Lévesque & Cloutier, La condition itinérante, 2). This should help raise awareness about specific challenges that Aboriginal people without a fixed address face.

More is known about homeless Inuit in Montreal as Makivik Corporation hired Japanese Professor Nobuhiro (Nobu) Kigishami to carry out research on Inuit in Montreal as part of the Makivik Corporation Homelessness Action Plan and Strategy. His most recent findings were published in March 2013.

It should be noted that there is a significant lack of information pertaining to the Métis population in Montreal.

Following an overview of issues facing the Aboriginal population in Montreal are summaries of strategies and action plans at the provincial, municipal, and local levels that target justice, homelessness and community safety and well-being. Strategies affecting the Aboriginal population are paid particular attention.

When examining strategies and plans geared toward Cabot Square, it is evident that none deals with the homeless population in a coherent and holistic manner; emphasis is often placed on physically improving the square. Only the 2012 Équipe de Médiation Urbaine Conflict Resolution Circle, which came together at the request of Station 50, provides an in-depth examination of goings-on in the Square, as well as recommendations on improving the well-being of the population that often frequents the park. However, this group never came up with any specific strategy or plan due to budget cuts.

An overview of the recommendations found in the research documents follows the section containing the strategies and action plans. While the recommendations, strategies and action plans often deal with key issues; few have been implemented to date.



## Overview of issues facing Aboriginal people, Inuit and homeless people in Montreal<sup>2</sup>

### a) Research on the issues facing Aboriginal people living in Montreal

Montreal's Aboriginal population has been steadily increasing since the 1980s (Lévesque, *Aboriginal Peoples*, 23; *Regroupement, Évaluation*, 12). According to the 2006 census, about 0.5%, or 17,865, of Montreal's total population is Aboriginal, which constitutes a 62% increase from the 2001 census. The Aboriginal population in Montreal is 56% First Nations, 34% Métis and 3% Inuit, with 34% having Indian status (Ville de Montréal, *Portrait*, 2). This population is largely mobile, as many have moved several times before arriving in Montreal (Lévesque, *Aboriginal Peoples*, 25). The Aboriginal population in Montreal is also linguistically diverse, with the Francophone Aboriginal communities including the Innus, Malecites, Attikamekws, Abenakis and the Huron-Wendats and the Anglophone Aboriginal communities including Inuit, Algonquians, Crees, MicMacs and the Mohawks (Regroupement, *Évaluation*, 12). Urban Aboriginal people often keep in frequent contact with their communities (Regroupement, *Évaluation*, 12).

Aboriginal people often move to urban centres such as Montreal as they are considered to be places of opportunity (Lévesque & Cloutier, *La condition itinérante*, 4; NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 5; NETWORK, *Besoins en santé*, 17; Regroupement, *Brief on Homelessness*, 9). With greater educational and employment opportunities at their disposal, cities also allow Aboriginal people to reconnect with their families and friends (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 5). Other benefits including health and political participation are also a draw (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 14). Urban centres are also places Aboriginal people can move to in order to escape hardships in their own communities, such as the loss of traditional livelihoods, poverty, environmental degradation, a shortage of water supplies and domestic violence (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 5, 14; Regroupement, *Brief on Homelessness*, 9).

### b) Challenges facing Aboriginal people in Montreal

Although many Aboriginal people move to Montreal with high hopes, some are faced with many difficulties once in the city. These include high levels of poverty, isolation, homelessness, socio-economic challenges and a lack of opportunities (Lévesque & Cloutier, *La condition itinérante*, 5; NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 9; NETWORK, *Besoins en santé*, 17; Regroupement, *Brief on Homelessness*, 9; Ville de Montréal, *Réalité autochtone*, 11). According to Lévesque and Cloutier, Aboriginal people who have lived in cities such as Montreal for years, or even generations, also face higher levels of poverty and homelessness than the general population (Lévesque & Cloutier, *La condition itinérante*, 5). These factors, coupled with high levels of mental health problems and substance abuse, often lead to the increased marginalization of the urban Aboriginal population, especially women and youth (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 14; Regroupement, *Brief on Homelessness*, 10). Marginalization, in turn, tends to lead to high offending and vulnerability rates (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 10). Aboriginal people are at much higher risk than other groups to be exposed to violence (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 6).

Aboriginal people often feel discriminated against in Montreal (NETWORK, *Justice Report*, 30; NETWORK, *Besoins en santé*, 17; Regroupement, *Brief on Homelessness*, 10; Regroupement, *Évaluation*, 24). In comparison with cities such as Toronto, where one can find Anishnawbe Health Toronto, for instance, they also feel that there are relatively few Aboriginal cultural markers and specialized services they can turn to (NETWORK, *Besoins en santé*, 14). This lack of a sense of

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<sup>2</sup> The section is divided as such due to the research being grouped into these three categories. The 'homeless population' refers to the general population, which includes Aboriginal people who are considered homeless according to the definition in the glossary.

community is also coupled with language barriers and difficulties in obtaining employment (Regroupement, Brief on Homelessness, 10; Regroupement, Évaluation, 24).

### c) Problems of homelessness among the Aboriginal population

Although no formal statistics on Aboriginal homelessness exist in Montreal, groups working in the field have noticed a marked increase of the Aboriginal homeless population in recent years (FRAPRU & RAPSIM, Droit au logement, 6; NETWORK, Justice Report, 29; Ville de Montréal, Réalité autochtone, 1). This is due to the growing presence of Aboriginal people in the city.

Independent of numbers, the Aboriginal homeless population in Montreal is much more susceptible to offending and victimization than the general population. Homeless Aboriginal people often face higher rates of incarceration, as well, as they often receive fines for public drunkenness, drug use, possession and sleeping in public spaces (NETWORK, Justice Report, 29). According to a study by Bellot et al., over 6000 tickets were handed out to this population in Montreal in 2010, a six-fold increase from 1994 (NETWORK, Justice Report, 29).

### d) Research on homelessness in Montreal

According to the joint 2012 FRAPRU and RAPSIM report, *Le droit au logement au Québec : témoigner de sa situation pour que ça change!*, there were approximately 30,000 homeless people in Montreal in 2005 (situational, episodic, chronic). The characteristics of the homeless population have changed throughout the years and in 2005 the homeless population was older, largely Aboriginal (especially Inuit), 30% female and increasingly immigrant (FRAPRU & RAPSIM, Le droit au logement, 6). Factors leading to homelessness include a lack of affordable housing, an increase in poverty and unemployment, and a lack of community support.

<b>Emergency Shelter Services for MEN</b>			
<b>Reference period : 15 December to 31 March</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of overnight stays</b>	<b>Number of beds</b>	<b>Occupancy rate</b>
Winter 2008-2009	53 853	567	90 %
Winter 2009-2010	56 287	567	96 %
Winter 2010-2011	59 960	601	95 %
Winter 2011-2012	63 784	616	96 %

<b>Emergency Shelter Services for WOMEN</b>			
<b>Reference period : 15 December to 31 March</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of overnight stays</b>	<b>Number of beds</b>	<b>Average occupancy rate</b>
Winter 2008-2009	4 242	48	84 %
Winter 2009-2010	5 514	60	86 %
Winter 2010-2011	6 342	72	83 %
Winter 2011-2012	6 304	68	86 %

Source : Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU) and Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM), *Le droit au logement*, 3.



## Research on issues facing Inuit in Montreal

As stated previously, more is known specifically about Inuit homelessness in Montreal due to the research carried out in 2012 by Professor Kigishami as part of Makivik's strategy to end homelessness as well as a report Kigishami published in 2006. According to Kigishami, the Inuit population in Montreal, which has been growing steadily since the 1980s, is quite varied. Many come from Nunavik and Nunavut while some come from Labrador. Many are employed or attending school/university, while others come for medical treatment.

In the past 60 years, Inuit have lived through the collapse of the fur trade economy, the slaughter of their sled dogs, relocation and the federal government's establishing itself up north (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 1). These historical events have greatly altered the lifestyles of Inuit and have led to the breakdown of the traditional family unit, the reversal of traditional roles and significant food insecurity (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 6).

Due to these changes, life in the north is often difficult; there are many social, economic and housing problems - such as severe overcrowding due to a lack of housing (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2; Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 2). This overcrowding has exacerbated many other problems and children suffer greatly, as overcrowding has led to a higher rate of physical and sexual abuse against them (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 2). Tuberculosis is also much more common, as is hidden homelessness, a situation faced by between 100 and 300 Inuit women, whereby they temporarily stay at friends' and family's houses (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 2).

Inuit come to Montreal for many reasons. Pull factors include looking for a job, pursuing studies, accompanying friends and family for medical reasons, or for preferring city life (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness,). Push factors include Nunavik's high cost of living, poverty, food insecurity, physical and sexual abuse, marital problems and the housing crisis (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness; Kigishami, Living Conditions, 1). Many also end up in Montreal after leaving detention centres. Sometimes Inuit, especially the men, cannot return to their communities as they have been kicked out for having perpetrated crimes such as sexual assault (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 1).

### a) Problems of homelessness among Inuit

Homelessness and unemployment among Inuit in Montreal is widespread and growing (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 1). Information made available by Makivik Corporation shows that in 2012, approximately 1000 Inuit were living in Montreal, about half of whom were employed (Makivik, Inuit Homelessness, 2012, 3). However, while Inuit make up only about 10% of the Aboriginal population in Montreal, they make up about 45% of the homeless Aboriginal population (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 3). Half of the clientele at the Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ) homeless shelter is Inuit (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 5).

Kigishami's 2006 research has shown that an Inuk male is homeless for an average of 2.9 years while an Inuk female often spends an average of 13.3 years on the street (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 6). The average age of an Inuk homeless person is 38.8 years old (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 5). Many travel around often, a prevalent characteristic among homeless Inuit in Montreal (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 4).

Kigishami's 2012 research demonstrates that homelessness often gives rise to various mental and physical health problems among Inuit as many are no longer in contact with their culture (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 1-2). Alcohol and drug problems are often coupled with mental problems and malnutrition is prevalent (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 1-2). In addition, many Inuit men cannot return to the north, since they committed offences in their communities and were sent to prisons or detention centres in the south (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2).

Many Inuit have a hard time finding a job in Montreal as a good number do not speak French (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 6). Homeless Inuit often spend their money on alcohol and cigarettes and beg in order to get more money (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 4). If they are hungry or need clothing, they can visit various shelters for free meals and clothing (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 4).

According to the participants interviewed by Kigishami, many homeless Inuit were provided with a shelter after coming to Montreal. However, a good number of them were kicked out after a few months for failing to pay their rent and making too much noise (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 6). Homeless Inuit often feel uncomfortable using shelters as they feel discriminated against (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 6). Many also simply prefer being homeless, as it provides a sense of freedom (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 6). Many homeless Inuit keep in contact with their families in the north through Facebook and by phone (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2). The various shelters around Montreal (Chez Doris, PAQ, Native Friendship Centre) have been instrumental in helping homeless Inuit survive the streets of Montreal (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2).

### **b) Male homeless Inuit**

Kigishami's research has shown that the majority of homeless Inuit in Montreal are male. It is often hard for many of them to get out of this situation, as the only way to do so is by finding a job in the south or returning to the north (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 1). In addition, a number were kicked out of their communities and spent time in a prison or detention centre due to crimes they committed (such as sexual abuse) so they cannot return to the north (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2). Homeless Inuit men often face several drinking and drug problems. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that there is no centre for intoxicated Inuit men (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2).

### **c) Female homeless Inuit**

As we have already seen, many Inuit women who are homeless in Montreal ran away from their communities in the north due to sexual and domestic violence and do not want to return (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2). However, many of them escaped domestic violence in the north only to be faced with it once again in Montreal (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 3).

### **d) Resolving problems in The North**

According to Kigishami's research participants, many Inuit do not want to return to their communities, even if life is sometimes difficult in Montreal (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2; Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 3). Kishigami stresses that if no action is taken to solve the social problems in the north, the migration south will continue to grow (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2). Makivik Corporation also believes that the roots of homelessness in Montreal can be directly traced to the problems faced in Nunavik, especially that of overcrowding (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 3).

### **e) Other**

Interestingly, Kigishami did not see the substance abuse that is now prevalent when he first started studying Inuit in 1997 (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 2). Perhaps this change is attributed to two policy changes he outlines:

- In 1998, Baffin House was closed by the Northwest Territories
- In 2002, the Quebec government made it possible for Inuit to get welfare as long as Inuit had two pieces of ID, even without a fixed address (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 2).

## **Safety Strategies and Action Plans**

In order to obtain a clear idea of what exists at the provincial, municipal and local levels regarding the Montreal Aboriginal population, we examined all action plans and safety strategies that have recently been implemented or that are currently being implemented.

By doing so, we are able to better inform our safety strategy and identify existing gaps. We intend to integrate our strategy into what is already being done in order to avoid duplication.

(NB: In most cases, the texts in this section have been directly copied from the documents in question.)

## a) Safety strategies and action plans at the provincial level

### Plan d'action gouvernemental 2004-2009 en matière de violence conjugale (Aboriginal component)

The *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2004-2009 en matière de violence conjugale* aims to:

1. Prevent domestic violence and promote non-violence (medium and long term);
2. Identify situations in order to deal with the problem rather than the symptom (detection/early identification);
3. Intervene socio-judicially: improve interventions in the psychosocial, judicial and correctional fields;
4. Adapt services to specific realities and needs of particular clientele.

*Aboriginal component:*

1. Promotion and Prevention;
2. Support;
3. Psychological Intervention.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Reaching Native communities and specific clientele through promotion and prevention activities at the regional and provincial levels.
- Working with the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec to document the question of domestic violence against women with disabilities:
  - Collaborating with organizations concerned about the situation of Native women and working with the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones to document the question of domestic violence against Native women;
  - Providing financial support to Femmes autochtones du Québec inc. to support its mission and its activities of promoting non-violence;
  - Assisting with the training, information and support of case workers in shelters for Native women who are victims of violence;
  - Providing financial assistance for a pilot project to fight violence, submitted by the Senneterre Native Friendship Centre, with the help of other Native friendship centres in Québec and the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones.
- Identifying and implementing overall solutions adapted to the specific needs of remote communities/Native communities/women with disabilities:
  - Encouraging the establishment of an "issues table" bringing together various Native organizations to look at the problem of domestic and family violence;
  - Continuing actions to gradually improve access for Native people to the CAVAC network and encourage the hiring of personnel who are aware of Native victims's needs;
  - Requiring formative police forces to adopt directives for intervention in cases of domestic violence based on the guidelines in the *Guide des pratiques policières*;
  - Implementing special measures to adapt and improve the criminal justice system in Native communities.

*Results:* No results found to date.

*Participants:* Ministère de la Justice, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine, Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Ministère de la Sécurité publique, Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones.

**(NB:** This text was copied directly from the document in question.)

Source: Gouvernement du Québec, "Plan d'action gouvernemental 2004-2009 en matière de violence conjugale: volet autochtone".

### Plan d'action gouvernemental 2012-2017 en matière de violence conjugale (Aboriginal component)

The Aboriginal component of the *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2012-2017 en matière de violence conjugale* aims to :

1. Prevent violence and promote non-violence:
  - a. Raise awareness among the Aboriginal population about domestic violence in order to reduce social tolerance of this form of violence;
  - b. Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women as well as between boys and girls;
  - c. Disseminate information on resources and support services offered to victims of domestic and family violence, to children exposed to violence and to spouses with violent behaviour.
2. Screening and early identification:
  - a. Support practitioners and stakeholders in the field of domestic and family violence so they can better detect it and guide those affected to the appropriate resources.
3. Psychosocial Intervention:
  - a. Offer services adapted to the realities of Aboriginal communities.
4. Police, judicial and correctional intervention:
  - a. Facilitate the adaption of police, judicial and correctional interventions to the realities of Aboriginal communities;
  - b. Support the police in the performance of their duties.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Supporting the Aboriginal community's promotion of awareness activities for the Aboriginal population on domestic and family violence and its impact on the victim and his/her family.
- Providing financial support to organizations working with Aboriginal communities to conduct awareness and outreach activities promoting non-violence, especially among men and boys.
- Distributing pamphlets on violence in romantic relationships around the new Aboriginal College, in adult education centres and community centres through the sport and leisure sector.
- Informing the Aboriginal population about resources and services offered in their communities which help those affected by domestic or family violence.
- Updating the information package on domestic violence in the media and adding a section on the particularities and problems of domestic violence in communities.
- Promoting and providing updated information on resources and services offered on domestic violence in the health and social services sectors through the *Repertoire des ressources en sante et en services sociaux*.
- Facilitating access to programs offered on sexuality in schools in Quebec, encouraging Aboriginal educational institutions to consult them and encouraging these organizations to use

the action plans as models to counter violence at school, especially in young adult romantic relationships.

- Promoting the skills development of practitioners in the health and social services sectors that work with Aboriginal communities for the early identification of domestic violence, taking into account strategies and conditions for success in this field.
- Identifying and disseminating tools for assessing the danger of spouses with violent behaviour.
- Adapting intervention tools for domestic violence to the realities of Aboriginal communities and providing them to the communities.
- Providing financial support to Femmes autochtones du Québec to promote non-violence and supporting Aboriginal shelters.
- Providing financial support to Femmes autochtones du Québec for it to achieve its mission and activities in its network of shelters.
- Providing financial support to and ensuring the development of services in centres for victims of crime, including those for victims of domestic and family violence, in the Aboriginal community.
- Examining, along with the Aboriginal community, mechanisms for collaboration of specialized resources geared toward advising various actors in the court system in the handling of cases of domestic and family violence, as well as the opportunity to establish a community justice process geared toward treating cases of domestic and family violence.
- Disseminating information on the legal process to victims of domestic and family violence that is relevant and tailored to their needs.
- Providing funding to design intervention tools addressed to practitioners in the legal community who work with victims of domestic and family violence in the Aboriginal community.
- Evaluating the possibility of adapting the Parcours à la population autochtone program.
- Continuing to develop an Innu residential community centre for the Aboriginal population.
- Promoting the approach of community policing to police officers working in the Aboriginal community in matters of domestic violence interventions.
- Supporting the work of police officers working in the Aboriginal community in interventions involving a situation of domestic or family violence.
- Disseminating information about domestic violence to police officers working with the Aboriginal community.

*Results:* No results found to date.

*Participants:* Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Ministère de la Famille, Ministère de la Justice, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Ministère de la Sécurité publique, Secrétariat à la condition féminine, Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones ; Martine Bérubé, Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales; Sylvie Bonin, Service de police de la Ville de Québec; Marie-Hélène Filteau et Pierre Tanguay, Ministère de la Justice; Johanne McNeil, Barreau du Québec; Tabita Nicolaica et Carole Villeneuve, Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles.

*Other participants:* À cœur d'homme – Réseau d'aide aux hommes pour une société sans violence; Administration régionale crie; Agences de la santé et des services sociaux; Ajapirvik Women's Shelter; Alliance des maisons d'hébergement de 2e étape pour femmes et enfants victimes de violence conjugale; Association des centres jeunesse du Québec; Association des chefs de police des Premières Nations du Québec, Association des directeurs de police du Québec; Association des éducatrices et éducateurs en milieu familial du Québec (AEMFQ); Association des femmes cries Eeyou Istchee; Association des garderies privées du Québec; Association québécoise d'établissements de santé et de services sociaux; Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE); Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes; Barreau du Québec; Bouclier d'Athéna Services familiaux; Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite



aux femmes (CRI VIFF); Équipe Enfants-adolescents-es, violence et prévention; Équipe Femmes, violences et contextes de vulnérabilité (Alliances de recherche universités communautés [ARUC]); Équipe Masculinités et Société; Centre de santé et de services sociaux Cavendish – Centre affilié universitaire (René-Cassin), programme Le vieillissement comme processus social – analyses et actions; Centre de solidarité lesbienne (CSL); Centre des femmes de Montréal; Centre jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire, programme Une alliance recherche-intervention pour prévenir et contrer les méfaits de la violence chez les jeunes; Centre jeunesse de Québec – Institut universitaire, programme Réponses sociales aux besoins des jeunes et des familles à risque; Centres d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels; Chambre des notaires du Québec; Comité communautés ethnoculturelles de la Table de concertation en violence conjugale de Montréal; Comité des organismes accréditeurs en médiation familiale (COAMF); Commission de la santé et des services sociaux des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador; Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles; Confédération des organismes de personnes handicapées du Québec (COPHAN); Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ); Conseil en éducation des Premières Nations; Conseil québécois des services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance; Cree Regional Authority; DIRA-Laval; Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales; Direction des services professionnels correctionnels – Support, liaison et développement; Direction des services professionnels correctionnels Mauricie–Centre-du-Québec du ministère de la Sécurité publique; École de psychologie de l'Université Laval; École nationale de police du Québec; Établissement de détention de Saint-Jérôme; Fédération de ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec; Fédération des cégeps; Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec; Femmes autochtones du Québec inc.; Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FQRSC); Gaspé Health & Community Service; Impact Rivière Gatineau; Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ); Institut Tshakapesh; L'R des centres de femmes du Québec; Office des personnes handicapées du Québec (OPHQ); Ordre des psychologues du Québec; Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec; Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec inc.; Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale; Regroupement québécois des ressources de supervision des droits d'accès (RQRSDA); REZO – Santé et mieux-être des hommes gais et bisexuels; Service d'aide aux conjoints; Service de police de la Ville de Montréal; Service de police de la Ville de Québec; Société Makivik; S.O.S. violence conjugale; Sûreté du Québec; Table de concertation « Abus auprès des aînés » de la Mauricie; Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI) – Volet Femmes; Tungasuvvik Women's Shelter; Université de Sherbrooke – Chaire de recherche sur la maltraitance envers les personnes âgées.

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source: Gouvernement du Québec, "Prévenir, Dépister, Contrer: Plan d'Action Gouvernemental 2012-2017 en matière de violence conjugale."

### Plan d'action gouvernemental 2008-2013 en matière d'agression sexuelle

The *Plan d'action gouvernemental 2008-2013 en matière d'agression sexuelle* aims to:

1. Promote fundamental values:
  - a. Promote respect for the physical and psychological integrity of people and egalitarian relationships between men and women;
  - b. Promote the collective and individual responsibility of all adults, parents and caregivers.
2. Prevent sexual assaults:
  - a. Eliminate collective and individual ignorance and tolerance of sexual assault;
  - b. Prevent sexual abuse through the mobilization and support of the whole living environment;
  - c. Improve the safety of women and children in all public places (workplaces, streets, parks, metros, parking lots, etc.);

- d. Establish and consolidate policies and prevention activities in various organizations working with children;
  - e. Empower women and children to cope, individually and collectively, with the reality of sexual assault;
  - f. Test and evaluate prevention programs targeted specifically to youth and young men, as well as to certain groups in which the risk of committing sexual assaults is higher.
3. Detection in relation to sexual assaults:
    - a. Promote the screening of victims of sexual assaults;
    - b. Support staff members in private, public, semiprivate and community organizations so they can better track victims of sexual assault and direct them toward the appropriate support and protection services.
  4. Psychological, medical, legal and correctional intervention:
    - a. Intervention among adult victims of sexual assault:
      - i. Ensure that adult victims of sexual abuse quickly receive, in all regions of Quebec, support services and the protection needed to meet their needs;
      - ii. Provide victims of sexual assault in emergency situations support services, psychological support, information and medical intervention, as well as a follow-up in all regions of Quebec;
      - iii. Respect and protect the physical and psychological integrity of victims of sexual assault and their loved ones;
      - iv. Improve relations between victims of sexual assault and the judicial system.
    - b. Intervention among child victims of sexual assault:
      - i. Provide better protection and greater safety for child victims of sexual abuse;
      - ii. Ensure that child victims, their siblings, their family and those surrounding them quickly receive adequate support services when sexual abuse is reported;
      - iii. Provide children who are victims of sexual assault in emergency situations support services, physiological services, information and medical intervention, as well as a follow up in all regions of Quebec;
      - iv. Improve relations between child victims of sexual assault and the judicial system.
    - c. Intervention among sex offenders:
      - i. Make sexual aggressors aware of their actions and prevent relapse;
      - ii. Proceed to the assessment of sex offenders and provide services and proper treatment to offenders to reduce the risk of relapse.
  5. Conditions for successful interventions:
    - a. Interdepartmental collaboration and coordination of services;
    - b. Training and supervision;
    - c. Systems of information, research and evaluation.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Encouraging the emergence of awareness initiatives and information in Aboriginal associations.
- Providing financial support to Femmes autochtones du Québec inc. in its promotion of activities to combat sexual assault.
- Providing financial support for specific community initiatives from Aboriginal women's groups, Aboriginal organizations and Aboriginal communities about sexual assault.
- Informing victims of sexual assault of support and protection services offered to meet their needs by producing and distributing information leaflets for the most at-risk or vulnerable groups: people with disabilities, Aboriginal communities and cultural communities.
- Continuing to financially support centres for victims of crime, increasing the access of Aboriginal populations to these centres and promoting the presence of Aboriginal staff members in areas where there are Aboriginal communities.

- Ensuring the consistency of police practices in sexual assault interventions with government guidelines and modifying them to reflect cyber crime and Aboriginal realities.
- Raising awareness among Aboriginal police services about the importance of communicating with a prosecutor or Crown prosecutor before allowing the release of sex offenders.
- Providing financial support to Femmes autochtones du Québec, inc. for carrying out the activities of the coordinator for sexual assault social health-services.
- Ensuring that caregivers and legal practitioners working with Aboriginal communities are aware of the realities.
- Support training and information and support activities for caregivers working in shelters for Aboriginal women who have been victims of sexual assault.

*Results:* No results found to date.

*Participants:* Comité interministériel de coordination en matière de violence conjugale, familiale et sexuelle: Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions; Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (Secrétariat à la condition féminine); Ministère du Conseil exécutif (Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones); Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport; Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale; Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés; Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles; Ministère de la Justice; Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux; Ministère de la Sécurité publique.

*Other participants include:* Agences de la santé et des services sociaux de Chaudière-Appalaches, de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, de l'Estrie, de l'Outaouais, de la Côte-Nord, de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec, de la Montérégie, de Lanaudière, de Laval, de Montréal, de la Capitale-Nationale, des Laurentides, du Bas-Saint-Laurent, et Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean; Alliance des communautés culturelles pour l'égalité dans la santé et les services sociaux; Association des centres jeunesse du Québec; Association québécoise d'établissements de santé et de services sociaux; Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes; Association Viol-Secours; Bureau du directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP), Montréal; Bureau du directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP), Québec; Centre d'aide aux femmes et aux enfants victimes d'agression sexuelle de la Rive-Sud de Montréal La Traversée; Centres d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (CAVAC), Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels de l'Estrie; Centre de prévention et d'intervention pour les victimes d'agression sexuelle (CPIVAS); Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes (CRI-VIFF); Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur les problèmes conjugaux et les agressions sexuelles (CRIPCAS); Centre d'expertise en agression sexuelle Marie-Vincent (CEASMV); Centre hospitalier Robert-Giffard; Chaire interuniversitaire Marie Vincent sur les agressions sexuelles envers les enfants; Commission de la santé et des services sociaux des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador; Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles; Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ); Conseil québécois des services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance; Direction régionale des services correctionnels Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches; École nationale de police du Québec; Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec; Fédération des femmes autochtones du Québec inc.; Femmes Autochtones du Québec inc. (FAQ); Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture; Groupe de recherche sur les agresseurs sexuels (GRAS); Groupe de travail sur l'intervention médico-sociale auprès des victimes d'agression sexuelle; Institut Philippe-Pinel de Montréal; Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux; Ministère de la Sécurité publique, Direction des services correctionnels; Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec; Régie régionale de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Nunavik; Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec inc. (RCAAQ); Regroupement des intervenants en matière d'agression sexuelle (RIMAS); Regroupement des organismes Espace du Québec; Regroupement des unités régionales de loisir et de sport; Regroupement québécois des centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel (RQCALACS); Regroupement québécois des centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions sexuelles; Service de police de la ville de Montréal; Sûreté du Québec; Table des répondantes régionales en agression sexuelle des agences de santé et des services sociaux.

**(NB: This text was directly translated from the document in question.)**

Source: Gouvernement du Québec, "Plan d'action gouvernemental 2008-2013 en matière d'agression sexuelle".

### Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013

The *Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013* aims to:

1. Reinforce the prevention of homelessness;
2. Favour residential stability;
3. Improve, adapt and coordinate interventions among homeless people;
4. Favour the tolerant and safe cohabitation between different groups of citizens;
5. Intensify research.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Raising awareness among the population and certain social groups about homelessness;
- Encouraging academic success;
- Keeping track of those at risk and improving support services;
- Improving access to housing;
- Offering financial aid to those in need;
- Improving the accessibility and adaptability of health and social services;
- Facilitating access to appropriate academic and professional training;
- Encouraging the use of (re)integration programs in the community and labour market;
- Improving access to financial aid;
- Improving collaboration in order to encourage a holistic approach to homelessness;
- Promoting social cohesion among different groups of citizens and encouraging alternatives to prosecution;
- Raising awareness about homelessness and its new forms.

*Results:* According to the *Bilan du Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013: Observations et commentaires du Réseau solidarité itinérance du Québec*, initiatives undertaken by 2011 include:

- Annual amount allocated to the Agence de la Santé de Montréal for the coordination of the Steering Committee;
- \$1.25 M (recurring) for eight community organisations offering emergency shelter;
- \$170 000 (recurring) for organisations offering community support in housing;
- Funding for three community organisations offering the Employment Readiness Program (Programme de préparation à l'emploi);
- Funding for the consolidation of the pilot project *Équipe mobile de référence et d'intervention en itinérance* (EMRII).

*Participants:* Société d'habitation du Québec; Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire; Ministère de la Justice; Ministère de la Sécurité publique; Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale; Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport; Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles; Secrétariat à la jeunesse; Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones; Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux; *Special collaboration:* Guy Vermette and Guylaine Boucher

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Sources: Gouvernement du Québec, "Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013" and Réseau solidarité itinérance du Québec, "Bilan du Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013".

## Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA) – Actions

- The SAA provides support to the coordination of projects on various issues in urban areas with different ministries and departments within the Quebec government.
- The SAA has provided funding to support the missions of Aboriginal organizations for several years, in particular the Aboriginal Friendship Centres, funding that continues through the Fonds d'initiatives autochtones II (FIA II).
- As part of the FIA II, \$2 million have been reserved for social economy projects developed by Aboriginal companies or organizations situated off-reserve.
- In addition, a total of \$3 million is also spent on community infrastructure projects off-reserve.
- In terms of the SAA's link to Montreal, it sits on the steering committee of the Aboriginal NETWORK. It attends the NETWORK's monthly meetings as well as three annual gatherings. The SAA is actively involved the NETWORK's meetings and is a funding partner of this initiative that supports the coordination and funding of various projects.
- For three years, the SAA has provided financial support to the NETWORK for the coordination of its activities. In 2012-2013, the SAA gave the NETWORK a subsidy of \$45,000.
- As part of the implementation of the *Plan d'action interministériel en itinérance 2010-2013*, the SAA sits on the regional Steering Committee, under the auspices of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, to ensure the deployment of governmental actions in the Montreal region.
- The SAA is a member of the monitoring committee of the research funded by the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux to better understand the issue of Aboriginal homelessness and to identify courses of action for the Montreal region.
- The SAA participates in the NETWORK's Homelessness Sub-Committee's monthly meetings so as to bridge the gap between the community's priorities and those of the Government of Quebec.
- The SAA also supports the following services in Montreal:
  - The SAA is actively working with Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ) and other governmental partners to consolidate the provision of emergency shelter services for Aboriginals in Montreal.
  - The SAA supports the mission of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal.
  - The SAA will support the new Aboriginal community centre of Montreal.
  - The Premier of Quebec, M<sup>rs</sup> Pauline Marois, committed to supporting the establishment of a First People's artistic and cultural centre during the Rendez-vous 2012 - Montréal métropole culturelle, on November 26, 2012.

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source : Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones

## b) Safety strategies and action plans at the municipal level

### Plan d'action intersectoriel en itinérance 2007-2012 (Montreal)

The *Plan d'action intersectoriel en itinérance 2007-2012* aims to:

1. Make use of the expertise of members in analysing issues and identifying needs and solutions to improve, adapt and coordinate the intervention among homeless people or those at-risk of becoming homeless;
2. Improve the access and responsiveness of health and social services for homeless people or those at-risk of becoming homeless;
3. Strengthen partnerships between actors in public and community networks;
4. Liaise with the Regional Steering Committee director responsible for the *Plan d'action interministériel 2010-2013* to promote an integrated intervention for homelessness in Montreal.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Maintaining safe places to meet the basic needs of all homeless people each day/year;
- Providing places of respite/relief to men and women excluded from emergency resources/services;
- Improving the supply of housing units with community support;
- Promoting the maintenance of private or public rooming houses and providing adequate housing conditions for tenants;
- Providing the male homeless population access to a day centre;
- Ensuring a general offer of front line services for homeless people or those at risk of becoming homeless in specific areas;
- Providing specific resources for elderly homeless people or those with a serious physical/mental handicap in need of long-term specialized care, for men and women;
- Improving access to emergency services in hospitals and monitoring people with mental health problems;
- Ensuring access to specialized services for homeless people with serious intoxication problems;
- Promoting consultation strategies with interested partners;
- Agreeing on a fair use of public space that respects all citizens wherever the need arises;
- Developing approaches and legal practices adapted to the realities of homelessness to facilitate social reintegration and reduce prosecution;
- Facilitating access to legal services for homeless people in need;
- Increasing access to sanitation facilities and drinking water when required;
- Improving access to employment insertion programs;
- Promoting the exercise of voting rights;
- Having a better understanding of the homeless population under the following parameters: the chronic population, the transitory population, the adult population (including immigrants), street youth, families, and the Aboriginal population by integrating gender-based analysis;
- Identifying situations/problems that involve significant risk factors for the homeless population.

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

*Results to date:* Construction on the Respite and Detox Centre alluded to in the strategy is underway but has not yet been completed. However, 4 beds have been made available in the Centre for homeless men in need. The Centre is expected to be fully built by the end of March 2013.

*Participants:* CSSS Jeanne-Mance, CESS Lucille-Teasdale, CESS de la Montagne, Centre Dollard-Cormier - IUD, CHUM et Centre jeunesse de Montréal; institutions that ensure the rights of homeless people (Curateur public du Québec); community organisations delegated by RAPSIM that represent the sectors: Shelter, Housing, Day and Evening Centre, Housing-Shelter, Monitoring and Support,

Women and Youth; other community organisations that are not members of RAPSIM ; organisations that work with the Aboriginal population; Service Canada - Centre des Opérations de programmes de Montréal (Direction des Services aux citoyens et des programmes); Ville de Montréal (Direction de la diversité sociale Direction de l'habitation, Service de police); l'Agence de Montréal: la Direction de la Santé publique and la Direction des programmes-services.

Source: Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, Ville de Montréal and Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM), "Plan d'action intersectoriel en itinérance 2007-2012" (15 mars 2013), and Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, "Note de Service: Ouverture de 4 lits de répit pour hommes au Centre de répit et de dégrisement".

### Makivik Corporation Homelessness Action Plan and Strategy

Makivik has taken many steps to target Inuit homelessness in Montreal over the past few years:

October 2008: Makivik gives Quebec Government Social Affairs Committee a report on Inuit homelessness (especially in Montreal);

April 2010: Makivik starts to develop an action plan targeting Inuit homelessness to:

1. Ensure access to adequate medical care and social services for Inuit in Montreal who are in vulnerable situations or homeless.
2. Prevent homelessness.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- April 27, 2011: Makivik and Chez Doris sign a Partnership Agreement:
  - An Inuit Case Worker is hired;
  - The Inuit Assistance Program is put in place;
  - Montreal college students can work at the shelter.
- October 4, 2012: Makivik and Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ) sign a Partnership Agreement:
  - An Inuit Case Worker is hired.

Makivik also supports the PAQ Development Plan, which aims to establish a new shelter, create transitional beds, develop a day centre and a social reintegration program and hire an Inuit case worker.

Makivik is also working in collaboration with various organizations and academics:

- The Makivik Legal Department, Kativik Regional Government, Correctional Service of Canada and Quebec detention centres are working on support measures for Inuit in or leaving detention centres, such as schooling and construction skills.
- The Chez Doris director went to Nunavik to meet with various organizations there, such as Makivik, the Kativik Regional Government, the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau, the Nunavik Health Board, the Kativik Regional Police Force, the Isuarsivik Treatment Centre and the Women's Shelter. Makivik is also working on developing closer relations with several Nunavut organizations.
- Makivik is collaborating with Professor Nobuhiro (Nobu) Kigishami, whose research project on Inuit in Montreal is due in March 2013.

*Participants*: Chez Doris, Projets Autochtones Québec, Kativik Regional Government, Makivik Corporation legal affairs, Correctional Service of Canada, les centres de détention du Québec, Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau, Nunavik Regional Board of Health, Kativik Regional Police Force, Isuarsivik Treatment Centre, the Women's Shelter, Nunavut organisations, Professor Nobuhiro

Kigishami.

*Source* : Makivik Corporation, Mémoire sur l'itinérance inuit à Montréal; Makivik Corporation Strategy and Action Plan on Inuit Homelessness in Montreal.

This year, Makivik will also support the following initiatives:

*Project 1:*

Correctional Services of Canada had requested assistance from Makivik Corporation to help in the development of Inuit-specific programs.

Corrections Canada currently has an Inuit Offender Substance Abuse Program, and has hired two Inuit employees to provide this program to detainees. Corrections Canada and the Minister of Public Safety are in currently in contact to come up with more Inuit-specific programs as few such programs exist.

The goal of this project is to bring together federal and provincial correctional services, Ungaluk and Makivik's Justice Coordinators, KRG reintegration officers, and other key justice related services in order to identify existing services, gaps and problems (e.g. lack of reintegration), and how to build a sustainable partnership between all those involved in the meeting. The aim is to develop an action plan geared at improving the situation for Inuit in federal and provincial correctional centres, as well as their reintegration.

If funding remains, the action plan will be implemented.

*Project 2:*

The project is to develop a daytime program for Inuit clients of PAQ, which currently runs a night shelter for Aboriginal people, 60% of whom are Inuit.

PAQ, Avataq, and the Société de développement social de Ville-Marie are currently working together to come up with Inuit-specific programs for the day program. These programs will be offered to Inuit and to those being released from detention centres who cannot or do not want to return to their communities.

*Project 3:*

The goal of this project is to continue services for Inuit women in Montreal who are homeless or in vulnerable situations. 15% of the clients at Chez Doris, which is a day centre, are Inuit women. Tina Pisuktie, the Inuk Case worker at the centre, would coordinate the specific Inuit women activities and winter camp, and have the women stay in contact with their families in Nunavik. Plans are in the works to hire Inuit students in Montreal to participate in the Chez Doris student placement program.

*Project 4:*

The Société de développement social de Ville-Marie started a project for homeless Inuit who gather around the Place Des Arts Metro station and the St. Michaels Mission, whereby direct medical services, clothing and food are provided to them.

This year they wish to continue these services for Inuit at Atwater and other metro stations. Cabot Square will be included in this project.

This project has received funding from SDSVM, Bombardier Foundation, a private donor, the Montreal Transport Commission and Makivik Corporation.

*Project 5:*

This project is for the St. Stephen's Anglican Church The Open Door drop-in centre. It is currently open 4 days a week due to financial constraints and will receive funding from Makivik Corporation to remain open for a fifth day as of July 2013.

The church is located in Westmount, in close proximity to Cabot Square and the Northern Module. The clients who visit the The Open Door are mostly Inuit. The centre provides services for the homeless or



Inuit in desperate need. Services provided include job searching, free meals, and assisting Inuit in finding homes in the city. The centre also leads workshops on alcohol, drug and tobacco addictions.

*Project 6:*

The project aims at developing closer collaboration between Nunavik organizations - Makivik, KRG, Nunavik Health Board, KMHB, KRPF, Isuarsivik, and women's shelters and organizations providing programs for Inuit in Montreal: PAQ, Chez Doris, SDSVM, and The Open Door.

This project aims to exchange knowledge and expertise of existing services that serve Inuit in The South and The North. The aim is for Nunavik-based and Montreal-based groups to learn about one another and develop formal links to identify how they can better work together to reduce the problem of homelessness and vulnerability among Inuit who migrate to Montreal. It is hoped that this exchange will encourage Nunavik-based services to work in greater collaboration and create stronger ties with Montreal-based organizations.

Ville de Montréal - Actions Supporting Montreal's Aboriginal Community

Although the Ville de Montréal does not have a specific plan targeting Montreal's Aboriginal population, it supports many initiatives in the Aboriginal community:

- The Ville is involved with the Montreal Aboriginal NETWORK:
  - It contributed to its development;
  - It is represented on the NETWORK's Steering Committee;
  - It provides professional, financial and material support for its coordination;
  - It is involved in 4 Working Committees.
- The Ville supports the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Montreal.
- The Ville supports the Festival Présence autochtone du Québec (Terres en vues).
- The Ville supports Projets autochtones du Québec (PAQ) and has provided it with shelter for 40 Aboriginal or Inuit (30 men and 10 women).
- In 2001, the Ville de Montréal opened the First Nations Garden at the Botanical Gardens.
- In 2010, the Direction de la diversité sociale published the *Directory of Resources Offered to Montréal's Aboriginal Community*.
- The Ville supports the First Nations Human Resources Development Services of Montreal – geared toward ensuring the successful labour market integration of Aboriginals living in the city – as part of the Urban Strategy developed by the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec.

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source: Ville de Montréal, La réalité autochtone; Développement social et diversité: Autochtones, website.

Ville de Montréal - Agir résolument pour contrer l'itinérance: Plan d'action cible en itinérance (2010)

The *Plan d'action cible en itinérance de la Ville de Montréal* aims to:

1. Meet the basic needs of homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless by permanently reducing the precariousness of homeless and vulnerable people by meeting their basic needs (housing and reintegration).
2. Reduce problems of sharing urban spaces and strengthen the exercise of citizenship by offering alternatives to prosecution (aimed at collective well-being).

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Developing new housing for homeless and vulnerable people;
- Keeping rooming houses for homeless and vulnerable people;
- Improving the hygiene of rooming houses;
- Opening a respite and detox centre;
- Consolidating the network of day centres to facilitate homeless people's access to the appropriate services;
- Developing an intervention approach adapted to First Nations and Inuit in a situation of homelessness;
- Creating an action plan for public spaces in Ville-Marie;
- Consolidating *the équipe mobile de référence et d'intervention en itinérance* (EMRII);
- Improving the SPVM's foot patrol intervention tools;
- Implementing measures that provide alternatives to prosecuting homeless people;
- Defining and developing an urban mediation project;

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

*Results to date:* As of March 13, 2012, several steps have been taken to meet the objectives outlined above. These include: the construction of 440 housing units and rooms, the provision of 2 million dollars to build a respite centre for homeless people barred from shelters, the provision of 1.4 million dollars to create a "cleanliness brigade" of 40 employees that will clean targeted public spaces, intensive programming of activities in over 100 parks and public spaces, reintegration projects, and the hiring of a social worker and nurse. The SPVM is also receiving training about homelessness and is working on consolidating the EMRII by assigning it 6 police officers as of December 2011. Four prosecutors and a judge from the *Programme d'accompagnement justice pour les personnes itinérantes à la Cour* (PAJIC) are also being summoned to personalise interventions and to reduce the prosecution and imprisonment of homeless people. Lastly, the City of Montreal is also collaborating with the NETWORK in order to more effectively help the Aboriginal and Inuit population.

*Participants:* Makivik Corporation; Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK; Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada; Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones; Module du Nord Québécois; Aboriginal and Inuit street workers; Ville de Montréal (with the financial contribution of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal); Gouvernement du Québec et Société d'habitation du Québec; Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux; Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal; Ministère de la Justice; Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale; OBNL promoteurs de projets d'habitation communautaire, concerned districts, Centre de santé et de services sociaux (CSSS) Jeanne-Mance; CSSS de la Montagne; Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal; SPVM; Réseau d'aide aux personnes seules et itinérantes de Montréal (RAPSIM); Ministère des Affaires municipales des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMROT); Centre Dollard-Cormier; Quartier des spectacles; YMCA; community organisations.

Source : Ville de Montréal, "Agir résolument pour contrer l'itinérance: Plan d'action ciblé en itinérance" (2010) and Ville de Montréal - Développement social et diversité, "Plan d'action ciblé en itinérance – Une série d'actions concrètes et concertées pour venir en aide aux personnes en situation d'itinérance".

### **c) Safety strategies and action plans at the local level**

#### Équipe de médiation urbaine (ÉMU) – Summary of Conflict Resolution Circle (Cabot Square)

The Conflict Resolution Circle took place at the request of Station 50, which complained about the problems caused by the homeless population – largely Aboriginal - in Cabot Square, especially around the Atwater metro kiosk (ÉMU, Synthèse, 2). Interested in finding creative solutions to deal with the issues in the Square, the EMU held six “circles” from September 9, 2011 to January 11, 2012 (ÉMU, Synthèse, 7). Over the course of the 6 meetings, problems – along with possible solutions (found in the “recommendations” section) – were identified.

Seven main "problem" areas were identified:

1. Cultural:

- Participants noted that many homeless Aboriginal people frequent Cabot Square. Primary reasons for going to the Square are getting information, being in a group and being outdoors. Although many Aboriginal people in Cabot Square are homeless, some have an apartment. Aboriginal women are often exploited by “white people”. Aboriginal people also face difficulties in obtaining employment due to discrimination.

2. Presence and behaviour:

- Residents in the area frequently complain about the unsavoury behaviour of those who hang around in the park. Complaints include: the presence of urine and excrements; alcohol and drug consumption, including crack; street gangs selling drugs in the park; inappropriate sexual behaviour; intimidating presence; begging, which is sometimes aggressive; and theft.

3. Planning and installations/facilities:

- Residents often complain about unsanitary rooming houses on Tupper Street.

4. Cleanliness and hygiene:

- People who visit Cabot Square find the area unsanitary. The public washrooms are filthy, bad odours fill the park, there is a lack of hygiene among the homeless people in the Square and there are often broken bottles and syringes on the ground, especially as there is no syringe deposit.

5. Resources and services:

- An evident lack of resources exists for the vulnerable population in Cabot Square. For instance, no resources or rehab clinics exist for intoxicated people, there are not enough services for people with social problems such as mental health problems and there are not enough resources for those seeking employment. In addition, there are few resources for metro employees at Atwater station, as they often have trouble kicking out homeless people at the end of the night.

6. Security and police intervention:

- Participants stressed that police interventions have not been working. Contraventions have not been effective, the police are sometimes rougher than necessary and cadets often have a negative attitude toward those in the Square. In addition, the constant police presence in the area disturbs the residents. Lastly, complaints made to the STM are rarely acknowledged.

7. Relations between populations:

- During the meeting, it was noted that the relationship between the police and Aboriginal people in Cabot Square was often strained. Relations between residents and the Aboriginal population are also tense, as many residents believe that Chez Doris is at the root of all problems and as there is a general misunderstanding of Module du Nord Québécois. In addition, cooperation between organizations is sometimes difficult due to diverging mandates.

*Result* : This project was not implemented as it ended ahead of time due to funding cuts.

*Participants*: Tandem, Chez Doris, Équipe Dialogue, SPVM, PDQ, STM, Native Women's Shelter of Montréal, Ville de Montréal (diversité sociale), community representatives.

*Source*: Equipe de médiation urbaine, "Synthèse des Cercles de résolution de conflits – Square Cabot, Atwater".

Plan d'action 2012-2013 de la Table Inter-action du quartier Peter-McGill

The *Plan d'action 2012-2013 de la Table Inter-action du quartier Peter-McGill* aims to:

1. Heighten the sense of belonging;
2. Improve the quality of life in Peter-McGill;
3. Insure the longevity of the Peter-McGill Community Council.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Establishing a community centre;
- Supporting community organizations' projects in the neighbourhood;
- Ensuring the greater visibility of community projects and activities;
- Assembling information about the organizations in the neighbourhood in one place;
- Promoting the establishment of affordable housing in the neighbourhood;
- Supporting initiatives that aim to improve the quality of life (Chez Doris, People's Potato, etc.);
- Defending the right to use public spaces that are clean, accessible to everyone, equipped to meet the needs of a varied clientele, in accordance with the historical character and architectural characteristics of the neighbourhood (**including Cabot Square**);
- Offering assistance and increasing the visibility of initiatives aimed at improving citizens' sense of safety (older people, children, pedestrians, cyclists, users of public spaces) and be the spokesperson to broadcast their concerns;
- Encouraging citizens to participate at the table;
- Being the spokesperson for the neighbourhood;
- Being a tool for observation and development;

- Being the rallying point for stakeholders;
- Improving communications.

*Participants:* CSDM, CSEM, Quartier de l'innovation de Montréal Arrondissement, CSSS de la Montagne, Forum Jeunesse, Y des femmes, Arrondissement, Ville de Montréal, OMHM, Comité Logement Ville-Marie, Habiter Ville-Marie, Bâtir son Quartier, Tara Ter, Chez Doris, Chic Resto Pop, People's Potato, Eco-Quartier Peter-McGill, Centre de diédétique de Montréal, Tandem, YMCA, Police de Montréal (unité mobile), Shaughnessy Village Association (funding: CMTQ, Service Canada, Emploi Québec, Élus du quartier)

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source: Peter-McGill Community Council, "Plan d'action 2012-2013 de la Table Inter-action du quartier Peter-McGill".

Plan d'action du projet d'intervention de milieu autour de l'Accueil Bonneau et amorce d'un projet de quartier (May 2012 to April 2013)

The *Plan d'action du projet d'intervention de milieu autour de l'Accueil Bonneau 2012-2013* aims to:

1. Collaborate with key stakeholders in Ville-Marie to improve the management of incivilities committed by certain homeless people around Accueil Bonneau (intoxication, aggressiveness, disruption) through the intervention team in the area.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives include:

- Establishing concrete solutions to better manage incivilities caused by people around Accueil Bonneau;
- Consolidating and expanding referral initiatives for vulnerable people to the proper bodies;
- Establishing a permanent team of street workers;
- Creating a communication plan for residents and businesses in the area;
- Redeveloping Fleury-Mesplet park to beautify it and enhance the sense of safety;
- Developing a research component to improve the urban reality of homelessness in a comprehensive manner;
- Evaluation of the actions and reach of the project.

*Participants:* Accueil Bonneau, SPVM, Ville-Marie, Dialogue, Ville de Montréal (Diversité sociale), Eco-Quartier, Tandem, Mouvement Art Public (Manuel Bujold), Université, SDC du Ville-Marie, Société de développement social de Ville-Marie

*Partners:* Accueil Bonneau, SPVM, Association des résidents du Vieux-Montréal, Société de développement commercial du Vieux-Montréal, Tandem

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source: Accueil Bonneau, "Plan d'action du projet d'intervention de milieu autour de l'Accueil Bonneau et amorce d'un projet de quartier (mai 2012-avril 2013)".

## Programme particulier d'urbanisme (PPU) du Quartier des grands jardins

The *PPU du Quartier des grands jardins* priorities are:

1. Showcasing heritage;
2. The quality of the neighbourhood;
3. Economic dynamism;
4. Detailed planning of the Cabot sector.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives in **Cabot Square** include:

- Redeveloping Cabot Square and the surrounding area and greening Atwater Avenue and René-Lévesque Boulevard in order to create a green corridor linking Mount Royal to the Canadian Centre for Architecture gardens.
- Continuing to support the community intervention support and accommodation strategy for homeless people in Cabot Square.
- Creating a distinctive area in order to attract significant property investments.
- Redeveloping the Square while respecting the neighbourhood's historic character: restoring walkways, paving materials and urban furniture.
- Enlarging the Square toward the east and setting up a stage and area to house community and cultural activities.
- Creating a network of green, safe pathways.
- Consolidating the green path on Atwater Avenue and the green spaces in the south part of Cabot Square.
- Creating vistas looking out from the Saint-Jacques escarpment toward Mount Royal.
- Highlighting important establishments and institutions such as Dawson College, the Franciscans area and Shaughnessy House.
- Improving pedestrian routes.
- Enlarging the park and sidewalks and planting trees.
- Encouraging quality real estate projects that are in keeping with the historical character of the park (intensification of residential use and increasing density around the Square).
- Constructing mixed-use buildings overlooking the square (Le Seville).
- Having more shops on the ground floor and architecturally treating facades.
- Abiding by principles of sustainable urban development: fewer paved surfaces, renovating roads, greening of the Square.

*Participants:* Arrondissement Ville-Marie, Ville de Montréal.

**(NB:** This text was translated directly from the document in question.)

Source: Arr. de Ville-Marie, "Programme Particulier d'Urbanisme : Le quartier des grands jardins".

## Tandem - Sécurité urbaine plan d'action 2012-2013

The *Tandem – Sécurité urbaine plan d'action 2012-2013* aims to:

1. Identify needs in urban safety;
2. Develop tools for evaluating priority sectors;
3. Improve the quality of life, sense of belonging and the safety of the vulnerable population: reappropriation of parks, mediation and conflict resolution;
4. Raise awareness, have more information and communication.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives in **Cabot Square** include:

- Establishing a communication network and work protocol with the Module du Nord Québécois in order to prevent the victimization of Inuit who are receiving medical care in Montreal;
- Learning more about Inuit customs in order to develop tools for prevention;
- Raising awareness (posters, workshops, theatre projects);
- Implementing outreach activities based on urban safety.

*Participants:* Cabot Square: Module du Nord Québécois.

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source: Tandem, "Tandem Sécurité Urbaine Plan d'Action 2012-2013".

### Arrondissement Ville-Marie – Proposition de priorités d'actions 2010-2011

The *Proposition de priorités d'actions 2010-2011 de Ville-Marie* are:

1. Cohabitation in public spaces:
  - Improve the sense of safety in parks in general and specific ways (Émilie-Gamelin, Fleury-Mesplet, Cabot Square, Place de la Paix); monitor impact of CHUM construction on Viger Square;
  - Improve the sense of safety for pedestrians on St Paul and Ste Catherine Street;
  - Improve interventions with people who are disruptive and uncivil;
2. Road safety;
3. Fight drug trafficking in public spaces;
4. Fire safety.

**(NB:** This text was directly translated from the document in question.)

Source: Arrondissement de Ville-Marie, "Proposition de priorités d'actions 2010-2011".

### Arrondissement Ville-Marie Plan d'action en sécurité urbaine (état d'avancement en mai 2010)

The *Plan d'action en sécurité urbaine de Ville-Marie* aims to:

1. Improve cohabitation in public spaces:
  - Improve the sense of safety in parks in general and specific ways (Émilie-Gamelin, Fleury-Mesplet, Square Cabot, Place de la Paix); monitor impact of CHUM construction on Viger Square;
  - Improve interventions with people who are disruptive and uncivil.
2. Improve road security.
3. Prevent youth crime.
4. Manage urban noise.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives in **Cabot Square** include:

- Improving cohabitation in the Square;
- Intensification of programming, including more cultural and leisure events and greater involvement among residents;
- Redeveloping the Square;
- Forming an agreement with Station 12 (to ensure their presence during summer festivities);
- Negotiating with the YMCA to use 10 rooms for Inuit women at Reddy Memorial;
- Ensuring regular interventions and maintenance;
- Involving residents, local OBNL, EMRI, EMU.

Actions carried out in order to meet these objectives **outside Cabot Square** include:

- Ensuring the presence of bike patrol police cadets;
- Picking up syringes;
- Maintaining police presence;
- Reducing human and animal excrements;
- Making Fleury-Mesplet park accessible to all;
- Developing non-punitive approaches to interventions for misbehaviour;
- Developing legal practices adapted to the reality of homelessness to avoid prosecution and proposing social reintegration;
- Agreeing on common actions between companies, business and organizations that help the homeless and marginalized population;
- Establishing efficient means of communication to reach people frequenting the city centre;
- Giving the male homeless population access to a day centre.

Participants: Arrondissement DCSLDS, Groupe d'intervention de Ste-Marie, Carrefour des ressources en interculturel (CRIC), Éco-quartiers Ste-Marie et St-Jacques, Tandem, Tables de concertation, SDC, SPVM/PDQ 21, SPVM/PDQ 22, Spectre de Rue, Cactus, Comité des seringues à la traîne, Groupe d'intervention, SPVM, Brigade urbaine, Groupe Eclipse, EMRII, Cadets à vélo, Ville-Marie, Travaux Publics, Corporation des Habitations Jeanne-Mance, ROJAQ, RAPSIM, Accueil Bonneau, Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, EMU, OBNL, SDCQMVDE, Quartier des Spectacles, Centre d'amitié autochtone du Québec, Cour municipale, Société de développement social de Ville-Marie, CSSS Jeanne Mance, « 1<sup>er</sup> arrêt », Ville de Montréal, OMHM, CSDM, Projet TRIP, Tables de concertation des Faubourgs St-Laurent.

**(NB:** This text was copied directly from the document in question.)

Source: Arrondissement de Ville-Marie, "Plan d'action en sécurité urbaine (état d'avancement en mai 2010)".



## DEVELOPING IDEAS

Several initiatives are currently underway to improve safety and community wellbeing for Montreal's Aboriginal population. Some of these actions are being spearheaded by the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK:

- The Health Working Committee is looking to establish a holistic health centre for Montreal's Aboriginal population. The Committee has taken steps to begin its implementation and has visited Toronto's Anishnawbe Health and spoken with the Director in order to see how to create such a centre. The Health Committee is now waiting to see whether it will receive the funding it needs.
- The Art•Culture Working Committee is looking to establish an Aboriginal Community Cultural Centre in Montreal, which would house exhibitions, performances, workshops, roundtables, readings and other types of projects and events. Open to all generations and nations, this centre would also contain a cultural archive of the Aboriginal people in the greater Montreal area and also inform and educate the general public about Aboriginal art and culture (Montreal Aboriginal NETWORK, Working Committee: Art•Culture).
- The NETWORK's Working Committee on Employability-Training-Education also published the *Montreal Aboriginal Reference Guide: Empowering through employability, training and education* in 2011. This guide is intended to empower Aboriginal People by referring them to services that will allow them to attain their full potential.
- The Justice sub-committee of the NETWORK recently completed the development phase of the JustPeace program, which involved a series of consultations with socio-judicial actors in Montreal to examine the existing situation regarding Aboriginal people who come into conflict with the criminal justice system in Montreal. This phase will inform the development of the JustPeace program, which aims to address: a) the over-reliance on the use of imprisonment and the lack of appropriate services and programming for Aboriginal people; and b) the lack of a targeted prevention approach, considering that more of the Aboriginal than the non-Aboriginal population fall into the socioeconomic group most vulnerable to involvement in the criminal justice system.

Source: Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK. "Strategic Plan 2012-2017"; NETWORK, Working Committee: Art •Culture, NETWORK, Working Committee: Health.

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING SAFETY

Many recommendations on how to overcome the challenges faced by the vulnerable population in and around Cabot Square were highlighted in the aforementioned research. The following provides a summary of these recommendations.

### a) Cabot Square

#### Physical space

The Équipe de Médiation Urbaine (ÉMU) suggested improving the lay out of Cabot Square upon its renovation. Recommendations for the “new” Square include: creating separate sections of the park for each group (positive occupation spaces), removing non-representative statues, removing fences, adding play structures for children, planting trees from the north (ÉMU, Synthèse, 12).

It was also stressed that the Square and its surrounding area must be better maintained to improve the sense of safety in the area. For instance, participants believe that the park should be kept clean, that there should be better lighting, that the alleys and kiosk should be well-maintained, that there should be public washrooms and that there should be more recycling options in the Square.

#### Cultural activities

Another important issue was having more cultural activities in the Square once construction had been completed (ÉMU, Synthèse, 12). Ms. Gadoua also stressed the importance of having a permanent cultural exhibit in the Square and of having more cultural organizations like Exeko in the square (Gadoua, Interview, 2013).

#### Security

Both the EMU and Kigishami believe that there should be Aboriginal and Inuit front line/outreach workers in the Square and downtown (ÉMU, Synthèse, 15; Kigishami, 2012, 2). In addition, there is a need for officers to patrol the square (ÉMU, Synthèse, 17).

#### Relations between populations

One major concern identified by the EMU and Ms. Gadoua is the need to improve relations between the residents in Peter-McGill and the population frequenting Cabot Square (ÉMU, Synthèse, 12).

Many believe that it is crucial to educate the people who live in Cabot Square in order to break down barriers between the populations (ÉMU, Synthèse, 9; Gadoua, Interview, 2013).

There is also a need to create stronger relationships between community organizations so they can provide better services and information (ÉMU, Synthèse, 21).

#### Other

Carole Lévesque raised some important issues in regards to safety in Cabot Square. She stated that perhaps the Aboriginal people who frequent Cabot Square feel secure there already and go there because they get the sense of safety they need from that specific place. She also stressed the importance of understanding exactly *why* they go to Cabot Square, as this could already be the beginning of a solution, or at the very least, provide a clue as to their needs. Indeed, she believes that it is of utmost importance to understand what Cabot Square represents to the population that goes there, as well as their definition and understanding of safety.

## b) The Aboriginal population and justice

The NETWORK's Justice Research Project outlines several recommendations to reduce the vulnerability of the Aboriginal population in Montreal.

In **general terms**, the Research Project highlights the necessity of improving the living conditions and enhancing the well-being of Aboriginal people in the city in order to prevent them from falling into poverty or homeless through empowerment, identity building, understanding of rights and addressing mental health issues (NETWORK, Justice Project, 58). The Research Project and Regroupement des centres d'amitié also stress the importance of preventing discrimination of Aboriginal people and understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations by spreading awareness about their history and the issues they face (NETWORK, Justice Project, 58; Regroupement, Brief on Homelessness, 12).

In terms of **justice**, the Project recommends creating a common vision of justice for the Aboriginal community in Montreal. One way to do so could be by examining alternatives that exist outside the traditional vision of justice and by taking a more holistic, flexible and long-term approach (NETWORK, Justice Project, 58). This could include establishing an Aboriginal multi-purpose and/or cultural centre that provides integrated services for the Aboriginal community, including treatment and counselling services for those offenders and ex-offenders, parenting programs and various prevention initiatives (NETWORK, Justice Project, 58).

There is also a need to improve communication between the police and the Aboriginal community and include the former population in the courts and transitional and reintegration processes (NETWORK, Justice Project, 58). This could be achieved by establishing a Montreal Aboriginal Justice Program that assists Aboriginal people who have been in contact with the law and a Justice Commission within the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador ((NETWORK, Justice Project, 59).

In terms of **services**, the NETWORK recommends ensuring that more action is taken to address issues such as language barriers, mental health issues, anger management, and substance abuse and addiction (NETWORK, Justice Project, 59).

There should also be more culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal people, such as healing circles, Elders, ceremonies and traditional mental health and substance abuse treatment (NETWORK, Justice Project, 59). The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec report *Évaluation des besoins des Autochtones* also notes that there should be medical centres with Aboriginal employees, as well as counselling services that deal with Aboriginal-specific issues and specific needs, available often only in French (Regroupement, Évaluation, 26).

The Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec report *Évaluation des besoins des Autochtones* also identifies a lack of services, such as a community centre for Aboriginal people and a centre that centralizes information on services offered to the community (Regroupement, Évaluation, 26).

In terms of **prevention**, the Project recommends working with the communities of origin to inform Aboriginal people coming to Montreal about challenges they could face and the services that are offered to them (NETWORK, Justice Project, 59). More collaboration should be had with organizations in Nunavik, Nunavut, Labrador, etc. to ensure greater dialogue with the communities.

The NETWORK also recommends providing more training to police officers and those working in the legal system to better understand issues facing Aboriginal people in an urban setting.

In addition, more prevention programs should be available to Aboriginal in Montreal, such as helping families to prevent youth crime, helping youth at risk through counselling, capacity building projects (language, employability, education), and culturally appropriate teaching on responsibility, including the consequences of substance abuse and breaking the law (NETWORK, Justice Project, 60; Regroupement, Brief on Homelessness, 11-12).

### **c) The homeless Aboriginal population**

Recommendations concerning the Aboriginal population include informing Aboriginal people in Cabot Square about urban customs, warning Aboriginal people about the risks and dangers associated with the area, and using the building in Cabot Square as an information kiosk (ÉMU, Synthèse, 9).

### **d) Homeless Inuit**

Researchers and community organizations believe that in order to help homeless Inuit, action must be taken both in Montreal and in the North.

#### **Montreal**

Kigishami recommends setting up an Inuit Centre like Ottawa's Tungasuvvingat Inuit in order to provide cultural activities and a sense of community (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 3). He also sees the importance of having a monthly traditional Inuit feast, held by Makivik or AMI (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2).

The Makivik Corporation stresses the need of offering ongoing integration strategies to Inuit in Montreal (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 5). Kigishami believes it would be very useful to offer job and French language training, as these would help Inuit adjust to urban life (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2-3; Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 5).

Kigishami and Makivik Corporation recommend having Inuit specific medical services to deal with specific problems, such as liver disease, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and mental problems (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2-3; Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 5). Kigishami also thinks that more counselling should be offered to the homeless population to deal with issues of mental health and alcohol or drug abuse, as well as wet shelters (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 2-3).

#### **The Arctic**

Kigishami stresses that the socioeconomic problems faced by Inuit in Montreal are very closely related with those in The North, such as a rapidly increasing population, job shortages, domestic and sexual violence, and substance abuse (Kigishami, Homeless Inuit, 11).

Kigishami believes that more steps must to be taken to deal with social problems in The North, including job and housing conditions (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 3). The community should be more proactive toward raising and caring for Inuit children and youth (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 3). Counselling clinics should also be made available (Kigishami, Living Conditions, 3).

Donat Savoie of the Makivik Corporation strongly recommends that housing in Nunavik be addressed, as with over 1000 houses needed, it is the place where the most severe housing crisis in the country is found (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 5). Some steps have been taken to address the problem, including a 2005 Agreement signed by Quebec, the Makivik Corporation and the Government of Canada for the construction of 275 houses over 5 years; the promise of 50 additional houses by the Government of Quebec in 2007; the 2010 Quebec-Canada- Makivik Agreement to build 350 more houses; and Quebec's promise to build more social housing as part of its Plan Nord (Makivik Corporation, Inuit Homelessness, 5).

### **e) The homeless population (as a whole)**

The EMU also recommended that more be done to take care of the homeless population. Suggestions included establishing a detox centre, creating accommodation for mentally ill people and for those who cannot afford an apartment, and offering more services, such as providing more financing for Open Door (ÉMU, Synthèse, 15).

FRAPRU and RAPSIM -also recommend creating more social housing, community support and rooming houses (FRAPRU & RAPSIM, Le droit au logement, 7).

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