

MONTRÉAL CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Montréal commits itself to ensuring the application of the *Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities*. With the support of Montrealers, it intends to build greater respect for the rights included in the Charter, and to promote the exercise of responsibilities outlined there under.

CORNERSTONES OF THE CHARTER

The *Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* is a fundamental document for the citizens of the metropolis.

The *Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* highlights values serving to unite and mobilize citizens, and defines their rights within the city. The Charter represents the concrete commitment of Montréal and its entire personnel to the ongoing improvement of public services. In return, Montréal citizens recognize their responsibilities in terms of respecting those rights and the civic values on which they rest.

Citizens enjoy the basic rights and freedoms under the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), the *Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* (1975) and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (1982).

VALUES

The city is both a territory and a living space in which values of human dignity and integrity, tolerance, peace, inclusion, equality, respect, justice and equity must be promoted among all citizens. These values are essential for the harmonious development of Montréal and for the enrichment of its position as a democratic, united and inclusive city.

RIGHTS

The rights included in the Charter touch on all of the main areas of municipal administration: democracy, economic and social life, cultural life, recreation, physical activities and sports, environment and sustainable development, security, and quality municipal services.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Citizens participate with the Montréal administration in a joint effort to ensure the continued enjoyment of their rights.

Citizens are also responsible for not interfering with others full enjoyment of their rights.

IMPLEMENTATION

The *Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* is an original instrument that has been provided to citizens as a source of inspiration in their daily lives, and which they may also invoke to the ombudsman if they feel that they have been wronged. This Charter is not intended to serve as the basis for a legal proceeding or to be invoked in a judicial or quasi-judicial form, but rather to open the way to mediation, before the ombudsman, for valid complaints.

The *Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* is the first of its kind in North America. Drawn up by the Task Force on Democracy, in consultation with Montréal citizens, and proposed to city council by Mayor Gérald Tremblay, it was unanimously adopted on June 20, 2005, and came into force on January 1, 2006.