

SUMMARY

DRAFT HERITAGE POLICY - SUMMARY





SOMMET DE
MONTRÉAL

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This draft Heritage Policy is in response to a commitment made at the Montréal Summit



GENERAL DEFINITION OF HERITAGE

*Heritage means any asset or group of assets, natural or cultural, tangible or intangible, that a community recognizes for its value as witness to history and memory, while emphasizing the need to safeguard and protect it, make it their own, develop it and disseminate it. **

If Montréal can today lay claim to being a distinctive metropolis in North America, a focal point of the *francophonie* and an important cultural, economic, scientific and intellectual centre on both the continental and world stages, this is mainly due to its identity—solidly rooted in its history yet resolutely turned toward the future.

Montréal is one of the rare North American cities whose culture and development are indebted to contributions from First Nations, from the French and the British, as well as from numerous groups of immigrants. The historic depth found on the territory makes the quality and significance of its heritage even more tangible and gives Montréal its particular texture.

The confidence Montréal draws from its identity, far from frozen in nostalgia for times gone by, enables it to present itself as an innovative city, open to the world, and offering an enviable quality of life. From this perspective, the conservation and enhancement of its heritage should be part of its evolution and should participate in the vitality of the metropolis: heritage provides an equilibrium to the effervescence of the contemporary world by providing durable landmarks; it keeps alive the memory of those who created today's society, thus helping orient its future destination.

Montréal can thus build on its distinctive urban nature against a contemporary backdrop of competition between major cities, where heritage—a reflection of the history of a city in constant change—inspires contemporary production and becomes a cultural, social and economic lever of development.

In Montréal, as elsewhere in the world, the concept of heritage goes far beyond historic monuments to encompass a large part of the living environment and ways of life. Understanding and integrating so vast and diversified a heritage into a city in evolution calls for an overall vision. This is even more important since the multiple aspects of this fragile and non-renewable resource concern all Montrealers.

The conservation and enhancement of heritage, including its promotion, are thus part of a collective vision, a shared responsibility. Through the development of a Heritage Policy, the Ville de Montréal intends to exercise exemplary leadership to encourage the development of this vision and to ensure its transformation into a collective project that speaks to all Montrealers.

* Groupe-conseil pour une politique du patrimoine, 2004. The translation appears in the English summary version of the *Énoncé d'orientation pour une politique du patrimoine*, Directional Statement, The Ville de Montréal Heritage Policy, p.2. (The *Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal's* definition)



THRUSTS OF ACTION PROPOSED BY THE *POLICY*

The City intends to affirm its leadership through the *Policy* in order to encourage the development of a collective vision and a shared responsibility for Montréal's heritage. From this perspective, the *Policy* envisages that municipal action will be undertaken in three major areas:

- in establishing a **system of organization for action on heritage**;
- in bringing the organization to life by exercising its roles of **owner** and **manager**, where it should serve as a model example.

The **establishment of a system of organization for action on heritage** aims to structure municipal action and encourage all Montrealers to share responsibility for heritage. The interventions needed to conserve and enhance heritage go well beyond municipal jurisdiction. Other than managing its own properties, the City's action generally accompanies that of its partners (citizens, governments, institutions, the community associations, etc.), whose initiatives it supports, oversees and stimulates. To ensure the coherence and complementarity of action taken by the City and its partners, the *Policy* proposes, specifically, that the City:

- adopt a proactive attitude in order to invite its partners to take the responsibilities incumbent on them and stimulate ideas for creative solutions to complex and sometimes divergent issues;
- give support to the heritage community and the setting up of a network of heritage actors.

Action by the **City-as-owner** is reflected in a variety of functions representative of the diversity of the heritage it owns: buildings, parks and natural spaces, as well as artistic and archeological heritage, collections and archives. It therefore involves a body of properties that it acquires, cedes, loans or rents; that it maintains, improves or restores; that it manages, makes accessible and known. As an exemplary owner, the City first intends to develop an overall view and to coordinate its actions, as well as increase its knowledge of its heritage and enlist the support of partners. To encourage direct conservation interventions and the enhancement of municipal heritage managed by corporate and borough departments, the *Policy* also specifically proposes that the City:

- create a fund in the municipal budget dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of municipal property of heritage interest.

Action by the **City-as-manager** principally concerns heritage property, whether built, landscaped, natural, archeological or artistic, as well as movable heritage, intangible heritage and commemoration. As a manager, it must develop a management framework that is just and fair, that reconciles the needs of the present without squandering the legacy of the past or compromising the future; it is also called upon to support initiatives from various heritage horizons. As an exemplary manager, the City first intends to develop an overall view and to coordinate its actions, as well as consolidate its know-how, refine its knowledge and its mechanisms for recognizing and managing heritage property, ensuring the optimal use of resources assigned to support heritage conservation and enhancement. To encourage the development of a responsible attitude and have Montrealers adopt heritage, the *Policy* also specifically proposes:

- to simplify the processes for obtaining authorizations;
- to improve information and support to citizens;
- to develop new forms of incentive measures to complement traditional grant programs.

SUMMARY TABLE OF ISSUES AND ORIENTATIONS

5.1 SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATION FOR ACTION ON HERITAGE

Based predominantly on partnership, the proposed system lays the foundations for organizing concerted action by the City and its partners aimed at:

- a clear sharing of responsibilities;
- increasing the knowledge of Montréal's heritage, setting up methods that encourage sharing and promotion, and organizing a 'heritage watch';
- continuing research and expertise-sharing through collaboration with the university community, with professional associations and national and international organizations dedicated to heritage conservation and enhancement;
- identifying conservation and enhancement strategies as part of an overall vision, and identifying appropriate action depending on the nature of the objectives and the issues in question, which can be as diverse as recognition, bylaws, or maintenance;
- identifying modes of action that encourage multidisciplinary and the integration of the multiple aspects of heritage;
- increasing and coordinating awareness-raising and outreach activities that make Montréal's heritage accessible; publicize action taken to conserve and enhance heritage and encourage its appropriation; build on its renown, both locally and internationally.

5.1.1 PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATION FOR ACTION ON HERITAGE

Citizens

- Recognize citizens as key actors in conserving Montréal's heritage
- Offer citizens a positive experience of Montréal's heritage by informing them, making them aware, and by supporting and recognizing their interventions

The City

- Orchestrate action by partners involved in the implementation of the system of organization for action on heritage
- Consolidate and promote municipal expertise
- Emphasize awareness at all levels of the City
- Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and information between the different municipal departments
- Continue the support the *Conseil des arts de Montréal* gives to Montréal's museums
- Take advantage of the complementarity between the role of paramunicipal agencies and that of municipal departments to multiply and accelerate opportunities for heritage enhancement

Consultative bodies

- Support the work of the *Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal*
- Ensure the complementarity of the roles of the various consultative bodies in the City's decision-making process
- When opportune, capitalize on the expertise of the other existing consultative committees

Major partners

- Develop relationships aimed at ensuring greater coherence and complementarity in interventions by the various government partners
- Establish partnerships with religious authorities, universities, educational institutions and school boards, artisans, professional associations and orders, the voluntary sector, the archive community, museums and outreach facilities, the business community, the construction, tourism and cultural industries, and media, in terms of research, awareness-raising and promotion of any action that encourages the conservation and enhancement of Montreal's heritage
- Invite partners who are major owners to plan their developments in collaboration with the City

5.2 LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL – EXEMPLARY OWNER

The City must take the necessary steps to become an exemplary owner

- Increase knowledge of municipal heritage
- Enlist the help of partners in enhancing municipal heritage
- Reserve a preferential place for heritage in the municipal budget

5.2.1 BUILT, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPED HERITAGE

The conservation and enhancement of municipal property of heritage interest

- Encourage the emergence of proposals for the occupation, conservation and enhancement of vacant heritage buildings
- Integrate heritage aspects into the real estate transaction projects of the City and its paramunicipal agencies
- Preserve and enhance public works

Conservation and enhancement of archeological resources on municipal properties

- Improve the management framework for archeological resources on municipal properties

Conservation and enhancement of Montréal's landscaped heritage

- Assure the permanence of landscaped sites and settings of heritage value

Integration of heritage aspects in the public domain

- Preserve the street layout
- Ensure that interventions on the public domain respect heritage
- Take into account the natural and landscaped aspects

5.2.2 NATURAL HERITAGE

Conservation and enhancement of Montréal's natural heritage

- Ensure the permanence of natural settings

5.2.3 ARTISTIC HERITAGE

Preservation of the quality of the corpus of works of art

- Be exemplary in the management of the corpus of public art

5.2.4 MOVABLE HERITAGE

Overall view of municipal activities related to movable heritage

- Develop municipal action related to museology to encourage the constitution, conservation and presentation of collections
- Ensure an overall view of movable heritage
- Ensure the coherent management of movable heritage and collections, by establishing a global municipal strategy and orientations specific to each collection and to movable heritage not included in a collection

5.3 LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL – EXEMPLARY MANAGER

The City must take the necessary steps to become an exemplary manager

- Increase knowledge of Montréal's heritage
- Develop partnerships that support the City in its role as manager

5.3.1 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Development of an overall view of the recognition and management of heritage

- Ensure concordance between regulatory control measures and the evolution of the concept of heritage
- Aim for the coherence of the corpus of properties and territories protected by the municipal section of the *Cultural Property Act*
- Encourage the involvement and agreement of Montrealers and owners concerned when attributing heritage protection status
- Build on the renown of Montréal's heritage internationally

Optimal management of heritage sectors and buildings

- Adopt appropriate bylaws and exercise tight control over interventions in heritage settings
- Aim for a more coherent management of properties already protected under the municipal section of the *Cultural Property Act*
- Simplify the management of properties and territories protected under the municipal section of the *Cultural Property Act*
- Aim at integrating building codes as a positive element in the conservation of architectural heritage

<p>Updating of the Cultural Property Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop the municipal section of the <i>Cultural Property Act</i> in order to protect a greater diversity of heritage properties
<p>The most judicious subsidy programs possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure the optimal use of resources in heritage conservation, enhancement and promotion programs ○ Integrate the heritage aspect into subsidy programs not specifically aimed at heritage
<p>Incentive measures that contribute to heritage conservation and enhancement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Put in place effective incentive measures aimed at heritage conservation and enhancement
<p>5.3.2 BUILT, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPED HERITAGE</p>	
<p>Continuation of the enhancement and recognition of local heritage, respecting local characteristics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refine tools aimed at improving management and increasing public awareness in relation to local heritage
<p>Conservation and enhancement of religious heritage as a priority issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish an overall view of the control of projects that target buildings originally designed as places of worship ○ Maintain the characteristics of convent properties of heritage interest ○ Maintain the landscape characteristics of cemeteries of heritage interest ○ Ensure the conservation of Montréal's wayside crosses and votive chapels
<p>Conservation and enhancement of institutional properties of heritage interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop conservation and enhancement approaches that take into account the complexity of the institutional heritage
<p>Preservation of the memory of Montréal's industrial past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make enlightened choices in the development of industrial sites by acquiring the appropriate management tools
<p>Conservation and enhancement of archeological heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce new measures to protect archeological heritage on the basis of shared objectives ○ Develop awareness and promotion operations for archeological heritage ○ Develop and share archeological heritage knowledge and expertise
<p>Conservation of Montréal's landscaped heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure the permanence of landscaped sites and settings of heritage interest ○ Establish conservation and enhancement mechanisms for trees and exceptional stands of trees

Enhancement of heritage through urban structuring projects

- Position heritage in the development of urban projects, recognizing its links to the urban fabric in which it fits

5.3.3 NATURAL HERITAGE

Conservation of Montréal's natural heritage

- Ensure the permanence of natural settings of heritage interest

5.3.4 ARTISTIC HERITAGE

Conservation of the corpus of works of art on the private domain

- Protect the corpus of works of art on the private domain

5.3.5 COMMEMORATION

Coherence and clarity of commemorative gestures

- Develop a commemoration and toponymy strategy
- Ensure the integration of commemoration into the City's different forms of intervention
- Develop measures to have Montréal's commemorative heritage adopted by the population

5.3.6 INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Intangible cultural heritage, identifier points of reference for Montrealers

- Develop knowledge of, and establish criteria to delineate the City's sphere of action on intangible cultural heritage
- Recognize and promote intangible cultural heritage
- Ensure the conservation and presentation of intangible cultural heritage

5.3.7 RAISING AWARENESS

Supporting organizations that are dedicated to raising awareness of, and promoting heritage so as to encourage people to adopt it, as well as optimize management practices

- Support local initiative and make them better known
- Support the associative community
- Support and work in concert with Montréal museums
- Support the development of the Réseau patrimoine Montréal

5.3.8 TERRITORIES WITH HIGH HERITAGE VALUE

Implementation of the concept of waterside roadway

- Conserve and enhance the waterside roadway
- Conserve and enhance the Lachine rapids sector

<p><i>Continuation of the enhancement of Old Montréal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure the enhancement of Old Montréal ○ Continue to connect the historic district to surrounding neighbourhoods ○ Encourage the harmonious development of tourism and the living environment of Old Montréal
<p><i>Coherence and effectiveness of protective measures for Mount Royal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Put in place concerted measures for the conservation and enhancement of Mount Royal
<p><i>Protection of the heritage character of the Lachine Canal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Put in place concerted measures for the development of the Lachine Canal, ensuring the conservation and enhancement of its heritage ○ Ensure the prudent and enlightened short-term management of permits
<p><i>Conservation and enhancement of the heritage value of the Havre de Montréal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Take the necessary steps to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the heritage character of the Havre de Montréal
<p><i>Recognition of the heritage value of the Notre-Dame and Sainte-Hélène islands</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Take the necessary steps, in collaboration with the <i>Société du Parc des Îles</i>, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the two islands

The full version of the draft *Heritage Policy* is available on the Internet site of the *Office de consultation publique de Montréal* (www.ocpm.qc.ca), as well as in Ville de Montréal borough offices, libraries and Accès Montréal offices.

