



April 26, 2011.

**Proposal presented by the
Justice sub-Committee of the Social Services Working Committee,
Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network¹**

- I. The recent decision of the revitalization of the Western Downtown Montreal sector (Quartier des Grands Jardins) may have severe implications on the Aboriginal population in the Cabot Square area and surrounding area. The result will likely be continued displacement of Aboriginal peoples, which will result in the perpetuation of safety issues, including an increase in the number of arrests. (Refer to section V for research on the negative effects of city revitalization towards marginalized populations, and how to minimize the social impact)
- II. The Justice sub-Committee is presenting a proposal to mitigate and prevent those implications in order to enhance community safety, foster social cohesion and ensure a successful renewal process for all residents.
- III. Given the wealth of experience in the committee and network, and its links with other associations, organizations, government and city officials, this multi-faceted proposal will ensure improved security and safety in the area without displacing the Aboriginal population. The following associations are well established partners who would be willing to work in collaboration on the realization of this proposal:
 - a. Ville de Montreal
 - b. International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC)
 - c. Poste de Quartier 12 - Westmount Police Station
 - d. Chez Doris
 - e. First Nations Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
 - f. Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada (INAC)
 - g. Makavik

¹ <http://www.reseaumtlnetwork.com/Home.html>

IV. The Justice sub-Committee proposes some concrete solutions:

- a. The Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network is currently conducting a needs assessment with the Aboriginal population in Montreal to obtain preliminary data on the issues in relation to Cabot Square, and how to best enhance safety without displacing the Aboriginal population. The results will be made available after May 3. A second meeting can be scheduled then. (Needs Assessment in French and English is provided in the package)
- b. A culturally-relevant social intervention program that includes 2 Aboriginal outreach workers. The outreach workers will work in Cabot Square and the surrounding area to offer multi-spectrum services, providing essential support, information and access to resources. They will offer: one-to-one support, crisis resolution and counselling, assistance with securing affordable and safe housing, and assistance finding and maintaining employment. The outreach workers will have a close relation with the community organizations and the police, which will reduce the need for police services in the area.
- c. The program will include a service based on a model implemented by the YMCA: First-Stop program. A representative with a booth located in the area would provide general information to Aboriginal people: available resources and services, and how to access such resources and services - crisis supports and counselling, affordable and safe housing, food banks, shelters and employment.

Partners in this process would include: YMCA (Centre-Ville)

- d. Cabot Square should provide opportunities for positive contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens. Therefore, as part of the renewal process of Cabot Square, it is suggested that the square includes artwork and cultural elements of the Aboriginal population, and a festival with dancers, drummers and throat singers to mark the re-opening of the square.

Partners in this process would include: Avatak Inuit cultural centre, Festival of First Peoples, the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network Arts and Culture Committee, TANDEM and the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

V. Research promotes minimizing the social impact during city renewal processes:

Existing literature shows the detrimental impacts of displacement of marginalized populations in the process of city revitalization in terms of increased security issues and declining well-being of these populations.

It has been shown in Canada and internationally that culturally appropriate outreach work is one of the most effective methods for enhancing community safety and well-being of marginalized and victimized populations. Research (United Nations, LSE Urban Age Project, GIZ²) reveals that providing services (as opposed to displacing³) to marginalized and victimized populations prevents violence and crime, is cost-effective⁴ and reduces costs to police and security services and incarceration and overall expenses to the public tax system. Aboriginal peoples in Montreal are a marginalized group that continuously been displacing, resulting in a perpetuation of the issues. Therefore, the Special Planning Program can play a significant role in preventing further problems by taking into consideration the implications on the Aboriginal population in the area. The proposal offers concrete and straightforward solutions, with an excellent group of partners willing to begin the process of co-existence and creating a safer environment for all residents. (Please refer to Appendix II for a bibliography of studies and reports. More information can be provided by the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime)

VI. Budget:

The Justice sub-Committee and its partners are requesting funding for 2 outreach workers for a 3 - year period (pilot study). The Justice sub-Committee can offer specific expenses related to the implementation of artwork and cultural elements in Cabot Square, the festival and First-Stop program on request. (Please refer to the Appendix I for the Budget for the outreach workers)

VII. The Justice Committee invites the Special Planning Program (SPP) of the “Quartier des grands jardins” to a second formal meeting with its partners to discuss the next steps.

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² Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

³ <http://aesop2005.scix.net/data/papers/att/167.fullTextPrint.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/A/4/F/%7BA4FA76DE-535E-48C1-9E60-4CF3F878FD8D%7Dtp042.pdf>

Appendix I

Budget – Justice sub-Committee – Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Network			
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Personnel			
Outreach worker	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Outreach worker	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Personnel total	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Funds requested			300,000.00

Appendix II**Bibliography**

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