



MANDATE

entrusted to the Task Force on Democracy

Map out a proposed Montréal Charter stating the rights and responsibilities of citizens, inspired by the *European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City*.

IN BRIEF

A consensus that emerged from
the Montréal Summit

A project of the
Task Force on Democracy

A proposal by the
City of Montréal...

IN BRIEF (cont'd)

A draft document submitted
for public consultation

A Charter enacted
by City Council

TASK FORCE ON DEMOCRACY

Working group that developed the Charter

- Mr. Dimitri Roussopoulos, Head, Montréal Summit Democracy Delegation and President, Urban Ecology Centre of Montréal/SODECM
- Mr. Dinu Bumbaru, Director of Programs, Heritage Montréal
- Ms. Marie Leahey, Coordinator, Women and Regional Development Committee, CRDÎM
- Ms. Niki Messas, Vice-President, Youth Forum, CRDÎM
- Mr. Fo Niemi, Director, Centre for Research Action on Race Relations

Working group that developed the Charter (cont'd)

- Mr. Yves Poirier, General Manager, CLSC-CHSLD La Petite-Patrie
- Ms. Anne Usher, President, NDG Community Council

Other Task Force members:

- Me. Louis Beauregard, President, Urbastratégies
- Mr. Delfino Campanile, Coordinator, Regroupement en aménagement de Parc-Extension
- Mr. Jean Hubert, consultant in public consultation and participation
- Ms. Suzanne Lalonde, Campaign Manager, Development Fund, École de technologie supérieure

INGREDIENTS

INSPIRED BY:	<i>European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City</i>
DEVELOPED BY:	15 citizens, leaders in their sectors
WITH INPUT FROM:	Legal experts in human rights
TOGETHER WITH:	Citizens, lawyers, civil servants, elected officials: August-November 2003
CONSULTATION MANDATE:	Awarded by the Executive Committee to the Office of Public Consultation
YOUR ROLE:	To take part in public hearings

THE EXPERTS' OPINION

- Cities have a role to play in the recognition of rights
- A Montréal Charter would not overlap with the Canadian and Québec charters
- An innovative concept: few large cities have a charter
- The City can ask the Ombudsman to enforce it

FRAMEWORK

Preamble and Section 1:

Foundations, values and principles, responsibilities

Section 2:

Areas of application:

Democratic, economic, social and cultural life, physical security, environment and sustainable development, municipal services

Sections 3 and 4:

Scope

Role of the Ombudsman

Public evaluation within 4 years

SCOPE

The City's competencies

- ◆ Democratic life
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Roads and traffic
- ◆ Nuisances (noise, odours, etc.)
- ◆ Physical security
- ◆ Quality of services

SCOPE *(cont'd)*

Competencies shared with governments

- ◆ **Housing:**

Programs: Québec/Canada/Montréal

- ◆ **Culture:**

Joint investments

- ◆ **Public transit:**

Investments in equipment

KEY MESSAGE OF THE CHARTER

We are all responsible for our shared life
in this city, and the quality of that life

The Montréal community
has shared values, with which it
nurtures quality of life every day

SHARED VALUES

- Believing in peace
- Including the least fortunate
- Promoting diversity
- Demanding democracy
- Preserving heritage
- Promoting sustainable development
- Placing special emphasis on culture and creativity

Main purpose of the Charter: serve as a reference for all in their day-to-day choices

A reference to help us act
in accordance with our values
in our relations with others and
with the City

"This fruit of the Summit bears the seed of more equitable, harmonious, responsible and productive relations for citizens, both amongst themselves and vis-à-vis their municipal administration."

*Gérald Tremblay
Mayor of Montréal
December 10, 2003*

IN BRIEF

The Charter would be:

- An official document enacted by City Council, setting forth the rights and responsibilities of citizens as a guide to their relations and as a means of helping them develop the quality of Montréal life for the good of all.

SECONDARY MESSAGE OF THE CHARTER

The Office of the Ombudsman

A practical tool
made available to
citizens to oversee
enforcement of the Charter

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Ombudsman:

1. Receives the complaint
2. Listens to the citizen and civil servant involved
3. Mediates if necessary
4. Writes a report containing the outcomes of mediation (success) or a recommendation (success and failure)

IN BRIEF

The Charter would be:

- A practical tool, free of charge: recourse to the Ombudsman when needed to re-establish productive relations between a citizen or group of citizens and the municipal administration

Why hold public hearings?

The Charter is a well-thought-out proposal, but it is not the final document...

...we still have to:

- find out what you think of it; and
 - engage in dialogue with you.

*PUBLIC HEARINGS:
BECAUSE WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION*

For example:

- The values enshrined in the Charter:
Do you recognize yourselves in them?
- The rights and responsibilities:
What do you think of the Charter's
statement of rights? What about its
statement of responsibilities?

*PUBLIC HEARINGS:
BECAUSE WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION
(cont'd)*

For example:

- The general thrust of the Charter:
A tool for making relations between citizens,
elected officials and civil servants more
productive?
- Implementation: What will the conditions for
success be? What implementation methods
should be used?

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE...

- Consultation, part 2: Make your opinion known on April 5, 7 or 13
- Commissioners' report submitted to the Executive Committee by the Office of Public Consultation in early May
- Report made public 10 days later
- Administration analyzes the report
- City Council enacts the Charter
- Administration implements the action plan

Democratic Life

Art 12

Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens participate in city affairs as they see fit, inform themselves, take part in the decisions that concern them and express informed opinions to influence these decisions.

Art 13

Commitments

To favor the participation of citizens in municipal affairs, the city is committed to:

- a) promoting public participation and providing citizens with all background material in clear language, and at a reasonable cost;*

Democratic Life (cont'd)

- b) ensuring that public consultations are credible, transparent and effective by adopting and maintaining the proper procedures;*
- c) providing access to financial statements, budget and three-year capital expenditure programs, also in summary form, before public consultations are held prior to their adoption;*
- d) promoting civic values;*
- e) regulating the right of citizens to initiate municipal measures, notably in regard to bylaws of general interest;*

Democratic Life (cont'd)

- f) providing citizens who wish to meet to discuss city business with proper access to city premises in a reasonable manner and in accordance with by-laws;*
- g) fighting discrimination, xenophobia, racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty and social exclusion, all of which undermine the foundations of a democratic society;*
- h) planning the renewal of city personnel by recruitment that reflects the diversity of the population of Montréal.*

Economic and Social Life

Art. 14 Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have economic and social rights, and take part, along with the municipal administration, in a collective effort to ensure the continued enjoyment of these rights.

Art. 15 Commitments

To promote the enjoyment of economic and social rights by its citizens, the city commits itself to:

- a) taking adequate measures to ensure that housing meets public health and safety standards, guaranteeing that there will be no abusive evictions by the city, and recognizing that citizens are responsible for maintaining their homes in good condition;

Economic and Social Life *(cont'd)*

- b) guaranteeing temporary, immediate and safe shelter to homeless people to the extent that they express the need;
- c) in the implementation of rights related to housing and shelter, considering the specific needs of vulnerable groups, notably families, the elderly, and those with physical or mental disabilities;
- d) with the support of its governmental partners, maintaining measures to provide vulnerable groups with access to suitable and affordable housing;

Economic and Social Life *(cont'd)*

- e) guaranteeing citizens access to quality drinking water in sufficient quantity;
- f) guaranteeing that no one will be deprived of drinking water for economic reasons;
- g) promoting public transit;
- h) ensuring the safety of its citizens when using their parks and community facilities.

Cultural Life

Art. 16 Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have cultural rights and take part, along with the municipal administration, in a collective effort to ensure the enjoyment of these rights.

Art.17 Commitments

To favor the enjoyment of cultural rights by its citizens, the city is committed:

- a) safeguarding and protecting the cultural, historical, scientific, architectural and natural heritage of the city, as well as promoting the distribution of relevant information;

Cultural Life *(cont'd)*

- b) ensuring geographic and economic accessibility to culture by providing premises that promote and present art and culture, on a regular basis;
- c) promoting the development and multiplicity of cultural events on its territory;
- d) promoting the library network as a place of learning and consultation, as well as depositories of documents of public interest.

Environment and Sustainable Development

Art 18 Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have environmental rights and are actively involved, along with the municipal administration, in ensuring the continued enjoyment of these rights.

Art 19 Commitments

To provide enjoyment of environmental rights by its citizens, the city is committed to:

- a) promoting sustainable development by harmonizing the preservation of the environment with economic, cultural and social development;

Environment and Sustainable Development *(cont'd)*

- b) bringing about a constant improvement in the quality of city air, waterways and soil;
- c) limiting excessive noise and traffic nuisances, controlling those produced by garbage disposal operations and promoting proper civic behaviour;
- d) limiting disruptions or obstacles depriving citizens of safe pedestrian access to their homes.

Physical Security

Art. 20 Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have a right to physical security and lend support to the municipal administration, in countering violence, incivility and hate crimes to ensure the continued enjoyment of this right.

Art. 21 Commitment

To favor the enjoyment of its citizens to physical security, the city commits itself, in all its interventions, to diligently ensuring the physical security of citizens.

Quality Municipal Services

Art. 22 Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have the right to quality municipal services and take part, along with the municipal administration, in a collective effort to ensure the continued enjoyment of this right.

Art. 23 Commitments

To promote the enjoyment of the right to quality municipal services for its citizens, the city commits itself to:

- a) offering competent, respectful and non-discriminatory municipal services;

Quality Municipal Services *(cont'd)*

- b) favoring an equitable supply and distribution of municipal services;

- c) promoting reasonable measures to accommodate citizens with special needs.