

RESO INFO

December 2007

New RESO president Gilles Paquette succeeds Pierre Sylvestre

On November 21, the RESO Board of Directors announced the election of Gilles Paquette as RESO president following the departure of Pierre Sylvestre, RESO president since September 1998.

A Sud-Ouest native, Paquette is a union advisor at the Island of Montreal regional council of the FTQ. He has been a member of the board of directors as an FTQ representative, and a RESO vice president since September 2002. He said he was very happy to take over the reins and assume his new responsibilities as president of the organization. “In RESO, the Sud-Ouest community has an essential tool for steering its development in a sustainable, responsible and equitable way,” said Paquette. “The Sud-Ouest has been booming for several years now. We are going to continue working with partners in the community to ensure the population gets a fair share of the benefits arising from projects now underway in our community.” Paquette assumed his new responsibilities October 16, and has the support of a new executive consisting of Vice-President Édith Cyr, Treasurer André Raymond, Secretary Vicente Perez, and Director General Pierre Morrissette.

A member of the board of directors for 14 years, 10 of them as president, Sylvestre is leaving with the feeling that his work has been accomplished. Yet the departing president—for years at the centre of all the battles, challenges and accomplishments that have marked RESO’s and the Sud-Ouest’s history—is not leaving without some tugging at the heartstrings. “I am very proud to have taken part and collaborated in the work accomplished by RESO throughout this period; it has been thrilling and it has been demanding,” he said. “I am convinced that Gilles Paquette and RESO’s new board of directors will be able to take on the challenge of the Sud-Ouest’s renewal with the same passion and the same concern for innovating and developing in the best interests of the entire community.”

For RESO director general Pierre Morrissette, Paquette’s election as president is excellent news. “Gilles Paquette is an ardent promoter of local development. On several occasions, we have been able to count on his support in obtaining the FTQ’s collaboration on strategic issues in the Sud-Ouest’s development.”

Morrissette wished to express his gratitude and admiration for the remarkable contribution Pierre Sylvestre made as RESO president. “He succeeded in communicating a message that was

unifying, inspiring and motivating to anyone who recognized the importance of working together to advance the Sud-Ouest. He was such a leader that he knew how to reconcile the points of view, expectations and interests of socioeconomic stakeholders from different walks of life; he established consensus, and without it, no concerted action would have been possible. On behalf of the members, our partners and the RESO Board of Directors, and on my own behalf, I extend heartfelt thanks,” he concluded.

At the RESO general assembly last September, new administrators were elected by their respective nominating councils. Madeleine Poulin, journalist and Sud-Ouest resident, was elected to represent the cultural sector, Renaud Beaulieu to represent participants in RESO activities, and Pascal Guimond to represent retailers and self-employed workers.

Photo caption:

New RESO President Gilles Paquette is enthusiastic about taking over the reins and assuming his new responsibilities. He said that RESO will continue to work with local partners to ensure the population gets a fair share of the benefits arising from new projects underway in our community.

Du boulot dans Cabot **A project for residents and industries**

RESO, in collaboration with the Comité Vie de quartier and the Table de concertation Saint-Paul-Émard, has launched an innovative project that will match the needs of employers with those of the unemployed. The objective of the *Du boulot dans Cabot* project is twofold: helping businesses in the Cabot sector

resolve their difficulties recruiting workers, and helping unemployed residents of the Galt sector find jobs.

The project is the outcome of observations made by the RESO employability team. “Over the past few years, economic conditions have changed. Because of economic growth, the unemployment rate has dropped, which has led to a labour shortage in several industries,” explained Guy Biron, RESO Director of Employability Services. “We anticipate that from here to 2010, nearly 700,000 jobs will have to be filled or created in Quebec. We’re going to be short of workers. On the one hand, companies—particularly small and medium-sized businesses that don’t have much time for human resources management—are having a hard time meeting their labour needs. And on the other hand, for many people, there are obstacles preventing them from upgrading their skills, which blocks their access to available jobs. Our project is aimed at giving residents access to these positions, and meeting the needs of companies that are having difficulties recruiting personnel.”

Last year, RESO surveyed 60 companies in the Cabot sector. Results showed that 48 percent of employers planned to hire personnel, and 62 percent of them were having recruitment difficulties. Ten of the companies surveyed expressed interest in being a partner in a project facilitating workforce recruitment. Altogether, the companies surveyed represented a pool of 1891 jobs, including 1444 that are full time.

“After this survey, we began to investigate the workforce needs of companies in the Cabot sector. After two weeks, we had identified 80 jobs that needed to be

filled—half of which could be called hidden (not advertised in the newspapers),” said the director. “All of these jobs were integrated into a promotional tool that was presented to Galt sector residents. Thirty people attended our two sessions. Our goal is to reach 30 more residents at the next meeting in January. After we’ve identified residents’ interests and profiles, we hope that about 15 of them will be able to fill the jobs the Cabot sector companies are offering. As for the companies involved, we hope that this project can help them identify their workforce needs.”

If you live in the Galt sector and are currently out of work, an information session will be held in January. For more information, call 931-5737, extension 254.

Photo caption:

In November, RESO held an information session for residents to publicize available jobs in the Cabot sector. Another meeting is planned for January.

Self-serve bicycles in Montreal: RESO lends a hand

On October 4, Rosemont–La Petite Patrie borough mayor André Lavallée announced that a brand new self-serve bicycle system will soon be set up in Montreal. Coordinated by the CEDC Rosemont–Petite-Patrie, the project is the joint effort of nine Montreal Community Economic Development Organizations, or CEDCs (RESO is one); the Société de développement économique Ville-Marie (SDE) and Équiterre. Its mandate, via social economy initiatives, is to maintain and distribute a fleet of bikes. The services they develop will enable people excluded from the workforce to find jobs.

Sometime before 2010, 2400 bicycles, from any one of 300 stations, will be put at users’ disposal for a nominal fee. A pilot project that will be launched in autumn 2008 will give people the opportunity to try the new service out.

“RESO is proud to be associated with a project that invites citizens to make such an important gesture for their health and for the environment,” said RESO director general Pierre Morrissette. “The maintenance and distribution service is going to be employing people who are on the path to socioeconomic integration. This kind of sustainable development initiative is what RESO is all about; it’s development that’s economic, social and environmental at the same time.”

The Société en commandite Stationnement de Montréal will be in charge of setting up this innovative project in the metropolis, and will be responsible for conducting cost-benefit and feasibility studies.

Proposals of the “Pour des quartiers culturels à Montréal” Coalition The mayor of Montreal is ready for discussions

In his closing address to the Rendez-vous Montréal, Cultural Metropolis, Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay stated his intention to work with the “Pour des quartiers culturels à Montréal” Coalition on recognizing and developing cultural sectors in the districts and boroughs.

The Coalition is made up of cultural organizations, artists’ groups, and organizations in local development and the social economy, including RESO and the Table des acteurs culturels du Sud-Ouest. At the Rendez-vous, the Coalition presented two concrete proposals to make

Montreal a true cultural metropolis for all: the establishment of both a real estate fund to finance collective projects for creative spaces (workshops), and a support fund for cultural mediation, which will build bridges between the arts, culture, artists, and citizens – particularly groups that are often excluded from cultural life.

These two issues came out in force at the Rendez-vous, held November 12 and 13, and organized by Culture Montréal, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, the City of Montreal and the governments of Quebec and Canada. Though no specific financial commitment has been made, the issues in question are included in the Rendez-vous's action plan. Culture Montréal president Simon Brault was also quick to point out the Coalition's importance for the future of arts and culture in Montreal.

The Table des acteurs culturels: Presenting the Sud-Ouest as a cultural sector

In her address to the Rendez-vous, Madeleine Poulin, President of the Table des acteurs culturels of the Sud-Ouest, relayed the Table's satisfaction with the City of Montreal's intention to support the development of various cultural sectors, the Sud-Ouest and its districts included. She said that the hundreds of artists occupying old industrial buildings in the Sud-Ouest have enriched the life environment of the area. "But ironically, the renewal they've contributed to has been accompanied by rising real estate values, which often force them to leave."

If public institutions—schools, libraries, cultural centres—are to be supported in the work they do with the population, she continued, "it remains that the work must

be local." She cited the example of the Corona Theatre and Studio Victor, which gave young people in Saint-Henri the chance to produce a show and CD, and the cultural mediation work of such organizations as the Association culturelle du Sud-Ouest. Reminding the audience that these initiatives are "a precious yet fragile gift," she added, "We believe they must be given every possible chance by recognizing and supporting cultural mediation activities supported by the community."

Photo caption:

The Table des acteurs culturels du Sud-Ouest set up a stand at the Place du Rendez-vous November 12 and 13 and distributed a document presenting the Sud-Ouest as a thriving cultural sector.

Griffintown Project Devimco and RESO in agreement on maximizing access to jobs

RESO and Devimco have agreed to maximize any positive spinoffs of the Griffintown Project that involve the preservation of existing jobs and the creation of new ones. This agreement is conditional on the City of Montreal approving the project following a public consultation that will take place over the next few months.

"We have set very concrete objectives to ensure that the maximum number of jobs available in this new development are filled by Sud-Ouest residents, particularly unemployed people. There will be jobs in shops, restaurants, hotels, other cultural and tourist facilities, and offices," confirmed RESO Director General Pierre Morrissette.

“Devimco recognizes RESO’s expertise in employability, and is ready to contribute financially to activities and services that will enable unemployed people in the Sud-Ouest to acquire the necessary skills to obtain these jobs,” concluded Devimco president Serge Goulet.

Devimco and RESO will be working in close collaboration with the Sud-Ouest borough to relocate companies, and with future tenants and operators of facilities on the site to encourage local hiring. A follow-up committee will be set up to ensure objectives for workforce preparation and local hiring are met.

The RESO board of directors, which has closely followed the project’s development for a year and a half now, acknowledges the promoter’s remarkable efforts to adjust to the various concerns that have been communicated to him, concerns that are largely shared by the City of Montreal and various groups. Besides job creation and the project’s economic impact, RESO, which is participating in public consultations on the project, will also be keeping a close watch on questions of road traffic, public transportation, community and affordable housing, spaces for artists and artisans, and the enhancement of the district’s identity and history.

**Post Site
The Sud-Ouest community joins in on defining a master plan**

“The Canada Lands Company (CLC) will join with the Sud-Ouest community in defining a master plan for the development of the Post Site so that it will be the object of consensus insofar as possible. We are happy our expectations have met with

such a positive response,” said RESO Director General Pierre Morrissette.

The CLC, which expects to submit its master plan by the end of 2008, has recently devised a planning process that includes a public forum and open houses so that citizens can express their concerns. Organizations in the community will also be invited to help develop a vision and definition for the program. It has also created a follow-up committee consisting of two representatives from the CLC, two from the borough, one from the City of Montreal and two from the community, namely Pierre Morrissette, Director General of RESO, and Édith Cyr, Director General of Bâtir son quartier.

Beginning last spring, the CLC has undertaken to meet with all parties involved in the Post Site project. Already, the CLC has identified a number of common goals, namely, that the project create a urban hub, that it encourage diversity in both its functions and clientele, and that it integrate a cultural dimension. Reconciling a family-oriented residential community with the activities of a urban hub, exploring its links to the Griffintown and Lachine canal development projects and those of the Société du Havre and École de technologie supérieure, and integrating it into the district are just some of the issues raised by the CLC. The CLC also predicts that the variety and loftiness of the parties’ expectations, combined with the project’s physical and financial constraints, mean that difficult choices will have to be made.

In 2004, RESO, Bâtir son quartier and the Coalition de la Petite-Bourgogne/Quartier en santé developed a multifunctional concept for the Post Site, one that took into account functional diversity; job

creation; social diversity through a cooperative, community and private housing program; and integrating the project into the district's character, with the proper regard for its history and industrial heritage.

News briefs

Pharmacy Technical Assistance Professional training leading to jobs

Anglophone participants enrolled in the Pharmacy Technical Assistance professional training program, organized by RESO in collaboration with the Lester B. Pearson School Board, obtained their Diplôme d'études professionnelles (DEP) on December 7. Most of the new graduates are already working, full - or part-time, in commercial drugstores, hospital centres and long-term care facilities. The training, which began last January, was given at the Pearson Adult and Career Center, which offers Pharmacy Technical Assistance as a cooperative education program. Throughout their training, students in the program worked in employment six hours per week, putting their newly acquired knowledge into practice. RESO is presently selecting candidates to enrol in training to become orderlies – another occupation suffering shortages of candidates and offering good working conditions. For more information, call Mélanie Jutras at 514 931-5737, extension 254.

RESO attends the Salon d'affaires du Grand Sud-Ouest

On November 29, 70 companies and organizations attended the Salon d'affaires du Grand Sud-Ouest. The event, held at Cégep André-Laurendeau, was organized by the Chambre de commerce et

d'industrie du Sud-Ouest under the patronage of Denis Dubreuil, Mouvement Desjardins Vice President of Business Development, West Montreal. RESO took the opportunity to distribute its new brochure on the various local investment funds offered to start-up and expanding businesses. Over the past seven years, RESO investments have created or maintained over 740 jobs. For details on available financing, visit the Financing section of our Website at www.resomtl.com.

10th Annual Entrepreneurship Contest The deadline is March 17, 2008

For a 10th consecutive year, the Entrepreneurship Contest is getting set to highlight the ingenuity and creativity of our present and future entrepreneurs. Your business project is eligible if you received no sales income prior to April 1, 2007, or if you are seeking to create a new company that will be launched by December 31, 2008. For details on the registration process, contest rules and the documents you will require, and to enter, visit the contest Website at www.concours-entrepreneur.org, or call Nesrine Kamel at 514 931-5737, extension 267.

Happy holidays!

The RESO Board of Directors and personnel wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Health, happiness and prosperity to all of our readers! Please note that the RESO offices will be closed from 5:00 PM on December 21, to 9:00 AM on January 7.

MEMBERS OF THE RESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Gilles Paquette, FTQ Unions Representative and President
- Renaud Beaulieu, Representative for Participants in RESO Activities
- Madeleine Breton, Institutions Representative (Health, Education)
- Édith CyrSocial, Economy Enterprises Representative
- Steeve Dupuis, Ville-Emard/Côte Saint-Paul Community Organizations Representative
- Véronique Fournier, RESO Employees Representative
- Pascal Guimond, Retailers and Self-Employed Workers Representative
- Line Hamel, City Councillor for Louis-Cyr, Sud-Ouest de Montréal Borough
- Véronique Olivier, Service Industries and New Economy Representative
- Vicente Perez, Little Burgundy Community Organizations Representative
- Madeleine Poulin, Cultural Sector Representative
- André Raymond, Financial Institution Representative
- Jean-François Rivest, Manufacturing Companies Representative
- Hugues Rondeau, CSN Unions Representative
- Maggie St-Georges, Saint-Henri Community Organizations Representative
- Karine Triollet, Pointe-Saint-Charles Community Organizations Representative

Non-voting members

- Pierre Morrissette, Director General
- Pierre Richard, Vice President, Strategic Development
- Marguerite Blais, Member for Saint-Henri/Sainte-Anne
- Serge Goyet, Centre local d'emploi (CLE) Director

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