

**A day of reflection and exchange on persistence in school****Concerted effort from all stakeholders is crucial to our young people's success**

On June 3, 130 representatives from the community and educational, institutional, political and economic milieus took part in a day of exchange and reflection at the CRCS Saint-Zotique on persistence in school.

The purpose of the invitation—issued by the youth committees of Solidarité Saint-Henri, the Coalition de la Petite-Bourgogne, the Table de concertation jeunesse de Pointe-Saint-Charles and Concertation Ville-Émard – Côte-Saint-Paul—was to create an optimal development zone by mobilizing key players around concrete actions that might encourage persistence in school and counteract tendencies to drop out. The day's discussions were led by Madeleine Poulin, a journalist whose sense of commitment is well-known throughout the Sud-Ouest.

The firm Darvida Conseil presented the results of a series of discussion groups conducted this winter with 86 people: young people from elementary and high schools, young adults, and parents of students. What emerged in particular was the fact that, for participants, students lacked examples of success and positive role models that might encourage them to remain in school. For participants, this type of contact had a definite effect on persistence in school, and the motivation and confidence of young people. Among elements raised, participants emphasized recourse to peer tutors, students from higher grades and mentors; meetings with professionals; visit from organizations and, finally, meetings with key successful role models for students.

After the results were presented, participants divided into groups to form workshops under the following themes: persistence in school in elementary and high school, support for parents of students, reentry education and job insertion for young adults, and developing networks and collaboration between the different parties involved.

After lengthy discussion in the workshops on the challenges ahead, Marie-Claude Côté, coordinator of the Conseil régional de prévention de l'abandon scolaire (CREPAS) in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, described the work her organization has accomplished over the last 10 years in improving the graduation rate of young people in the region. She stressed the importance of mobilizing all partners in a same community to counteract drop out trends. "After seven years of concerted effort in the region, we have seen an 18.8 percent increase in boys' graduation rates, and a 7 percent increase in girls'," she said.

“The results of the discussion groups and the courses of action identified in the workshops will enable partners from the districts of Saint-Henri, Pointe-Saint-Charles, Little Burgundy, Émard and Côte-Saint-Paul to develop an action plan that will encourage our district’s young people and young adults to stay in school,” explained Sylvie Trudel, Coordinator of Solidarité Saint-Henri. “There is still much work to accomplish, but when the students go back to school, we’re already planning to give young people (elementary and high school students, and adults) a little nudge to get them started on the school year on the right foot.” She finished by thanking the Commission scolaire de Montréal, the Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Sud-Ouest-Verdun and the Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon for their financial contribution to the event.

The day ended with the launch of the *Guide de diffusion des pratiques de l’École des parents* and the testimonies of parents who have improved not only their knowledge of certain subjects in school, but their self-esteem as well.

### **FormaPlus wins the Prix Partenariat, Big Enterprise Category**

On May 21, the training mutual FormaPlus was honoured at an evening highlighting the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail (CPMT): the Prix Partenariat was awarded to it in the category of big enterprises and organizations of over 300 employees.

These prizes recognize the key role collaboration plays in skills development in the workplace. FormaPlus’s candidacy was presented by the Coalition des organismes communautaires pour le développement de la main-d’œuvre (COCDMO). An independent jury made up of Léa Cousineau, Richard Fahey and Fernand Daoust had the delicate task of choosing recipients of the three Prix Partenariat from the 25 candidates received.

“We are very happy to have received this prize, one whose objective it is to publicize and highlight exemplary achievements in skills development and recognition in the workplace. Representing over 1000 employees and numbering 45 member enterprises and organizations, FormaPlus’s goal is to develop a thriving training culture in enterprises in the district. This award recognizes the initiative of businesses and organizations that have decided to pool their training needs and respond to them together,” said Marie-Claire Nadeau, Director General of FormaPlus.

Founded by RESO and the CDEC Lasalle-Lachine, the training mutual FormaPlus brings together companies located, with a few exceptions, in the Greater Sud-Ouest de Montréal. It receives financial support from the Fonds de développement et de reconnaissance des compétences en main-d’œuvre.

Nadeau emphasized that the time was ripe for enterprises to combine their efforts on training mutuals. The Act to promote workforce skills development and recognition now recognizes training mutuals. Furthermore, in the name of improving companies’

productivity through workforce training, the Pacte pour l'emploi, recently announced by Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity Sam Hamad, encourages companies to join forces in a context of training mutuals. "Small businesses are often at a loss on how to manage skills development. The message that has been given to them is to band together so this can be done in a lasting way," she said.

### **Québec Industrial Waste Exchange Program RESO invites the enterprises of the Sud-Ouest to sign on**

RESO is publicizing the Québec Industrial Waste Exchange Program—or BRIQ, for its French name, Bourse des résidus industriels du Québec—to enterprises of the Sud-Ouest. This was announced at the June 11 electoral college that brought together manufacturing companies and financial institutions of the Sud-Ouest. BRIQ—an initiative of the Centre de transfert technologique en écologie industrielle (CTTÉI) J.-Édouard-Simard, which is associated with the Cégep de Sorel-Tracy—is a forum for partnerships to be formed between companies that generate waste, and others seeking to use it for production.

In the words of invited speakers Hélène Gignac and Jean-François Vermette of the CTTÉI, "One industry's waste is another's raw material." According to the examples they cited, slag produced by one company can be reused for jet sanding and in the manufacturing of cement, concrete and paving, while the steel dust waste produced by the metallurgy industries can be used to produce paint pigment. Companies put their ads on a Website accessible to all, but only program members can make a transaction.

"By registering with the BRIQ, Sud-Ouest enterprises will reap the economic benefits of a decrease in the purchase price of raw and secondary materials. As well as making a concrete gesture on behalf of environmental protection, the companies that participate in the BRIQ will be able to develop partnerships with other enterprises. Ultimately, the whole community will enjoy the environmental benefits of environmentally friendly waste management. As you can see, the Québec Industrial Waste Exchange Program responds perfectly to one of the two transversal concerns of the Local Action Plan for the Economy and Employment (LAPEE), which is to implement a sustainable development approach," said RESO Executive Director Pierre Morrissette. He added that the initiative is the first step in a RESO project that will see an industrial ecopark established in the Sud-Ouest. The Sud-Ouest, incidentally, is the first Montréal district to participate in the BRIQ. Information: Monique Le Menn at 931-5737, extension 241.

### **Sectoral colleges prepare for the annual assembly**

The 10 sectoral colleges have embarked on a reflection process and identified a number of courses of action they will take to prepare for the RESO general assembly, themed Participation of Young People (16-35) in the Social, Economic and Cultural Development of the Sud-Ouest. In all, over 200 people from various socioeconomic sectors in the Sud-Ouest took part in one of these colleges.

After studying a portrait drawn up in 1998 of the reality of young people and young adults in the Sud-Ouest, representatives from community organizations, social economy enterprises, health and educational institutions, the unions and other participants were invited to comment on how the situation of young people in the district has evolved. Have we, over the past 10 years, given them the means necessary to achieve their potential in all areas of their lives (work, study, family, sport, culture)? This, and other questions, were raised at the meetings.

In electoral colleges pertaining to enterprises and financial institutions, RESO announced that it has joined with Convergence to conduct a study on commercial activity in the Sud-Ouest. It also encouraged enterprises to participate in the Québec Industrial Waste Exchange Program (BRIQ). See the article in this edition of RESO info for more details.

At the annual assembly, which will take place September 24 at the CRCS Saint-Zotique, a citizen's forum will give participants the chance to voice their opinions on the theme of young adults. An exhibition will present some of the projects young people in the Sud-Ouest have been involved in, in a number of different areas: community, social, cultural, entrepreneurial, etc. Young people will be on hand to deliver their own inspiring success stories testifying to their resourcefulness and perseverance.

### **Redevelopment of the Post Site: The CLC has begun the consultation process**

The Canada Lands Company (CLC) has launched the consultation process on redevelopment of the Post Site (1500 Ottawa) with discussion workshops in April and the presentation of a preliminary vision of the project at a festival May 31 attended by 600 people.

For the project, the CLC is eyeing the creation of a diverse, dense and vibrant urban environment featuring a range of housing forms, services and businesses responding to the needs of families and a variety of other users. Bringing together speakers, panellists, experts and representatives of organizations and enterprises in the Sud-Ouest and Montréal as a whole, the April 21 workshop had the theme "Responding to the Needs of Today's Families," while a workshop April 28 was themed "Achieving a Diverse, Dense and Vibrant Urban Project." At fall, the CLC will present a first draft of the project's master plan, which will then be submitted to the Sud-Ouest Borough for approval.

RESO Executive Director Pierre Morrissette and the Director General of Bâtir son quartier, Édith Cyr, highlighted the Sud-Ouest's concerns at a project monitoring committee set up by the CLC. In 2004, the two organizations joined forces with the Coalition de la Petite-Bourgogne / Quartier en santé to elaborate a multifunctional concept for the Post Site that emphasized functional variety, job creation and social diversity—notably, through inclusion of cooperative, community and private housing—hand in hand with integration in the flow of the district that honoured the site's history and its industrial heritage.

## **RESO and Convercité join forces for a study on commercial activity in the Sud-Ouest**

On June 10, RESO and Convercité launched a study on commercial activity in the Sud-Ouest. The study will provide a detailed portrait of the current commercial dynamic on the three main shopping streets in the district: Monk Boulevard and Centre and Notre Dame streets.

RESO and Convercité, in collaboration with the Sud-Ouest Borough, will make a progress report on commercial supply and demand at the local level. From fact-finding missions in the field and secondary data from maps, the organizations will paint a portrait of the Sud-Ouest's commercial offer.

To establish a profile of local consumers, Convercité "Will update on-the-street surveys conducted in 2002 and 2003 in order to have a portrait of the clientele in 2008, and measure how client profiles and purchasing behaviour have evolved," explained Elizabeth Rivest, Associate Director of Convercité.

A follow-up committee has been set up to validate the various stages of the study. It is made up of Helen Toddy of the SDC Plaza Monk, Paul-Émile Rioux of the Association du quartier des antiquaires de la rue Notre-Dame, David Gouin of the Pharmacie Gouin/Caron on Centre Street, Isabelle Létourneau of the Atwater Market, Catherine Bernard and Élisabeth Rivest of Convercité, Réal Normandeau of the Sud-Ouest Borough and Monique Le Menn of RESO.

Analysis of the information collected will establish the magnitude and nature of retail outflow, define the strengths and weaknesses of each of the three main commercial arteries and reflect on a positioning for each.

The study was made possible by the Commercité program, financed by the City of Montréal.

## **News Briefs**

### **Guy Biron wins the CSMO-ESAC's Prix Reconnaissance**

On May 22, the Comité sectoriel de main-d'œuvre – Économie sociale et action communautaire (CSMO-ESAC) celebrated its tenth anniversary, and took advantage of the occasion to highlight the achievements of key players in the social economy and community action sector. At the event, Guy Biron, RESO Director of Employability Services, was awarded the first Prix Reconnaissance honouring the leadership he displayed over his six years as president of the CSMO-ESAC. RESO extends its congratulations for this honorary award, which pays tribute to his ability to mobilize stakeholders from different communities.

## **The Sud-Ouest's Renewal: Presentation in Brussels**

The Sud-Ouest's experiences in economic and social revitalization were the subject of a presentation in May in Brussels by RESO Executive Director Pierre Morrissette on the occasion of the launch by the European Community of a far-reaching research program on social cohesion in cities.

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