

RESO INFO

**Newsletter of the Corporation for the Economic and Social
Revitalization of the Southwest (RESO)**

JUNE 2007

ENGLISH SUMMARY

Launch of the *Plan d'action local pour l'économie et l'emploi 2007-2010 du Sud-Ouest*

The Sud-Ouest at the heart of Montreal's development

On May 2, RESO launched its *Plan d'action local pour l'économie et l'emploi (PALÉE) 2007-2010 du Sud-Ouest*. On the theme "The Sud-Ouest at the heart of Montreal's development," Jean-François Rivest, President of Voodoo Technology, Patricia Laramée, General Training Counsellor at RESO, and Juliette Patterson, resident, presented their views on PALÉE's major orientations and priorities. At this interactive event, Marjolaine Loïselle, President of the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail, Danielle McCann, Director General of the CSSS Sud-Ouest-Verdun, Gérald Larose, professor of social work at UQAM, Anne-Marie Jean, Director of Culture Montréal, Clément Demers, Director General of the Quartier International de Montreal, and Philip O'Brien, Special Advisor at Telemedia Development, were invited to speak on the relationship between the Sud-Ouest's challenges and those affecting the development of Montreal itself. PALÉE contains two orientations that are an integral part of all of the action priorities RESO has identified, namely, "The Sud-Ouest, learning community," and "The Sud-Ouest, agent of sustainable development." The PALÉE also includes 10 orientations for integrated development. An online version of the PALÉE can be found in the Publications section of RESO's site at www.resomtl.com.

Transfer of Post Site lands to the CLC RESO looks forward to working with the community

"We applaud the fact that the Canada Post property will be transferred to the Canada Lands Company (CLC), and the fact that the Company wishes to work in close collaboration with the Sud-Ouest community on redeveloping the site," said Pierre Morrissette, Director General of RESO, following the announcement by the federal government that certain Crown properties in the Harbourfront are to be redeveloped. "We are very happy that the federal government is planning a coordinated

action for the redevelopment and enhancement of these lands," continued Morrissette, alluding to the fact that the government's announcement concerns two other Sud-Ouest properties in addition to the Post site. "We have asked from the beginning that the Canada Post property be transferred to the CLC, which seemed to us the best vehicle to set the site's redevelopment in motion. However, there is still an unknown quantity remaining: We do not know the cost of the land, and that worries us. The price paid by the CLC may present an obstacle to achieving a project that respects sustainable approaches to urban development and responds to the community's needs for jobs, housing and quality of life," emphasized Morrissette.

Housing boom in the Sud-Ouest Expanding the creation of community-based housing

With the participation of private and public community housing groups, RESO developed a strategy in 2002 aimed at countering certain negative effects of the Sud-Ouest's ongoing gentrification. RESO and its partners met recently to update this strategy. From 2001 to 2005, production of new housing in the Sud-Ouest was above the Montreal average. Moreover, average rents in the district, despite significant increases over the last few years, are still lower than the Montreal average. The Sud-Ouest is also one of the few districts to require developers of major projects, such as Imperial Tobacco and the Nordelec, to respect the minimums suggested in the City of Montreal's inclusion strategy for social housing (15%) and affordable housing (15%). One household in three in the Sud-Ouest spent over 30% of its income on housing in 2001, and it is estimated that over 4000 households spend more than 50%. Developed by RESO, housing organizations and local issues tables in collaboration with the City of Montreal and the Sud-Ouest district, the updating of the housing strategy has been designed to ensure the 2002 strategy endures. RESO and its partners are working to make sure 2000 of the 10,000 new housing units planned over the next ten years

are community housing; they are also encouraging social diversity.

RESO and MUHC partnership An initiative worth repeating

RESO and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) signed a partnership agreement aimed at training unemployed people in the Sud-Ouest to occupy positions offered by the MUHC. RESO organized two professional training programs responding to the Centre's labour force requirements, including one, in pharmacy technical assistance, in English. RESO hopes to develop this partnership model with Sud-Ouest companies over the next few years.

CLD Mandate: essential to the economic and social development of the Sud-Ouest

Since 1998, RESO has had an invaluable asset in accomplishing its mission of economic and social development: the Centre local de développement (CLD) mandate. RESO is concerned that the City of Montreal will cut the resources associated with the CLD mandate, a move that will compromise the full achievement of its mission. Furthermore, it is essential that the agreement on CLD mandates continues to be inspired by the decentralized management model adopted by the City of Montreal, and to respect three fundamental principles of community economic development: citizen participation, consultation of socioeconomic groups, and independent governance. RESO's board of directors has adopted a resolution asking that the City of Montreal renew RESO's designation as supervisor of CLD mandates for the Sud-Ouest for a duration of five years, from 2008 to 2013. This resolution also asks that a joint committee, bringing together both the City of Montreal and the CEDCs, be established to enter a new agreement on managing CLD mandates, one that guarantees the continuance and annual indexing of its budget allowances.

The second coming of the Table des acteurs culturels du Sud-Ouest

The Table des acteurs culturels du Sud-Ouest was relaunched early this year. Now presided by journalist and Sud-Ouest resident Madeleine Poulin, it has increased its ranks and now numbers nearly 20 organizations. The Table has launched an evaluation process on recognizing the Sud-Ouest as a cultural nexus, focusing on heritage, creation, outreach and cultural democracy. With RESO, the Table is also seeking to promote the Sud-Ouest at the upcoming *Rendez-vous Montréal, métropole culturelle* organized by Culture Montréal for November 2007.

Pilot project at the CJE encourages education

A new project designed to encourage young people to stay in school, return to school, or find jobs has been set up at the Carrefour jeunesse emploi du Sud-Ouest de Montréal (CJE). This pilot project is addressed at young people aged 16 to 17. Counsellors there can help young people return to school or find a job, and encourage those still in school to continue with their education. Participants in the project will receive a year of coaching.

Acquisition Fund: an innovative partnership

The Acquisition Fund—the product of an innovative partnership between the technical resource group *Bâtir son quartier* and the Fonds de solidarité de la FTQ—provides short-term financing for the purchase of land and buildings for community housing projects (cooperatives and non-profit organizations). Now at the \$5-million mark, the new fund is addressed at projects city-wide, but will almost certainly benefit the Sud-Ouest.

The Sud-Ouest celebrates its adult learners

Ten Sud-Ouest groups organized the event *Apprendre ça se fête* for the Semaine québécoise des adultes en formation. One-hundred and fifty adults celebrated their pride in learning and the benefits it brings. Four bursaries were awarded to recognize the adults for their efforts.

RESO site translated into English

RESO's website has been translated into English. To access the site's English version, click the "English" tab in the top-right corner of the home page. This improvement will help make RESO's services better known to the Sud-Ouest's anglophone population. Visit our site at www.resomtl.com.

CJE offers internships in France

Four young women recently completed a six-week internship in Reims, France. It was a chance for them to confirm career choices and acquire work experience. This is the fourth year the CJE has offered this unique experience to young people. The activity was financed by the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ).

Note : The RESO Info Newsletter is published three times a year and is sent to RESO's individual and associate members. A complete French version of the English summary is available. To become a member or for any other information, our address is : RESO, 1751 Richardson

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