

# Charter

For  
recognition  
of rights and  
responsibilities

For  
respect of  
human dignity

For  
equality, justice  
and tolerance

For  
full, active  
participation in  
democracy

## Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities

The key to  
living better  
together!

### Foreword

The *Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities* is the outcome of wide-ranging public consultation, and is founded on respect of human dignity, equality, inclusion, tolerance and justice. These widely shared values are essential for the development of responsible, harmonious and productive relations between the city and Montrealers. The Charter is the first of its kind adopted by a major Canadian city.

Citizens, elected officials, civil servants—we are all bound together by the Charter, which urges us to work together to achieve the quality of life we seek as Montrealers.

The **Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities** came into force on January 1, 2006.

This brochure invites you to learn about the key features of the Montréal Charter, those that touch on all of the main areas of municipal government: democracy, economic and social life, cultural life, recreation, physical activities and sports, the environment and sustainable development, security, and municipal services.

With the Charter, we now have a formidable tool for dialogue that promises to strengthen our trust in our democratic institutions.

Note: The complete document is available at Accès Montréal offices, borough offices or on the city's Web site.



Montréal Charter  
of Rights and Responsibilities

[ville.montreal.qc.ca/charterofrights](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/charterofrights)

Montréal

# Rights, responsibilities, commitments

## Three indivisible aspects

**While it sets forth our rights as citizens, the Charter also explains our responsibilities as Montrealers. This means acting in a manner that is respectful of laws, by-laws and the rights of others. This includes using drinking water appropriately, helping keep the city clean, and protecting the environment. The Charter also defines standards for services that take into account the diverse needs of Montrealers. Above all else, it is designed as a guide from which any person residing within the Montréal territory can draw inspiration for daily living.**

## Democracy

Because democracy is at the core of our values, it is up to all of us to protect it. The Charter strengthens the city's commitments to ensuring it is enforced, to promoting equality between women and men, and to ensuring better representation of our diverse communities.

## Economic and social life

Because poverty and social exclusion are an impediment to civic involvement, the Charter sets forth the city's commitments—in such areas as housing—to people and families with low or modest incomes. The Charter also encourages citizens to get involved in their communities and decide together on the best means for countering poverty.

## Cultural life

Because culture drives Montréal's development and its dynamic character, shapes our identity and enriches our lives, the Charter emphasizes the safeguarding of our city's cultural and natural heritage. It reiterates municipal support for creating and showcasing contributions from communities and individuals of all origins, and promotes access to, and use of, the city's public libraries network and other sites for the dissemination of culture.

## Environment and sustainable development

Because protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development have a direct impact on our everyday lives and help ensure the well-being of current and future generations, the Charter advocates reduction, re-use and recycling of household waste, greater reliance on public transit, and continuous improvement of air and water quality. It also encourages protection of natural sites and trees, improved access to shorelines and green spaces, and curtailing of excess noise and traffic nuisances.

## Recreation, physical activities and sports

Because recreation, physical activities and sports have direct positive impacts on our health and on our integration into society, the city is committed to maintaining and diversifying services in these areas, based on the needs of citizens in its different boroughs.

## Security

Because the continuing physical security and integrity of people and goods are fundamental components of quality of life, the Charter reiterates the city's commitment to developing its territory in a secure manner that takes into account, among other things, the specific needs of women, and to encouraging the secure use of public spaces and parks.

## Municipal services

Because the citizens of Montréal have the right to quality municipal services, the city is committed to providing competent, respectful and non-discriminatory services, equitably supplied and distributed across its entire territory.

## Ombudsman

**The Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities includes an innovative component: it provides for a city ombudsman to whom citizens may refer in case of a dispute, and whose role is to facilitate dialogue and recommend concrete solutions to citizens and the city alike.**

**The ombudsman is a last resort, however: it is up to all parties involved to seek consensus beforehand. If the dispute persists, the ombudsman is there to help.**

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