Amplifying Montréal’s Urban Resilience Through Social Capital Development

Irène Cloutier, planning advisor, Sustainable Transition and Resilience Office, Ville de Montréal
Resilient Cities Forum, June 26 – 28, 2019
Social Capital in Montréal

• Community Gardens Program (1975)
• Green (and White) Alleys Program (1997)
• Parks and Public Spaces
Social Capital in Montréal

Murals and Art Work - Parklets (*placottoirs*) – Summer/Winter Festivals
Solidarity during crisis and emergency situations is strong. How can we develop solidarity preventively to foster community resilience? How can we be more inclusive and not forget our vulnerable populations?
Summer 2018 – Heat Wave in Montréal

Emergency Plan /Measures

Vulnerable Population :
- Communication to citizens / cooling services
- Door-to-Door Visits during the Heat Wave
- Water Distribution to the Homeless
- Extended hours for exterior swimming pools

Between June 30th to July 5th, the Public Health Authority identified 66 death linked to the heat in Montréal.

Vulnerability Factors :
- Young Child and Elderly Person
- Citizens with :
  - no air-conditionning
  - Cardiovascular Diseases
  - Mental Health Issues
  - Drug or Alcohol Dependency
- Men Living Alone

Source images: Le Devoir
Social Capital and Community Resilience

Social Capital and Community Resilience

What more can we do?
Vision for Montréal

An Alert, Proactive and Inclusive Community Acting on Social, Economic and Environmental Challenges

1- Take Action In Support of a Unified and Safe Community

Foster the Development of Social Capital Among Montrealers in Order to Strengthen Community Resilience
Social Capital and Community Resilience

2018-2019 : 4 Research/Pilot Projects in the Community

1- Citizen Engagement (Local Soup) and Social Capital Building Study
   Corporation de développement communautaire Centre-Sud

2- Emergency Preparedness, Community Resilience and Social Capital Building Study
   Transition NDG

Centre-Sud Local Soup, February 19, 2019

Disaster Ready & Resilient Workshop, October 2018
2018-2019 : 4 Pilot Projects in the community

3- Youth Social Engagement and Environmental and Climate Change Awareness
   **C-Vert Program by Montréal’s YMCA**

4- Understand and Support the Process of Resilience and the integration of immigrants into Montréal life
   **Building Migrant Resilience in Cities / universities Concordia and UQAM**
In parallel... ongoing work at the city on:

- Measuring Wellbeing of Montrealers
- Reviewing the Urban Security Approach
- Rethinking Climate Resilience and Risk Communication
Mid-Term / Long-Term Objectives:

• Share best practices locally and internationally

• Support the development of a more ambitious social capital project in Montréal
  - vulnerable population/neighborhoods
  - urban resilience, citizen engagement and empowerment

• Develop a better understanding of social capital and community resilience

  Key indicators, data and solid evidence of the impact of projects
Sustainable/Ecological Transition:

Tends toward innovative practices that encourage responsible consumption and production, as well as improve on working and living conditions, in order to address environmental and social challenges.
Urban Resilience and Sustainable/Ecological Transition

Questions?

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