

Mayor's Report On the Financial Situation - August 2010

Message from the Borough Mayor
and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Montréal

Dear fellow citizens,

This annual report on the financial situation of the borough of Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (CDN—NDG) is an opportunity for me to tell you about the many positive things we achieved in 2009. Our administration succeeded in generating a surplus of \$3,338,100, while implementing several different initiatives on the cultural, sports and recreation fronts, continuing to take actions stemming from our Green Plan, and planning what is proving to be one of the most extensive real-estate developments of the decade in Montréal.

Actions in favour of a greener, more dynamic living environment

Our administration is committed to taking concrete actions with immediate impacts on citizens' daily lives, and that aim at improving their living environment. These actions speak to our administration's wish to retain existing facilities and ensure they are well maintained, but also aim at implementing new projects in response to needs expressed by you, the citizens of CDN—NDG.

One of the great challenges we face is how to foster economic growth while ensuring respect for the environment. With our Green Plan having been adopted in 2008, new projects in the borough must henceforth be planned from a sustainable-development perspective. This is a fundamental responsibility of any public authority in the 21st century.

The ongoing construction of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Sports Centre is one initiative taken by the borough that lends greater meaning to community life. Upon completion of this \$15-million facility—the cost of which is being shared by the Government of Québec, the City of Montréal and the borough—area residents will enjoy state-of-the-art sports facilities that will make their lives more pleasant and enriching.

In keeping with the wishes of many citizens, the sports centre in Benny Park has been designed so as to leave the most discreet possible footprint. Half the building will be

underground, enabling the addition of a green roof above the gymnasium and considerably reducing the surface area occupied by the facilities. The complex is being built to the highest possible LEED standards and, thanks to a geothermal system, will literally pull most of its energy right out of the ground.

The importance we ascribe to our citizens' living environment has also been evident in the nearly \$4 million invested in work to upgrade and revitalize 15 of our parks and green spaces. The repurposing of the chalet in Gilbert Layton Park as a community pavilion was part of that work.

Two years after the adoption of our Green Plan, comprising seven goals that will lead to 49 actions being implemented by 2012, our commitment to making CDN—NDG an environmentally responsible borough continues to bear fruit. We have added 12.4 kilometres of bike paths in the borough, purchased energy-efficient vehicles, installed showers equipped with water-saving heads at the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce indoor swimming pool, and installed remote-controlled, energy-saving lighting systems in Mandela Park, at the Loyola Park baseball field and at the Kent Park tennis courts. These are just a few examples of progress achieved in 2009; the full report is available for download from the borough website.

Ensuring safety and tranquillity for all

Many initiatives were taken during 2009 to make our neighbourhoods more peaceful—for example, traffic-calming measures in residential areas—and to ensure the safety of pedestrians and families. For instance, traffic flow around the Willowdale Block was reconfigured with an eye to lessening the impact of through traffic on area residents.

Still on the topic of road safety, two radar units were set up on chemin Queen-Mary and avenue Girouard, and 500 more bollards installed on secondary streets. We also decided to conduct a study of traffic flow in the Côte-des-Neiges sector, to gauge the impact on local vehicle traffic patterns of the presence of major institutions in the area, such as the hospitals and universities. Similar concerns will serve as inspiration for the borough's Master Urban Transportation Plan, to be tabled in the fall of 2010.

Well-thought-out real estate development

Mindful of ensuring that new real estate developments meet the needs of today's residents as well as future generations, the borough ensures the proper supervision of such projects. One example is the megaproject in the Namur—Jean-Talon Ouest sector, which will have a floor area of 4 million square feet, and will play a huge role in enhancing the vitality and quality of life of our borough in the coming decade. The development will include 3,200 new residential units, and will eventually lead to higher property values in this part of CDN—NDG.

The new development will do much more than add economic value to the borough, however. With a view to improving the proposals made by the borough, members of the

public and community groups were involved in the vision and planning stage of the project, and consulted in co-operation with the Office de consultation publique de Montréal.

Drawing inspiration from leading-edge trends in urban development, the Namur—Jean-Talon Ouest project will include several pedestrian walkways, bicycle paths and green spaces. Other additions to the development driven by sustainability principles include cooling areas, which will use newly-planted mature trees, improved rainwater management, and a green neighbourhood project (to include traffic-calming measures, among other things).

Cost-effective economic management

Our desire to be innovative and to improve quality of life in the borough is also manifest in our rigorous management of public funds. In this regard, the surplus of \$3,338,100 achieved in 2009 speaks volumes. Incidentally, this surplus includes a savings of some \$1,150,700 in workplace health & safety expenses, achieved through consistent prevention efforts deployed by the borough. We saved a further \$800,000 in snow removal costs thanks to a milder winter.

The key to our efficient management of such a large territory as ours, along with its many facilities, is teamwork. I would like to thank the CDN—NDG borough councillors for giving so much of their time, and for being such active listeners with citizens. Their involvement is indispensable when it comes to effectively disseminating information, proposals, ideas, projects, and so on, in Montréal's most populous borough.

Please continue sending them your suggestions and recommendations. And do feel free to get in touch with my office whenever you feel it is important to do so. This kind of dialogue is vital to ensuring that our borough can stay the course and take the lead on all fronts.

Activities that bring the borough's citizens together, such as our maisons de la culture programs, Montréal's Italian Week, the Hiver en fête winterfest and Grande Operation Montreal.net, to name only a few, provide ways for us to forge and strengthen bonds of solidarity. It is truly heartening to notice the ever-increasing friendliness and respect with which so many of you share our community infrastructures and services, thus ensuring that we can pass them on to future generations in the best possible condition. That is why I believe we have every reason to be proud to live here in CDN—NDG borough.

Michael Applebaum

*Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough Mayor
Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of the City of Montréal*

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Start of construction on the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Sports Centre.
- Concrete actions pursuant to the borough's Green Plan.
- Contributions of almost \$4 million to support social and community organizations.
- Nearly \$4 million invested to redevelop 15 parks and green spaces.

Key achievements of 2009: A dynamic borough!

Always more for quality of life

- Fit-up of three new green spaces: the Décarie—Monkland intersection, the area in front of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Church, and the Bonavista traffic circle.
- Repurposing of the chalet in Gilbert-Layton Park as a community pavilion.
- Redevelopment of the northwest section of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Park, including the two play areas and the dog run.
- Inauguration of the new water-play modules, petanque courts and rest area in Jean-Brillant Park.
- Redevelopment of the play area for children 6 to 12 years of age in Georges-Saint-Pierre Park.
- Purchase of water-play modules for Kent Park, along with renovations to playing fields, including the soccer pitch, the tennis and basketball courts, and installation of a netball court.
- Support for nearly 150 public events promoted by non-profit groups, citizens or private businesses.

Always more for our citizens

- Start of construction on the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Sports Centre.
- Major road repairs, including on an extensive section of chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, on rue Sherbrooke Ouest and on avenue Victoria.
- Repairs to more than 2 km of streets and sidewalks.

Always more for the environment

- Purchase of two hybrid trucks for the use of tree and garden inspectors.
- Purchase of seven electric tricycles for the cleanliness brigade.
- Distribution of 50,000 flowers to borough residents.
- Installation of street furniture made from recycled plastic in parks and green spaces.
- Installation of collection boxes where residents can drop off spent batteries, old cellphones and some electronic equipment.
- Planting of 26,000 plants and flowers, 7,900 bulbs, 1,114 shrubs and 380 trees.
- Participation in and support for "I'm active in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce," the local adaptation of the *Je m'active dans mon quartier* campaign.
- Procurement of a management system for green cleaning products used in public buildings.

Always more for culture

- Celebrations surrounding the 25th anniversary of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Maison de la culture and Library.
- Tabling of a functional and technical program for the library and cultural component prior to construction of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Cultural Centre.
- Conducting of various studies in preparation for drafting of the Master Plan.

Always more for safety

- Addition of 12.4 km of bike paths.
- Installation of two radar units, one on chemin Queen-Mary and the other on avenue Girouard.
- Installation of 500 more bollards on local streets within the borough.
- Road safety campaign.
- Start of activities of the Borough Committee on Urban Safety.

Latest financial results (2009)

With expenditures of **\$68,221,500** and local revenues of **\$2,419,500**, the Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough posted a net management surplus of **\$3,338,100**.

This operating budget surplus is due primarily to the effect of a milder winter on snow removal operations, which generated savings of nearly \$800,000, to the \$1,100,000 reserve appropriated and unspent in preparation of the new Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Sports Centre, and to a Finance Department workplace health and safety adjustment of \$1,150,700, resulting from ongoing prevention efforts deployed by the borough.

An excess of revenues over expenditures was also generated, originating in large part from permits for building modifications (\$481,700) and for use of public property (\$118,700).

Côte-des-neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough

Period ended December 31, 2009

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

(in thousands of dollars)

	2009		2008
	Total		Total
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenues			
Taxes			
Payments in lieu of taxes			
Transfers		46	2
Services rendered	1 348	1 518	1 871
Fee collection	1 003	1 507	1 459
Fines and penalties	68	109	90
Interest			
Other revenues	1	42	108
Budget allotment	65 802	65 561	66 055
	68 222	68 783	69 585
Expenditures			
General administration	8 251	6 487	7 992
Public security	1 229	1 276	751
Transportation	20 754	21 912	27 683
Environmental hygiene	13 396	12 025	14 561
Health and welfare	891	889	446
Urban planning and development	2 840	2 934	2 801
Recreation and culture	20 861	22 665	21 083
Financing expenses			
	68 222	68 188	75 317
Surplus (deficit) for the year		595	(5 732)
Financing activities			
Repayment of long-term debt			
Allocations			
Capital assets activities		(512)	
Unallocated surplus			
Allocated surplus		1 768	7 475
Financial reserve and reserved funds		(22)	
Amount forecast for the future			
		1 234	7 475
Management surplus per amended budget		1 829	1 743
Corrections - Corporate		1 509	(969)
Management surplus		3 338	774

Most recent triennial capital investment program (TCIP)

The most recent triennial capital investment plan called for the following investments:

2009 \$6 209 000

2010 \$6 209 000

2011 \$6 209 000

The borough's capital expenditures were of the order of \$8.5 million in 2009, including \$5.5 million in loan financing and a further \$3 million drawn from operating budgets or grants.

Projects completed in 2009:

- Start of construction work on the future Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Sports Centre.
- Redevelopment of the northwest section and playground in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Park.
- Renovations to the playing fields in Kent Park, including the soccer pitch, the tennis and basketball courts, and installation of a netball court.
- Renovations to the chalet in Gilbert-Layton Park and landscaping of the bocce court.
- Fit-up of a playground in Georges-Saint-Pierre Park.
- Fit-up of green spaces in front of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Church and the Manoir Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, at the Décarie—Monkland intersection, and at the Bonavista traffic circle.
- Replacement of 14 vehicles as part of the fleet-renewal program.
- Under the Road Repair Program, improvements to local road surfaces and sidewalks on 14 sections of street.

Côte-des-neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough
 Period ended December 31, 2009

CAPITAL ASSET ACTIVITIES FOR TAX PURPOSES

(in thousands of dollars)

	2009		2008
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenues		433	
Transfers			
Other revenues			
Contributions paid by developers			
Other			(6)
	0	433	(6)
Allocations			
Operating activities		512	
Allocated operating surplus and reserved funds		2 061	15
	0	2 573	15
Loan financing	6 209	5 485	6 335
Total	6 209	8 491	6 344
Capital assets acquisition			
General administration			
Public security			
Transportation	2 399	3 287	3 047
Environmental hygiene			134
Health and welfare			
Urban planning and development			
Recreation and culture	3 810	5 204	3 163
Total	6 209	8 491	6 344

Preliminary indications of financial results (2010)

The expenditures budget is forecast to be \$68,991,000, and the local revenues budget, \$2,419,500.

The initial winter months were less inclement this year; this, combined with a vigorous market for construction permits, leads us to forecast positive results for 2010, provided that no unexpected events occur between now and year-end.

The main challenges facing borough management for 2010 are as follows:

- Construction of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Sports Centre.
- Planning of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Cultural Centre and new Benny Library project.
- Finalizing of the Direction de la culture, des sports, des loisirs et du développement social's Master Plan.
- Continued roll-out of the Green Plan.
- Road safety initiatives and additional traffic-calming measures in the borough.
- The residential development in the Namur—Jean-Talon Ouest sector.

- Carrying out of work in parks pursuant to the Park Facility Improvement Program.
- Creation of the Master Urban Transportation Plan.

General orientations of the 2011 budget and the next triennial capital investments plan

The general orientations for 2011 call for budgeting of expenditures and revenues by the City of Montréal. The TCIP (2011—13), meanwhile, calls for total investments of \$18,627,000 over the three-year period, broken down as follows:

2011	\$6 209 000
2012	\$6 209 000
2013	\$6 209 000

List of contracts of \$25,000 and more

The list of contracts worth more than \$2,000 entered into with a single contractor and totalling \$25,000 or more during the period from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010, has been officially tabled and may be viewed on the City of Montréal website at ville.montreal.qc.ca/cdn-ndg.