



**AMB | ASM**

Association des municipalités de banlieue  
Association of Suburban Municipalities

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE ASM DENOUNCES THE CITY OF MONTREAL'S LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND BUDGETARY RIGOUR**

**Montreal West, July 3, 2024** – At the regular public meeting of the Montreal agglomeration council on June 20, 2024, ASM representatives took advantage of the question period to question the City of Montreal's strategy of systematically carrying forward the agglomeration's deficits from one year to the next, in addition to demanding more rigour in the face of certain budgets deemed problematic.

The intervention, made as part of the filing of the financial results for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, denounces more specifically the procedure of the City of Montreal, which announced a 2023 surplus of \$145 million for Montreal and its boroughs, and a surplus of \$42.5 million for the agglomeration, when in fact, the Agglomeration will instead face a \$45.4 million deficit. This deficit will not be confirmed until the end of 2024, once the City of Montreal has reimbursed the sums it holds to cover the agglomeration's previous deficits, which include major and systematic spend overruns in public safety, and charged to the 2025 budgets.

Faced with these questionable practices, Beny Masella, ASM president and mayor of Montreal West, recalled that "The City of Montreal has a moral duty to its citizens to act ethically and in a transparent manner when it comes to the budget management for Montreal and its boroughs. Such accounting practices, which consist of moving information, even if compliant, from one budget period to the next, do not show the accurate financial results of the period and, as such, are not worthy of a city like Montreal. We believe that these practices risk compromising citizens' trust in the City of Montreal ».

### **SYSTEMATIC VOTE OF OPPOSITION TO THREE EXPENDITURE PROJECTS**

In addition, the mayors of the ASM followed through with their opposition approach during the meeting of the agglomeration council by unanimously voting against three proposals put forward by the City of Montreal that did not meet the legitimate expectations of the demerged municipalities. Although the legislative and regulatory context of the agglomeration allows the City of Montreal to impose the cost-sharing of these projects, the fact remains that this sharing is financially inequitable for the related cities.

Totalling expenditures of more than \$19 million, the proposals involved redevelopment work on the multi-sport field at Jeanne-Mance Park in the Plateau-Mont-Royal borough, professional development and engineering services for a development project on McGill College Avenue, and financial support for the ComediHa! Festival for the *ComediHa! salutes Montreal* event.

Following the agglomeration council assembly, Beny Masella recalled that "The interest of the citizens of the linked municipalities remains at the heart of the approach undertaken by the mayors. The City of

Montreal must finally understand the message and put in place a legitimate process jointly with the ASM to find viable solutions to the equitable sharing of the agglomeration's expenses. »

The ASM recalls that this approach was initiated during a meeting of the agglomeration council held on January 25, 2024, following the opposition already expressed in December 2023 during the adoption of the 2024 budget of the agglomeration. To date, although the 15 demerged cities represent only 12% of the total population of the Island of Montréal and 18% of the fiscal capacity according to the rules established by the Government of Quebec in 2023, they bear 38% of the total increase in the agglomeration's expenses for 2024. This means that the citizens of demerged cities pay on average 65% more than the citizens of the city of Montreal.

#### **About the Association of Suburban Municipalities**

The Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) is an association of the fifteen demerged cities of the agglomeration of Montreal, each autonomous in its municipal management and its voice. Together, they have some 250,000 citizens. These municipalities are Baie-d'Urfé, Beaconsfield, Côte-Saint-Luc, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Dorval, L'Île-Dorval, Hampstead, Kirkland, Montreal East, Montreal West, Mount Royal, Pointe-Claire, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Senneville, and Westmount.

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#### **Source: Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM)**

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