

NEW WEBSITE OF THE CITY OF LONGUEUIL

The Official Opposition Reacts to the AUTAL's Letter

Longueuil, February 1, 2021 – Longueuil Citoyen Councillor Colette Éthier reacted to the letter sent by the Association des usagers du transport adapté de Longueuil (AUTAL) to Councillor Tommy Théberge on January 25, to the effect that the new website of the City of Longueuil is still not accessible to people with disabilities.

A situation that is all the more incomprehensible, according to the elected official of the LeMoynes-de Jacques-Cartier District, since the City's universal accessibility statement has nevertheless indicated since 2013 that the City "aims to offer the possibility to everyone, regardless of their condition, to participate in civic life". An objective reiterated in the 2020-2021 Action Plan for people with disabilities; a goal that the City's new website still does not meet two months after its launch, according to Colette Éthier.

Echoing the findings raised in the letter from the AUTAL, Councillor Colette Éthier indicates that "major adjustments will have to be made so that all citizens can easily access the website of the City of Longueuil, and as soon as possible. The City's website is an important source of information for all of our citizens, especially during a pandemic. Access to it is essential for people with disabilities, as it is for all citizens", said Colette Éthier.

As the former President of the Comité des partenaires du Plan d'intervention à l'égard des personnes handicapées (PIPH) of the City of Longueuil, Colette Éthier emphasizes that the needs expressed by people with disabilities regarding the website have always been very clear and have been the subject of many discussions. Representatives of associations of people with disabilities have always offered their expertise in this area to test applications before they are put into service through the PIPH. Reading the letter from the AUTAL, it is clear that they were not involved enough.

"With a contract of \$ 381,000.00, we expect the new website to enable all citizens to be able to fully participate in city life. I find it quite particular that today, 2 months after the official launch, there are still so many problems. All this gives the impression of a website launched in haste without all the tests having been carried out", concluded Councillor Colette Éthier.