



PRESS RELEASE
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Jean-Marc Léveillé proposes a plan regarding housing

Longueuil, June 29, 2021 — The mayoral candidate of Longueuil Citizen, Jean-Marc Léveillé, is concerned about the housing situation in Longueuil. Already last year, the pandemic complicated the move and the search for new housing, the situation this year shows no sign of improvement, while according to some estimates, around fifty families in Longueuil could find themselves homeless July 1st.

While highlighting the efforts made this year by organizations and the City to support the citizens of Longueuil during this difficult period, the mayoral candidate of Longueuil Citoyen - Équipe Jean-Marc Léveillé proposes measures to increase the number of social and affordable housing units in Longueuil.

To act now in order to accelerate the start of housing projects

In the event of his election as Mayor of Longueuil, he intends to set up a municipal fund dedicated to accelerating the start of construction projects for social and affordable housing. Amounts that could have a leverage effect on several housing projects. An idea initially proposed in 2020 by Councillor Michel Lanctôt of the Antoinette-Robidoux District, which Jean-Marc Léveillé takes up in the commitments of Longueuil Citoyen.

He also proposes that the City identify municipal buildings that could quickly be converted, as well as land that could accommodate new social or affordable rental housing projects. For the mayoral candidate of Longueuil Citoyen, the adoption of teleworking by our civil servants represents a unique opportunity for the City to consider the use of its real estate and land differently.

Longueuil, agent city of the AccèsLogis program

However, Longueuil will not be able to resolve the housing crisis on its own if the Government of Québec does not increase annual funding to match its real housing needs.

For Jean-Marc Léveillé, Longueuil must be designated as an agent city of the AccèsLogis program of the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ), in the same way as Gatineau, Montréal and Québec. A statute that would allow Longueuil to obtain investments for

the creation of new homes on its territory. The candidate for mayor of Longueuil Citoyen - Équipe Jean-Marc Léveillé wonders why the 5th city in Québec, central city of the 3rd agglomeration of Québec after Montréal and Québec City, still does not have this status while housing needs are so blatant. “Is this a judgment on Longueuil’s ability to deliver results? A question of too little political influence? These are questions that citizens will have to answer on November 7”. For the latter, “nothing justifies this administrative discrimination”. He intends to fill this void of influence with a strong team at City Hall.

In the event of his election as Mayor of Longueuil, Jean-Marc Léveillé intends to negotiate with the Government of Québec so that Longueuil obtains the right of pre-emption which would give the City the first right to purchase buildings or land in order to realize projects for the benefit of the community. The owner of the building or land subject to the right of pre-emption would retain all of his property rights as well as his obligations until he decides to dispose of them. This is a power that Montréal has, but that Longueuil does not currently have.

“While we are observing a surge in the price of rents, in a rental market marked by the scarcity of housing, it is becoming more and more difficult for many of our fellow citizens to find housing without having to devote more than 30%, if not 50% of their income. A situation that could slow down new workers from settling in the region and hinder the recovery of Longueuil’s economy. As a local government, Longueuil does not have all the tools in the area of housing. However, we must be able to act quickly and in a concrete manner to improve the housing situation in Longueuil with what we have at the moment. I am getting involved in politics to deliver the goods, and this is what I intend to do in terms of housing”, concluded Jean-Marc Léveillé.

Jean-Marc Léveillé in brief:

Founder of several successful organizations, including *Dotemtex Recherche de Cadres*, *Elitis Pharma INC.*, *PROSYGMA Services professionnels en maintenance et fiabilité* and cofounder of *Services Animaliers de la Rive-Sud* (Proanima). He was CEO of the Orchestre symphonique de Longueuil (OSDL) and President of Anima-Québec until May 2021. He was also President of the organizing committee for funding of the Carrefour pour Elle organization.