

GUIDE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS



An initiative of the City of Châteauguay



Châteauguay

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1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

In November 2009, the residents of Châteauguay elected a new political team ; new council members and a new mayor. The values that they put forward during the electoral campaign and the commitments that they made were clearly explained and communicated during the electoral campaign that brought them to power. One of these commitments was to hold a public consultation whereby residents and the various groups that are part of the social fabric of Châteauguay could express their opinions and discuss various subjects. This democratic process will provide the new municipal council, led by Mayor Nathalie Simon, with the insights to help lay the foundations of the Châteauguay of today and that of tomorrow. The horizon chosen was the year 2020.

Listening, discussing and the participation of residents in the great challenges of the future of Châteauguay are the values at the heart of the organizing of the consultations that the municipal authorities are inviting residents and those involved in the economic, social and community to attend. This consultation process will revolve around four themes : sustainable and concrete development, the family, the competent and honest administration of the municipality, and the youth.

Sustainable and concrete development

Sustainable and concrete development makes reference primarily to the respect and protection of green spaces, the waterways in the municipality and the improvement of the urban environment. It also includes elements of economic and social development.

The family

The theme of the family, refers mainly to the need for a healthy living environment, that is safe and pleasant, and the application of an effective family policy.

Competent and honest administration

In matters of public administration, honesty refers to the transparency of decisions, of management, of the spending of public funds of the municipality. The open communication and continued consultation with the public are the possible solutions for confidence in all elected representatives and other officials.

The Youth

Through discussions on this theme, young people who are 25 years of age and less can express their points of view on subjects that are important to them as residents of the city of Châteauguay.

2. GOALS OF THE CONSULTATIONS

Eager to make a special place for its citizens and its partners in the decision making process and to generate the resident's interest in the consultation activities, the City of Châteauguay advocates an inclusive participatory approach based on the following principles :

- the transparency of the process is guaranteed ;
- residents, organizations and partners are invited to state their positions early in the process ;
- the participation of all is facilitated and equality between participants respected ;
- the decision making process is known ;
- a clear and thorough report is released.

Along with the general goals inherent in all of the public participation activities, precise goals are determined :

- obtain the positions and reactions of the public in a positive, constructive and visionary fashion ;
- generate interest among the public and their sincere involvement in the various consultations ;
- create a positive and dynamic atmosphere and development in Châteauguay ;
- ultimately, create a feeling of pride in their city, their administration, their municipal councillors and their mayor on the part of the public ;
- lay the foundations of an action plan for the City for, a minimum of the next ten years by identifying the objectives and guidelines that the citizens of Châteauguay hopes to attain and adopt.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

In order to give everyone the opportunity to actively collaborate with the decision making process, many distinct public participation activities are planned. The first step, which is composed of a series of communication and information activities, as well as the holding of public consultations based on four themed workshops.

The second step, the citizen's Summit, is the culmination of the participation of residents. The overall guiding principles of future policies, which will come from the public consultations, will be presented to the residents and adopted by the participants at the Summit.

Step 1 : Consultation activities

Four themed workshops

These information, dialogue and discussion workshops are part of the activities organized for the residents, organizations, partners and youth. This includes the following four themed workshops : sustainable and concrete development, the family, the competent and honest administration, and the youth. The youth workshop is intended for participants who are 25 years of age and under where they can express their opinions on subjects that are important to them. The objectives of these workshops are :

- report on the current situation of the municipality with regard to sustainable and concrete development, the family, the competent and honest administration, and the youth ;
- permit residents to participate actively early in the decision making process on the present and future of the city ;
- inform residents on the municipal decision making processes ;
- identify and prioritize the action plans on the themes addressed ;
- permit resident to actively participate and to contribute by submitting their concerns and their vision of the city of Châteauguay of today and tomorrow ;
- give the youth the right to speak and let them contribute to the decision making process ;
- permit residents to come and officially express their opinions by presenting their proposals ;

- receive comments upon the information circulated and discussed at the information, dialogue and discussions workshops ;
- gather more information about the views expressed within the previously submitted proposals.

Step 2 : Châteauguay 2020 Summit

Presentation of reports on the public consultations and the adoption of goals and guiding principles

Once a report on the public consultations is completed, the City of Châteauguay will invite the residents to a presentation, on November 7th, 2010 of the overall guidelines for future policies. The presentation will be followed by a question period in order to allow residents to express their opinions on the results of the consultation process. The goals of the Summit are :

- report on the overall guidelines for future policies with regard to sustainable and concrete development, the family, the competent and honest administration, and the youth ;
- create a feeling of pride in the public with regard to their participation ;
- adopt the goals and guidelines presented.

4. HOW TO PARTICIPATE ?

1) Submit your proposals

Participate in the decision making process of your city by submitting your proposals and plan of action with regard to sustainable and concrete development, the family, an competent and honest administration, and, if you are 25 years of age and less, express your ideas on the various subjects that are important to you.

2) Register for the public consultations

Attend ONE of the public consultation workshops that will take place on September 25th. Register starting today on the Summit website at www.sommetchateauguay2020.ca

*** Please note that in order to voice your ideas in a workshop, it is necessary to have submitted your proposals first.

Public consultations

Four themed workshops

Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At Howard S. Billings Regional High School

210 McLeod

Châteauguay

3) Participate in the Summit

Attend the presentation of reports on the overall guidelines for future policies resulting from the consultation process and participate in their adoption.

Châteauguay 2020 Summit

Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

At Pavillon de l'Île

Saint-Bernard Island

480 d'Youville Boulevard

Châteauguay

You are invited to forward your proposals to the City of Châteauguay before the public consultation (See Annex A – How to submit your proposals), no later than September 17, 2010.

ANNEX 1 – HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS

Two ways to submit for your proposals :

- 1) Submit your proposals in writing and present them during the public consultations ;
- 2) Submit your proposals in writing and not present them during the public consultations.

Submitting the proposals :

- Via the Summit Internet site : www.sommetchateauguay2020.ca
You can send your proposals by filling out the fields or downloading your file.
- In person
You can also submit your proposals by dropping them off at the city of Châteauguay's city hall, attention Sylvain Daignault, Head of the Communications Department.

City of Châteauguay
5 D'Youville Boulevard
Châteauguay

You must include the following information in your document :

- Your name and, if applicable, the name of the organization you represent, as well as your personal information (address, telephone number and e-mail) ;
- Your proposals to improve our community, notably on the following subjects : the sustainable and concrete development, the family, competent and honest administration, and the youth.

The proposal must be a MAXIMUM of 10 pages, any excess will not be considered. We also welcome the submission of a simple idea.

The proposals must also be written with respect to other participants. It must not include any proposals that might undermine the dignity, honour, reputation or privacy of individuals.

The proposals must be submitted **no later than September 17, 2010**.

The proposals cannot be changed once they are submitted.

The publication of the proposals :

The proposals remain confidential until the moment when they are presented during the public consultations. Any proposal that is made public will be found on the Summit's Internet site.

For any questions or supplemental information about the Châteauguay 2020 Summit you can contact us :

By email : communications@ville.chateauguay.qc.ca

By phone : 450.698.3004

Thank you for your contribution to the well-being of residents!