

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**“Celebrating the churches of Montreal”, September 7, 8, and 9, 2018, an event not to be missed!**



Montreal, August 31, 2018 - Montreal is world-renowned for its wealth of religious heritage, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal is proud to participate in the first edition of “Celebrating the churches of Montreal”. This event has been developed by Montreal’s Religious Heritage Consultation Committee of the *Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec*.

Just like all the other heritage consultation committees throughout each region of Quebec, the Montreal committee works hard to disseminate information regarding financial aid, process requests, approve restoration projects and participate in project follow-ups. For several years now, the consultation committee members have tried to be more proactive in the area of promoting religious heritage. Last year, the committee spearheaded the creation of a Ulysses travel guide that focuses on the religious heritage of Montreal. According to Caroline Tanguay, president of the consultation committee, “opening the churches to the public is the next logical step following the publication of this guide, because in order to transmit our religious heritage, that heritage has to be known, and in order to know it, can there be a better way to do so?”

Passerelles, a heritage cooperative firm, has been mandated to organize “Celebrating the churches of Montreal”; details of the event are available at the following link:

<https://www.eglisesouvertes.ca/programmation>

“Celebrating the churches of Montreal” is part of a pilot project initiated by the consultation committee. More than 25 religious heritage locations in Montreal are participating, many of them Catholic. “It is only the beginning,” says Tanguay, who dreams of a day dedicated to religious heritage “where all of the churches would be open daylong in addition to the hours for religious celebrations”.

The official launch of “Celebrating the churches of Montreal” will take place on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in l’Église du Gesù (1200 rue de Bleury), the church will remain open throughout the weekend. Come and admire the architectural and artistic heritage of our churches!

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*About Montreal’s Religious Heritage Consultation committee:*

*The committee brings together a dozen lay and clerical representatives, including owners of heritage buildings, heritage experts, municipal administrators as well as a representative from the Ministry of Culture and Communications. The Montreal committee allocates funds designated for Montreal, called Pierres Vivantes (“Living Stones”), which was bequeathed to the city by the organization that founded the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec in 1995.*

**For more information or interview requests:**

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