

## **XII Metropolis World Congress in Montreal: A gathering of the world's major cities**

**MONTREAL, May 2, 2017** — The President of Metropolis and Mayor of Montreal, the Honourable Denis Coderre, will welcome the world's major cities from June 19 to 22 at the XII Metropolis World Congress.

Coming together under the theme "Global Challenges: Major Cities in Action," 100 mayors and more than 1,000 local and international delegates, including elected officials, experts, city planners, business people and academics, will be in Montreal this June to discuss key challenges facing metropolises on all continents: environment, inclusion and living together, economic development, smart cities, mobility and urban planning, as well as metropolitan leadership and governance on both a local and a global scale.

"As the Mayor of Montreal and also as President of Metropolis, the global network of major cities and metropolitan areas, I would like to thank the Quebec government for its substantial contribution, as well as the Congress's organizing committee for allowing us to offer excellent preferential rates. It's only natural that Montreal, a francophone city within North America celebrating its 375th anniversary this year and innovating on a number of fronts in terms of local governance, should host this important event that we hope to make as open as possible to all people interested in attending," said the Mayor of Montreal, Denis Coderre.

As the host city, Montreal can count on the support of its key partners in planning the Congress, including the financial contribution of the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie and of the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Occupation du territoire.

"Major cities are driving forces for economic development, places for social innovation and true centres of attraction. The Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie is happy to financially support the XII Metropolis World Congress in Montreal. Our common efforts contribute daily to the prosperity of Montreal and to Quebec's influence worldwide. I am grateful for the willingness to open this event to La Francophonie by inviting members of the Association internationale des maires francophones (AIMF) to hold their Annual General Assembly concurrent to Metropolis," said Christine St-Pierre, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie.

"In the light of global urbanization, the strategic role of metropolises with regard to economic development is growing, which is why the government supports Montreal, specifically through draft legislation to acknowledge its special status as a metropolis. Our metropolis has an extraordinary ability to accommodate such prominent international events as the XII Metropolis World Congress, increasing our influence as a metropolis and resulting in considerable economic benefits for Quebecers," said Martin Coiteux, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy, Minister of Public Security and Minister responsible for the Montréal Region.

It should be noted that roughly 100 mayors of major cities from around the world will attend the Congress, including Michael Müller (Berlin), Anne Hidalgo (Paris), Miguel Angel Mancera Espinosa (Mexico), Mohamed Sadiki (Rabat), Amin Nordin (Kuala Lumpur) and Rahm Emmanuel (Chicago). Two hundred presenters will also be in attendance, including Philippe Le Houérou, Chief Executive Officer of the International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group;

Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Louis Zacharilla, Co-Founder of the Intelligent Community Forum; and Alexandre Taillefer, Managing Partner at XPND Capital.

"Business communities are vital partners to metropolises, identifying innovative solutions for the challenges of our time, in particular as they relate to economic development. Through its distinctiveness, the Congress is an exceptional platform for sharing best practices and defining key challenges worldwide," said Monique Leroux, President of the XII Metropolis Congress Board of Directors.

It should also be noted that the Congress will take place at the same time as the Annual Assembly of the Association internationale des Maires francophones (AIMF), making Montreal a hub for urban leaders as we celebrate the 375th anniversary of the metropolis's founding.

This major global event will also be open to a number of local stakeholders. As part of this commitment, Congress organizers today announced a special rate — a day pass at \$355 — offered to Canadian residents exclusively.

### **About Metropolis**

Metropolis, World Association of the Major Metropolises, is the global network of major cities and metropolitan areas having populations greater than one million. Founded in 1985, the association comprises more than 140 members worldwide. It serves as an international forum for large cities from around the world to consult on urban issues and challenges.

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