



PREPARED BY

**PSSA 2021-2022**

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[www.pssa.ca](http://www.pssa.ca)



Hello to all Concordia Political Science students!

This PSSA guide is designed to aid international students and students from other parts Canada familiarize themselves with the vibrant Downtown Montreal corridor in which Concordia resides. This guide will breakdown key neighbourhoods, streets, and hotspots that you can enjoy with a group or by yourself.

Welcome to Montreal!

# SOME FAST FACTS

## THE NUMBERS

**Founded:** May 17th, 1642

**City of Montreal population (2020):** 1,821,070

**Island of Montreal population (2020):** 2,069,849

**Metropolitan population (2020):** 4,364,189

**Size of Montreal Island:** 499.19 km<sup>2</sup>/192.74 sq. mi

**Number of Ethnic Groups present in Montreal:** 200

[250 total in all of Quebec]

**Languages Spoken in Montreal:** 150

**Top 10 [non-Canadian] Ethnic Origins (2016):** French, Italian, Irish, English, Haitian, Scottish, Chinese, First Nations, German, Moroccan

**Top 5 languages spoken other than French or English (2016):** Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Creole, Mandarin

320,000

POST-SECONDARY  
STUDENTS!

6

UNIVERSITIES!





# TRANSPORTATION: "LE METRO"

**Fares:** \$3.50 for 1 trip, \$6.50 for 2 trips, \$29.50 for 10 trips, \$10 for a 1 day pass, \$14.25 unlimited weekend pass, \$20 for a three-day pass, \$27.25 for a weekly pass.

Students get a **reduced rate** for the monthly pass, which is now \$54, non-students pay \$88 a month. Students also get a reduced rate for weekly; weekend and three day passes as well.

<http://www.stm.info/en/node/212>

**Green Line:** Atwater Station, Guy Concordia, Peel, McGill, Place des Arts, Saint Laurent, Berri UQAM, Beaudry and Papineau stations.

All are located within Boulevard De Maisonneuve Ouest

**Orange Line:** Georges Vanier, Lucien L'Allier, Bonaventure, Square Victoria OACI, Place d'Armes, Champ-de-Mars, Berri UQAM and Sherbooke.

All located within Boulevard Rene Levesque and Rue Berri.

**Yellow Line:** Berri UQAM & Jean Drapeau metro station.



**Fares:** Can only be paid in coinage: \$3.25 for a one-way ticket

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<http://www.stm.info/en/node/212>

Montreal's bus system uses the same tickets as the metro system: not unlike Vancouver's Compass Cards and Toronto's TTC Tickets. Meaning that while you can only buy a one-way ticket 'at the door', you can use your metro pass for the bus, too!



# NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE



# QUARTIER DES SPECTACLES "PLACE DES ARTS"

Quartier des Spectacles is the entertainment district located in the Eastern part of Downtown Montreal. It consists of two sub neighbourhoods, Place des Arts and Quartier Latin, which borders between the Eastern end of the Quartier des Spectacles and the Gay Village. Place des Arts is Montreal's version of Broadway, with performance halls, art galleries, public art and public spaces. Place des Arts also connects to Complexe Desjardins, which is a complex of three large office towers, a hotel and a shopping complex with close to 100 stores, restaurants and businesses.

Quartier des Spectacles is also considered to be one of the largest entertainment districts in North America and is said to have the highest concentration of performance halls and cultural venues. It currently has 80 cultural venues, 450 cultural organisations and 30 performance halls within a 1 square kilometre area. It is also home to 12,000 residents, 45,000 workers and 50,000 students.

**HOST OF:**

**montreal  
jazz fest**

**just for  
laughs**

**francophilies**





Montreal is also known for being the city of festivals, with almost 200 taking place every year. Within the Quartier des Spectacles alone, 40 festivals are held year-round, including some of the world's largest. Some of the festivals held here include Nuit Blanche: The world's largest all-nighter winter festival, attracting between 300,000-500,000 a night every year. This is part of the "Montréal en Lumière" festival, which takes place over two weeks and attracts nearly 1.5 million spectators. The region also hosts the Montreal Jazz Festival, the world's largest jazz festival, and Just for Laughs, the world's largest comedy festival, which attract 2 million spectators per year over the course of two weeks. Nuits d'Afrique, a music festival dedicated to African and Caribbean music, is also the largest in the world, attracting nearly 500,000 people per year.

The Quartier des Spectacles is filled to the brim with iconic institutions such as the metal and punk bar Les Foufounes Electroniques, the legendary strip club Cade Cleopatra, and bars such as Saint Brock and Saint Sulpice. Streets such as St. Denis and Rue Ontario are also home to a high concentration of bars, clubs and restaurants! This is a perfect area for students to meet during evenings and weekends.

## some stops:

Anticafé Montreal, Foufounes Electriques, Pub Le Sainte-Elisabeth, Saint Sulpice, LE Saint Bock, Tacos Victor, Pub Quartier Latin, Turbo Haus, Arcade MTL, Café Gitana, Le Central food hall, Complexe Desjardins, Club Soda, M-Telus, Society for Arts and Technology (SAT), Eva B, Kody Montreal Rock Boutique.



# "THE GAY VILLAGE"

**While called the "Gay Village", MTL's largest youth LGBT community is now in Le Plateau**

Montreal's Gay Village is yet another vibrant neighbourhood located in Downtown Montreal. It is considered to be one of the first gay districts in North America and the largest in size in North America. Although the neighbourhood is now a trendy and touristic hotspot, in the 1960s and 1970s, it was a safe space for the LGBTQ community. The region developed a unique business climate that serviced the local LGBTQ community while attempting to avoid the ire of local political actors. Throughout the 1970's and 1980's the region experienced almost a dozen police raids of LGBTQ establishments, which helped establish public support for a political coalitions that advocated for the rights of local residents.

In the 1990s, the neighbourhood not only saw acceptance by politicians and the general public but also saw expansion in land area, businesses and tourism. The majority of businesses opened on St. Catherine street from restaurants to nightclubs, bars, strip clubs and cabaret shows. The neighbourhood saw revitalization and investments poured in from all levels of government. The Village is also home to a Pride parades that attracts almost 1 million people per year. In the summertime, a portion of St. Catherine street is closed off to cars and becomes a pedestrian thoroughfare with plenty of performances and street side shopping.



# "THE GAY VILLAGE"

Although the neighbourhood has seen closures of prominent nightclubs and bars, new restaurants and developments have attracted a new wave of residents. Must-see locales in the village include Papi Churros, Bar Renaud, Le Date Karaoke, Rage: Axe Throwing, Cabaret Mado, Bar le Cocktail and the world-renowned Stereo nightclub. The thriving social scene within the village displays a progressive, welcoming Montreal that is a perfect place to meet friends for a drink.

## some stops:

Cabaret Mado, Bar Renard, Metropolis, Rage: Axe Throwing, Galerie Blanc, L'Olympia, Alejandro, Yer'Mad Bistro Bar, The Montreal Comedy, Le Date Karaoke, Salon Bistro Bar, District Video Lounge, Club Unity, Campus Danseurs Nus.

## HOST OF:

fierte  
(pride)  
montreal

montreal  
en arts



# OLD MONTREAL

Old Montreal provides a European atmosphere unique to North America. 17th century buildings still stand in this small, dense area rich in Montreal's history as both an established fur trading post and the "Wall Street" of Canada on St. Jacques Street. British elites upon gaining control of the city after the Seven Years' War, developed estates further inland and established the wealthy and powerful Golden Square Mile, along with banks and other financial institutions. What is now St Jacques street and was formerly St James street housed the Montreal Stock Exchange, The Royal Bank of Canada, Molson Bank, and the New York Life Insurance Company. Unfortunately, St. Jacques Street lost prominence with the exodus of capital to Toronto in the 1970's. However, St Jacques street is left with the remnants of financial dominances with abundant examples of Neoclassical architecture at it's finest. Now important businesses on this street include the Bank of Montreal, the Montreal World Trade Centre and nd the new Montreal Stock Exchange Tower, which was built in the 1960s and is 190 meters tall!



Old Montreal is also home to Canada's oldest street, Rue Saint-Paul, which was inaugurated in 1673. This street is paved with historic cobblestone buildings and nearly 30 art galleries and museums. The street also contains upscale clubs, bars, restaurants, and souvenir shops on every corner. Old Montreal is also blessed with the Notre Dame Basilica an institution open to the public and furnished with ornate religious decorations. The church is located at Place d'Armes, a public square home to Montreal's first high rise building, the New York Life Insurance Building. 9 floors tall, the building was considered a behemoth in 1887. Next door is the famous Aldred Building, a 23-floor art deco building modelled after the Empire State Building at a 1/10th scale. Next door to Notre Dame is the Old Sulpician Seminary, built in 1687 it is the oldest building in Montreal. Old Montreal is also home to city hall, located on Rue Notre Dame it is designed in accordance with the architectural style in Napoleon the third's France.

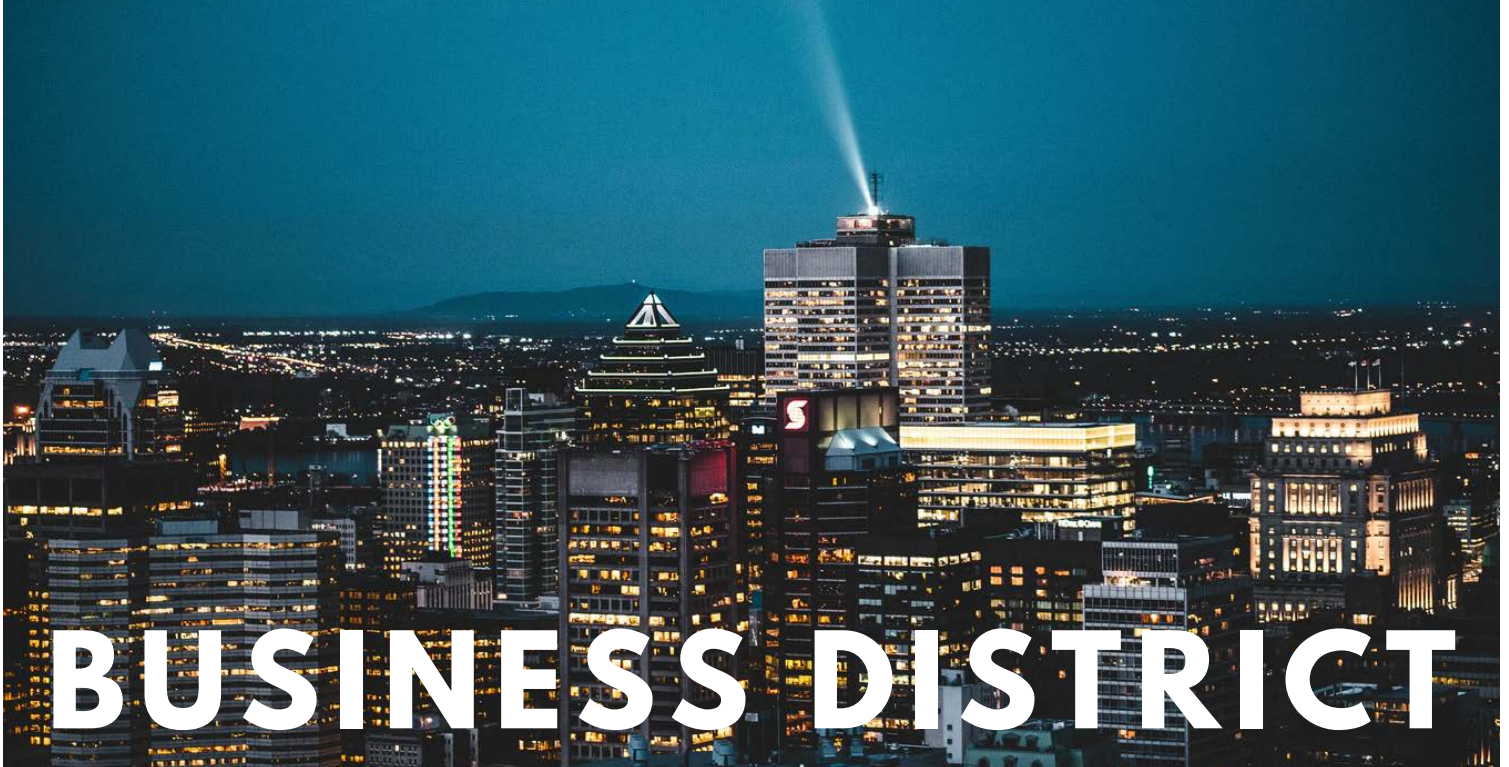


# OLD MONTREAL

Finally, Old Montreal is littered with multimedia projections. In 2017, the city added Cité Mémoire, which showcases roughly 20 projections on walls and alleyways, showcasing historic Montreal events. The projections were supposed to run for one year, coinciding with the 375th birthday of Montreal, but it was so popular that it was kept! Four years later, it is as strong as ever and continues to bring out tourists and locals as they get a glimpse of Montreal's past.

## **some stops:**

Modavie, Terrasse Nelligan, Tommy, Crew Café, Barroco, Le 409, Restaurant Le Speakeasy, Terrasse Place D'Armes, Bevo, The Coldroom, Montreal Poutine, Notre Dame Basilica, City Hall, Centaur Theatre, Montréal Science Centre, Bonsecours Market, Montreal Ferris Wheel



Like many downtowns, Montreal has a high concentration of businesses located in a small cluster. Downtown Montreal's Central Business District can be broken down into three areas: Centre des Affaires, Quartier des Gares and Quartier International. In these areas, you will see the tallest buildings in Montreal, which house banks, tech/A.I firms, law firms, accounting firms, the Montreal stock exchange, and more! This area is also home to the Bell Centre, where the most storied hockey franchise, the Montreal Canadiens, play. The area surrounding it has been considered Montreal's "Manhattan", as tall condo towers, offices and hotels have been built at a rapid pace since 2013. To date, almost 6,000 condo units have been built near the Bell Centre, along with 550,000 sq ft of office space, new restaurants and more pedestrianized streets.

The International Quarter is the most recent neighbourhood in the Montreal CBD, being formally established in the early 2000s. This area has seen new public spaces built alongside the attraction of International organizations settling in Downtown Montreal. In fact, more than 65 International organizations call Montreal their home, including the ICAO, AIESEC, The World Anti-Doping Agency and The UN Refugee Agency.



Cité du Multimédia, which borders Old Montreal and Griffintown is also a neighbourhood that was established in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This neighbourhood was an initiative created by the Parti Québécois, who wanted to attract tech companies to open up offices in the downtown corridor in exchange for tax credits. This was done as a way to revitalise the downtown area, which saw a large exodus between 1970 to 1996. The program, which was cut in 2003 by the Quebec Liberal Party, was successful in attracting tech companies and is now home to 6,000 tech workers with roughly 50 companies in the tech, information, and multimedia sectors. Overall, Montreal has a tech workforce of about 180,000 people and is considered a global tech hub.

## **some stops:**

Parc Bonaventure, Bell Centre, Bier Markt, TimeOut Market, Eaton Centre, Dorchester Square, Place du Canada, Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, Bar George, Place Ville Marie





Concordia University is located in the westernmost sector of the downtown, in an area called the Quartier des Grands Jardins. Other names for this area include the Shaughnessy Village and the “Concordia Ghetto”. The area is small, making up 0.70km<sup>2</sup> or 0.27m<sup>2</sup> in area. A population of almost 16,000 people inhabit this area as of 2016, with a population density of 58,063 people per square mile. It is the most densely populated area in Quebec and has a similar density and urban built form like St. James Town in Toronto. This area is also home to Dawson College, LaSalle College and Concordia University. Other highlights include Montreal’s “unofficial” Koreatown located on St. Catherine street, an abundance of public spaces and awesome restaurants on De Maisonneuve and St. Catherine street. Architectural gems can be found on Sherbrooke street, such as the Montreal Masonic Temple, College de Montreal and an abundance of Victorian-era row housing alongside beautiful brick buildings.

**some stops:** Bar Ganadara, Presotea, Seoul Chako, Kampai Garden, Moose Bawr, Wok Cafe, La Belle et Le Boeuf, Gazo, Slice + Soda, Chatime



The Golden Square Mile is a historic neighbourhood located within the central business district and the Western part of Downtown Montreal. Before high rises and skyscrapers took place, it was home to large mansions held by Anglophone elites. The mansions of Sir. George Drummond, Lord Shaughnessy and John Hamilton all resided in this area. Mansions were built on Mont Royal and stretched towards what is now the central business district. This area was once saturated by the Canadian elites. However, with the rise of Quebec separatism in the 1970s, the city experienced an exodus of people and capital which moved to Toronto, this area was emptied and the majority of mansions were replaced with high rises. Today, only 30% of the historic mansions remain North of Sherbrooke street, while in South of Sherbrooke, this number is a measly 5%.

This area of Downtown is home to not only beautiful architecture on the mountainside, but is also home to a wide range of museums and institutions such as the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the McCord Museum, Redpath Museum, The world renown Ritz-Carlton Hotel and McGill University. Although the majority of the history is replaced, the neighborhood has a distinct character which preserves the sense of power that was concentrated in a single Montreal neighbourhood.



# GRIFFINTOWN

Although Griffintown is part of Le Sud Ouest borough, it is the most recent addition to the ever-expanding Downtown Montreal area. Griffintown was the landing pad for Irish immigrants in the 1800s and was a strong Irish community for nearly a century. With the 1970s' deindustrialization and the expansion of the St. Lawrence seaway, factories were closed and job losses caused many to leave the neighbourhood. This area was nearly vacant and abandoned for decades until a large condo boom started in 2010. In fact, the condo boom was so large that between 2011 to 2016, the population of Griffintown grew by 642%! The area is now home to high-end condos, hotels, restaurants and is in close proximity to the new REM rapid transit system, which is expected to open a branch connecting downtown to the South Shore in 2022. Griffintown is also home to social housing and is currently seeing more green spaces added, with the goal of making a green and inclusive neighbourhood. Other highlights include one of the largest and premium nightclubs in North America, New City Gas and ETS, a technological university.

## some stops:

Lachine Canal, La Bête à Pain GRIFFINTOWN, Mano Cornuto, New City Gas, Galerie Lisabel, Brasseur de Montréal, Ryu, Le Richmond, Makro Pêcheries, Restaurant Grinder, Foxy, Café Lali, Lord William Pub, Galerie Blouin Division, Arsenal art Contemporain Montréal.



The surrounding islands of Ile Sainte-Helene and Ile Notre-Dame are partly man-made islands and were built with the soil dug from the Montreal metro projects. In 1967, it hosted the World Expo, which attracted nearly 55 million visitors from all over the world! Today it is home to an abundance of activities and green space. Ile Sainte-Helen is home to a Six Flags amusement park called La Ronde, the second-largest amusement park in Canada, La Ronde is home to two B&M coasters, Goliath, a 175ft hypercoaster, which offers strong airtime and Le Vampire, an inverted coaster that is a clone of Batman: The Ride at other Six Flags parks. La Ronde is nicknamed Canada's Wonderland and attracts an average of 1.25 million guests per year. It is also home to 40 flat rides for all ages and the world's largest fireworks festival, where countries from around the world compete. The Islands also have an abundance of green space and bike paths, which are all connected to the Yellow Line of the Montreal metro station.



# THE ISLANDS

Festivals are part of Montreal's DNA and these islands also host plenty of large-scale concerts and festivals. From North America's largest metal festival, Heavy Montreal to Canada's Coachella festival, Osheaga to an EDM paradise in Ile Soniq. All these festivals attract between 60,000 to 145,000 people per year and are world-renowned. It is also home to winter festivals, world music festivals called "weekends du monde" and Piknic Electronik, which happens every weekend in the summer.

The island hosts the largest and most prestigious Formula One race in the world, the Canadian Grand Prix. During this weekend in June, nearly half a million spectators from around the world flock to Montreal to watch amazing races and heart-stopping action. Actors, actresses, politicians and businesspeople from all over the world stop by our city, which increases the prestige of the events. Once the race is over, people flock to downtown Montreal for parties that can last until 3 AM.

## some stops:

La Ronde, Parc Jean Drapeau, Montreal Biosphere, Montreal Casino, Espace 67, Piknic Electronik, Jean-Doré Beach, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Olympic Basin, Ile Saint-Helene Lighthouse, Stewart Museum.



# MONT-ROYAL

Mount Royal is considered by many as the city's landmark surrounded by the downtown core, Le Plateau, Outremont and Westmount. The mountain stands at 234 metres tall/764 ft and dominates the Montreal skyline. This is done intentionally as the city has strict height restrictions to ensure that no building is taller than Mount Royal. Mount Royal also boasts three lookouts, one facing the East and overlooking Le Plateau and up to Montreal East, a lookout overlooking the downtown area and core areas and another lookout in Westmount. Mount Royal also has a nearly 700-acre park, Mount Royal Park. Designed by Fredrick Law Olmstead, the designer of Central Park, the park boasts an artificial lake, trails, public art, BBQ areas and more. During the summer, thousands of Montrealers meet every Sunday at the base of the mountain, which is located across the street from Jeanne-Mance park, to play music, LARP and more!





Montreal is a global hotspot for mural arts and street art. Montreal's street art scene has been active since the early 70s and is considered one of the best in the world. The city is home to North America's largest street art festival in Mural Festival, Under Pressure, which is the largest and oldest hip hop & street art festival in the world and various other festivals that take place throughout the year. Murals and graffiti artists also create artwork in alleyways, buildings, sidewalks and streets in almost every borough in the city. Furthermore, the city of Montreal and non-profit groups also engage in mural programs to make the city an open-air art museum for everyone to enjoy. Although it is hard to map every single mural, the city and various sites have maps that showcase where most murals are located.







# OUR HAUNTS

## christopher:

**"Foufs"**, a downtown underground club venue  
**Dieu du Ciel**, local microbrewery  
**Le Darling**, bar and restaurant on St. Laurent  
**Mr. Azteca**, local taqueria  
**St. Viateur**, one of the oldest Jewish bakeries in MTL

## zakiyyah:

**Little Lamb Hot Pot**, Mongolian hot pot in Chinatown  
**Anti-Cafe**, cute work-and-study space and cafe  
**Rene-Levesque Parc**, park on the south shore  
**Atwater Market**, one of MTL's largest farmer's markets  
**Girouard Park**, south of campus, NDG park

## tharsiga:

**Qing Hua Dumplings**, dumpling house on campus  
**Paulo et Suzanne**, diner and resto in Cartierville  
**Amy's Breakfast**, breakfast and donut shop  
**Pine Beach Park**, riverside park in Dorval  
**Nara Resto Lounge**, shisha lounge and resto

## ryan:

**Moose Bawr**, local bar and resto next to campus  
**Le Warehouse**, super cheap resto and bar chain  
**Place Des Arts**, huge event space in le Quartier  
**Stations De Sports**, local sports bar near campus  
**Scotiabank Cinema**, huge indoor cinema by the entrance of the Underground City



# OUR HAUNTS

## maddi:

**Cafe Santropol**, Queer-friendly and eclectic cafe  
**Jean-Talon Market**, another farmer's market  
**Nos Thes**, bubble tea shop and resto on campus  
**Omnivore**, healthy Middle Eastern grill on St-Laurent  
**Big in Japan**, hidden speakeasy and cocktail bar

## marina:

**Verdun Beach**, one of Montreal's only large beaches  
**Mimi & Jones**, burger grill specializing in vegan fare  
**Archway Bar Sante**, 100% plant-based resto in Verdun  
**St-Sulpice**, St-Denis bar with a killer Sangria selection  
**Mont-Royal**, icon of Montreal, mountain-top park

## juliette:

**HVMANS**, streetside cafe right next to campus  
**Musee des Beaux-Arts**, with frequent student discounts  
**La Vieulle Europe**, european import store on St-Laurent  
**Cafe Vasco Da Gamma**, cute, healthy cafe on campus  
**Old Port**, scenic and cute, packed with cafes and bars