

Montreal, September 27, 2011 – On October 4th, **The Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM)** will unveil the fifth edition of *Greater Montreal's Vital Signs*. The FGM will present its annual check-up of the metropolitan area by examining striking statistics about the quality of life, both positive and surprising. Media are invited to attend the press conference to be held at 10:30 am at **La Maison du développement durable**.

Vital Signs provides a statistical portrait of community life in Montreal. It covers issues such as diversity and integration, work, education, transportation, the environment, as well as arts and culture. The report identifies the real needs of the region and its residents. It also serves as a strategic tool for the FGM and its donors in allocating grants, and is an invaluable resource for philanthropists and other organizations. FGM President and CEO, Marina Boulos-Winton, emphasizes that “knowledge of real issues affecting our community is essential to the credibility of an organization such as ours. The FGM awards grants based on insight and factual knowledge of the needs of various organizations, and ensures that grants are directly allocated to projects which are most pressing.”

A Few Highlights from Greater Montreal's Vital Signs 2011:

- It is estimated that 60,000 new jobs will be created in the Greater Montreal Area between now and 2014. It is expected that 60% of these jobs will require a college or university degree.
- In January 2011, eating nutritionally will cost \$7.19 per person, per day. This is the equivalent of \$860 per month for a family of four, or 20% more than what most families can afford.
- In 2010, Montreal hosted 314 conferences, with 303,054 participants. Economic impact: \$424 million. That's an increase of \$88 million since 2009, when the city held 101 fewer events.

Marina Boulos will present the highlights of the report. She will be joined by the following experts to discuss key issues and the progress being made in various sectors.

Marcel Côté, Founding Partner, SECOR

Aïda Kamar, President and Chief Executive Officer, *Vision Diversité*

Dany Michaud, Executive Director, *Moisson Montréal*

Danielle Sauvage, Executive Director, *Conseil des arts de Montréal*

Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Time: 10:30 am

Place: *Maison du développement durable*
50 St. Catherine Street West

About Vital Signs

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and provides key indicators in a range of areas critical to everyone's quality of life. *Vital Signs* is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. This year, 22 Canadian community foundations will simultaneously publish local reports.

For more information about *Vital Signs* across Canada, visit <http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca/index-e.cfm>

About The Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM)

The Foundation of Greater Montreal is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the well-being of the Greater Montreal community. It establishes and manages permanent endowment funds and distributes their income in the form of grants to charitable organizations working in the areas of health, social services, arts and culture, education, and the environment.

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