Montreal

Montreal (/ ?m?ntri???l / ; pronounced : [m? ? ?eal] ; French : Montréal) is the most populous city in Quebec and the second most populous municipality in Canada . Originally called Ville @-@ Marie , or " City of Mary , " it is named after Mount Royal , the triple @-@ peaked hill in the heart of the city . The city is on the Island of Montreal , which took its name from the same source as the city , and a few much smaller peripheral islands , the largest of which is Île Bizard . It has a distinct four @-@ season continental climate with warm to hot summers and cold snowy winters .

In 2011 the city had a population of 1 @,@ 649 @,@ 519 . Montreal 's metropolitan area had a population of 3 @,@ 824 @,@ 221 and a population of 1 @,@ 886 @,@ 481 in the urban agglomeration , with all of the municipalities on the Island of Montreal included . The 2014 estimate of the population of the metropolitan area of Montreal is 4 @.@ 1 million . French is the city 's official language and is the language spoken at home by 56 @.@ 9 % of the population of the city , followed by English at 18 @.@ 6 % and 19 @.@ 8 % other languages (in the 2006 census) . In the larger Montreal Census Metropolitan Area , 67 @.@ 9 % of the population speaks French at home , compared to 16 @.@ 5 % who speak English . Montreal is one of the most bilingual cities in Quebec and Canada with 56 % of the population able to speak both English and French . Montreal is the second largest primarily French @-@ speaking city in the world , after Paris .

Historically the commercial capital of Canada , it was surpassed in population and economic strength by Toronto in the 1970s . It remains an important centre of commerce , aerospace , finance , pharmaceuticals , technology , design , education , culture , tourism , gaming , film and world affairs . Being the location of the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization , Montreal is one of three North American cities home to organizations of the United Nations (along with Washington , D.C. and New York) and also has the second @-@ highest number of consulates in the continent . Montreal was also named a UNESCO City of Design . In 2009 , Montreal was named North America 's leading host city for international association events , according to the 2009 preliminary rankings of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) . The 2016 edition of QS Best Student Cities ranked Montreal the 7th @-@ best city in the world to be a university student . According to the 2015 Global Liveability Ranking by the Economist Intelligence Unit , Montreal ranked 14th out of 140 cities .

Montreal has hosted multiple international conferences and events throughout its history , including the 1967 International and Universal Exposition and the 1976 Summer Olympic Games . It is the only Canadian city to have held the Summer Olympics . Currently , the city hosts the Canadian Grand Prix of Formula One , the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the Just for Laughs festival . In 2012 , Montreal was ranked as a Beta + world city .

Name

In Kanien ? kéha , or Mohawk language , the island is called Tiohtià : ke Tsi (a name referring to the Lachine Rapids to the island 's southwest) or Ka @-@ wé @-@ no @-@ te . In Anishinaabemowin , or Ojibwe language , the land is called Mooniyaang (a name meaning " the first stopping place " and part of the seven fires prophecy) .

Though the city was first named by European settlers Ville Marie , or " City of Mary , " its current name comes from Mount Royal , the triple @-@ peaked hill in the heart of the city . According to one theory , the name derives from mont Réal , (Mont Royal in modern French) , but Cartier 's 1535 diary entry , naming the mountain , refers to " le mont Royal " . Another possibility mentioned by the Government of Canada on its web site concerning Canadian place names , is that the name was adopted as it is written nowadays because an early map of 1556 used the Italian name of the mountain , " Monte Real " .

History

Pre @-@ European contact

Archaeological evidence demonstrates that First Nations native people occupied the island of Montreal as early as 4 @,@ 000 years ago . By the year AD 1000 , they had started to cultivate maize . Within a few hundred years , they had built fortified villages . The Saint Lawrence Iroquoians , an ethnicity distinct from the Iroquois nations of the Haudenosaunee then based in present @-@ day New York , established the village of Hochelaga at the foot of Mount Royal two centuries before the French arrived . Archeologists have found evidence of their habitation there and at other locations in the valley since at least the 14th century . The French explorer Jacques Cartier visited Hochelaga on October 2 , 1535 , and estimated the population of the native people at Hochelaga to be " over a thousand people " .

La Place Royale

Seventy years later , the French explorer Samuel de Champlain reported that the St Lawrence Iroquoians and their settlements had disappeared altogether from the St Lawrence valley . This is believed to be due to outmigration , epidemics of European diseases , or intertribal wars . In 1611 Champlain established a fur trading post on the Island of Montreal , on a site initially named La Place Royale . At the confluence of Petite Riviere and St. Lawrence River , it is where present @-@ day Pointe @-@ à @-@ Callière stands . On his 1616 map , Samuel de Champlain named the island Lille de Villemenon , in honour of the sieur de Villemenon , a French dignitary who was seeking the viceroyship of New France . In 1639 Jérôme Le Royer de La Dauversière obtained the Seigneurial title to the Island of Montreal in the name of the Notre Dame Society of Montreal to establish a Roman Catholic mission to evangelize natives .

Ville Marie

Dauversiere hired Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve , then 30 , to lead a group of colonists to build a mission on his new seigneury . The colonists left France in 1641 for Quebec , and arrived on the island the following year . On May 17 , 1642 , Ville @-@ Marie was founded on the southern shore of Montreal island , with Maisonneuve as its first governor . The settlement included a chapel and a hospital , under the command of Jeanne Mance . By 1643 , Ville @-@ Marie had already been attacked by Iroquois raids . In the spring of 1651 , the Iroquois attacks became so frequent and so violent that Ville Marie thought its end had come . Maisonneuve made all the settlers take refuge in the fort . By 1652 , the colony at Montreal had been so reduced that he was forced to return to France to raise 100 volunteers to go with him to the colony the following year . If the effort had failed , Montreal was to be abandoned and the survivors re @-@ located downriver to Quebec City . Before these 100 arrived in the fall of 1653 , the population of Montreal was barely 50 people .

By 1685 , Ville Marie was home to some 600 colonists , most of them living in modest wooden houses . Ville Marie became a centre for the fur trade and a base for further exploration . In 1689 , the English @-@ allied Iroquois attacked Lachine on the Island of Montreal , committing the worst massacre in the history of New France . By the early 18th century , the Sulpician Order was established there . To encourage French settlement , they wanted the Mohawk to move away from the fur trading post at Ville Marie . They had a mission village , known as Kahnewake , south of the St Lawrence River . The fathers persuaded some Mohawk to make a new settlement at their former hunting grounds north of the Ottawa River . This became Kanesatake . In 1745 several Mohawk families moved upriver to create another settlement , known as Akwesasne . All three are now Mohawk reserves in Canada . The Canadian territory was ruled as a French colony until 1760 , when it was surrendered to Great Britain after the Seven Years ' War .

Ville Marie was the name for the settlement that appeared in all official documents until 1705 , when Montreal appeared for the first time , although people referred to the " Island of Montreal " long before then .

= = = Modern history = = =

Montreal was incorporated as a city in 1832 . The opening of the Lachine Canal permitted ships to bypass the unnavigable Lachine Rapids , while the construction of the Victoria Bridge established Montreal as a major railway hub . The leaders of Montreal 's business community had started to build their homes in the Golden Square Mile (~ 2 @.@ 6 km2) from about 1850 . By 1860 , it was the largest municipality in British North America and the undisputed economic and cultural centre of Canada .

In the 19th century maintaining Montreal ? s drinking water became increasingly difficult with the rapid increase in population . A majority of the drinking water was still coming from the city 's harbor , which was busy and heavily trafficked leading to the deterioration of the water within . In the mid 1840s the City of Montreal installed a water system that would pump water from the St. Lawrence and into cisterns . The cisterns would then be transported to the desired location . This was not the first water system of its type in Montreal as there had been one in private ownership since 1801 . In the middle of the 19th century water distribution was carried out by ? fontainiers . ? The fountainiers would open and close water valves outside of buildings , as directed , all over the city . As they lacked modern plumbing systems it was impossible to connect all buildings at once and it also acted as a conservation method . The population was not finished rising yet however , from 58 @,@ 000 in 1852 it rose to 267 @,@ 000 by 1901 .

Montreal was the capital of the Province of Canada from 1844 to 1849 , but lost its status when a Tory mob burnt down the Parliament building to protest the passage of the Rebellion Losses Bill . For strategic reasons , Queen Victoria herself established Ottawa as the capital . The reasons were twofold ; as it was located more in the interior of the nation , it was less susceptible to US attack . Perhaps more importantly , as it lay on the border between French and English Canada , the then small town of Ottawa was seen as a compromise between Montreal , Toronto , Kingston and Quebec City , who were all vying to become the young nation 's official capital .

An internment camp was set up at Immigration Hall in Montreal from August 1914 to November 1918 .

After World War I , the prohibition movement in the United States led to Montreal becoming a destination for Americans looking for alcohol . Unemployment remained high in the city , and was exacerbated by the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression .

During World War II , Mayor Camillien Houde protested against conscription and urged Montrealers to disobey the federal government 's registry of all men and women . The Government , part of the Allied forces , was furious over Houde 's stand and held him at a prison camp until 1944 . That year the government decided to institute conscription to expand the armed forces and fight the Nazis . (See Conscription Crisis of 1944 .)

Montreal was the official residence of the Luxembourg royal family in exile during World War II .

By 1951 , Montreal 's population had surpassed one million . However , Toronto 's growth had begun challenging Montreal 's status as the economic capital of Canada . Indeed , the volume of stocks traded at the Toronto Stock Exchange had already surpassed that traded at the Montreal Stock Exchange in the 1940s . The Saint Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959 , allowing vessels to bypass Montreal . In time this development led to the end of the city 's economic dominance as businesses moved to other areas . During the 1960s there was continued growth , including the World 's Fair known as Expo 67 , and the construction of Canada 's tallest skyscrapers , new expressways and the subway system known as the Montreal Metro .

The 1970s ushered in a period of wide @-@ ranging social and political changes , stemming largely from the concerns of the French speaking majority about the conservation of their culture and language , given the traditional predominance of the English Canadian minority in the business arena . The October Crisis and the 1976 election of the Parti Québécois , supporting sovereign status for Quebec , resulted in the departure of many businesses and people from the city . In 1976 , Montreal was the host of the Olympics . During the 1980s and early 1990s , Montreal experienced a slower rate of economic growth than many other major Canadian cities .

Montreal was merged with the 27 surrounding municipalities on the Island of Montreal on January 1

, 2002 , creating a unified city covering the entire island . There was great resistance from the suburbs to the merger , with the perception being that it was forced on the mostly English suburbs by the Parti Québécois . As expected , this move proved unpopular and several mergers were later rescinded . Several former municipalities , totalling 13 % of the population of the island , voted to leave the unified city in separate referendums in June 2004 . The demerger took place on January 1 , 2006 , leaving 15 municipalities on the island , including Montreal . De @-@ merged municipalities remain affiliated with the city through an agglomeration council that collects taxes from them to pay for numerous shared services . The 2002 mergers were not the first in the city 's history . Montreal annexed 27 other cities , towns , and villages beginning with Hochelaga in 1883 with the last prior to 2002 being Pointe @-@ aux @-@ Trembles in 1982 .

The 21st century has brought with it a revival of the city 's economic and cultural landscape . The construction of new residential skyscrapers , two super @-@ hospitals (the Centre hospitalier de l 'Université de Montreal and McGill University Health Centre) , the creation of the Quartier des Spectacles , reconstruction of the Turcot Interchange , reconfiguration of the Decarie and Dorval interchanges , construction of the new Réseau électrique métropolitain , gentrification of Griffintown , subway line extensions and the purchase of new subway cars , the complete revitalization and expansion of Trudeau International Airport , the completion of Quebec Autoroute 30 , the reconstruction of the Champlain Bridge , and the construction of a new toll bridge to Laval are helping Montreal continue to grow .

= = Geography = =

Montreal is in the southwest of the province of Quebec . The city covers most of the Island of Montreal at the confluence of the Saint Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers . The port of Montreal lies at one end of the Saint Lawrence Seaway , the river gateway that stretches from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic . Montreal is defined by its location between the Saint Lawrence river to its south and the Rivière des Prairies to its north . The city is named after the most prominent geographical feature on the island , a three @-@ head hill called Mount Royal , topped at 232 m above sea level .

Montreal is at the centre of the Montreal Metropolitan Community , and is bordered by the city of Laval to the north ; Longueuil , Saint @-@ Lambert , Brossard , and other municipalities to the south ; Repentigny to the east and the West Island municipalities to the west . The anglophone enclaves of Westmount , Montreal West , Hampstead , Côte Saint @-@ Luc , the Town of Mount Royal and the francophone enclave Montreal East are all surrounded by Montreal .

= = = Climate = = =

Montreal is classified as a humid continental climate (Köppen climate classification : Dfb) .
Summers are , on the whole , warm and humid with a daily maximum average of 26 to 27 ° C (79 to 81 ° F) in July ; temperatures in excess of 30 ° C (86 ° F) are common . Conversely , cold fronts can bring crisp , drier and windy weather in the early and later parts of summer .
Winter brings cold , snowy , windy , and , at times , icy weather , with a daily average ranging from ? 9 to ? 10 @.@ 5 ° C (16 to 13 ° F) in January . However , some winter days rise above freezing , allowing for rain on an average of 4 days in January and February each . Usually , snow covering some or all bare ground lasts on average from the first or second week of December until the last week of March . While the air temperature does not fall below ? 30 ° C (? 22 ° F) every year , the wind chill often makes the temperature feel this low to exposed skin .
Spring and fall are pleasantly mild but prone to drastic temperature changes ; spring even more so than fall . Late season heat waves as well as " Indian summers " are possible . Early and late season snow storms can occur in November and March , and more rarely in April . Montreal is generally snow free from April 15 to November 15 .
The lowest temperature in Environment Canada 's books was ? 37 @.@ 8 ° C (? 36 ° F) on January 15 , 1957 , and the highest temperature was 37 @.@ 6 ° C (100 ° F) on August 1 , 1975 ,

both at Dorval International Airport .

Before modern weather record keeping (which dates back to 1871 for McGill) , a minimum temperature almost 5 degrees lower was recorded at 7 a.m. on January 10 , 1859 , where it registered at ? 42 ° C (? 44 ° F) .

Annual precipitation is around 1 @,@ 000 mm (39 in) , including an average of about 210 cm (83 in) of snowfall , which occurs from November through March . Thunderstorms are common in the period beginning in late spring through summer to early fall ; additionally , tropical storms or their remnants can cause heavy rains and gales . Montreal averages 2 @,@ 050 hours of sunshine annually , with summer being the sunniest season , though slightly wetter than the others in terms of total precipitation ? mostly from thunderstorms .

= = Architecture = =

For over a century and a half , Montreal was the industrial and financial centre of Canada . This legacy has left a variety of buildings including factories , elevators , warehouses , mills , and refineries , that today provide an invaluable insight into the city 's history , especially in the downtown area and the Old Port area . There are 50 National Historic Sites of Canada , more than any other city .

Some of the city 's earliest still @-@ standing buildings date back to the late 16th and early 17th centuries . Although most are clustered around the Old Montreal area , such as the Sulpician Seminary adjacent to Notre Dame Basilica that dates back to 1687 , and Chateau Ramezay , which was built in 1705 , you can find important examples of early colonial architecture dotted throughout the city . Situated in Lachine , the Le Ber @-@ Le Moyne House is the oldest complete building in the city . In Point St. Charles visitors can see the Maison Saint @-@ Gabriel , which can trace its history back to 1698 . There are many historic buildings in Old Montreal in their original form : Notre Dame of Montreal Basilica , Bonsecours Market , and the impressive 19th ? century headquarters of all major Canadian banks on St. James Street (French : Rue Saint Jacques) . Montreal 's earliest buildings are characterized by their uniquely French influence and grey stone construction .

Saint Joseph 's Oratory , completed in 1967 , Ernest Cormier 's Art Deco Université de Montréal main building , the landmark Place Ville Marie office tower , the controversial Olympic Stadium and surrounding structures , are but a few notable examples of the city 's 20th @-@ century architecture . Pavilions designed for the 1967 International and Universal Exposition , popularly known as Expo 67 , featured a wide range of architectural designs . Though most pavilions were temporary structures , several have become landmarks , including Buckminster Fuller 's geodesic dome U.S. Pavilion , now the Montreal Biosphere , and Moshe Safdie 's striking Habitat 67 apartment complex .

The Montreal Metro has public artwork by some of the biggest names in Quebec culture .

In 2006 Montreal was named a UNESCO City of Design , only one of three design capitals of the world (the others being Berlin and Buenos Aires) . This distinguished title recognizes Montreal 's design community . Since 2005 the city has been home for the International Council of Graphic Design Associations (Icograda) ; the International Design Alliance (IDA) .

The Underground City (officially RESO) is the set of interconnected complexes (both above and below ground) in and around Downtown .

= = Neighbourhoods = =

The city is composed of 19 large boroughs , subdivided into neighbourhoods . The boroughs are : Côte @-@ des @-@ Neiges ? Notre @-@ Dame @-@ de @-@ Grace , The Plateau Mount Royal , Outremont and Ville Marie in the centre ; Mercier ? Hochelaga @-@ Maisonneuve , Rosemont ? La Petite @-@ Patrie and Villeray ? Saint @-@ Michel ? Parc @-@ Extension in the east ; Anjou , Montréal @-@ Nord , Rivière @-@ des @-@ Prairies ? Pointe @-@ aux @-@ Trembles and Saint @-@ Leonard in the northeast ; Ahuntsic @-@ Cartierville , L Île @-@ Bizard ? Sainte @-@ Geneviève , Pierrefonds @-@ Roxboro and Saint @-@ Laurent in the northwest ; and Lachine ,

LaSalle , The South West and Verdun in the south .

Many of these boroughs were independent cities that were forced to be merged with Montreal in January 2002 following the 2002 Municipal Reorganization of Montreal .

The borough with the most neighbourhoods is Ville Marie , which includes downtown , the historical district of Old Montreal , Chinatown , the Gay Village , the Latin Quarter , the gentrified Quartier international and Cité Multimédia as well as the Quartier des Spectacles which is under development . Other neighbourhoods of interest in the borough include the affluent Golden Square Mile neighbourhood at the foot of Mount Royal and the Shaughnessy Village / Concordia U area home to thousands of students at Concordia University . The borough also comprises most of Mount Royal Park , Saint Helen 's Island , and Notre @-@ Dame Island .

The Plateau Mount Royal borough was a working class francophone area . The largest neighbourhood is the Plateau (not to be confused with the whole borough) , which is undergoing considerable gentrification , and a 2001 study deemed it as Canada 's most creative neighbourhood because artists comprise 8 % of its labour force . The neighbourhood of Mile End in the northwestern part of the borough , has been a very multicultural area of the city , and features two of Montreal 's well @-@ known bagel establishments , St @-@ Viateur Bagel and Fairmount Bagel . The McGill Ghetto is in the extreme southwestern portion of the borough , its name being derived from the fact that it is home to thousands of McGill University students and faculty members .

The South West borough was home to much of the city 's industry during the late 19th and early @-@ to @-@ mid 20th century . The borough included Goose Village and is home to the traditionally working @-@ class Irish neighbourhoods of Griffintown and Point Saint Charles as well as the low @-@ income neighbourhoods of Saint Henri and Little Burgundy .

Other notable neighbourhoods include the multicultural areas of Notre @-@ Dame @-@ de @-@ Grâce and Côte @-@ des @-@ Neiges in the Côte @-@ des @-@ Neiges ? Notre @-@ Dame @-@ de @-@ Grace borough , and Little Italy in the borough of Rosemont ? La Petite @-@ Patrie and Hochelaga @-@ Maisonneuve , home of the Olympic Stadium in the borough of Mercier ? Hochelaga @-@ Maisonneuve .

= = = Old Montreal = = =

Old Montreal is a historic area southeast of downtown containing many attractions such as the Old Port of Montreal , Place Jacques @-@ Cartier , Montreal City Hall , the Bonsecours Market , Place d 'Armes , Pointe @-@ à @-@ Callière Museum , the Notre @-@ Dame de Montreal Basilica , and the Montreal Science Centre .

Architecture and cobbled streets in Old Montreal have been maintained or restored and are frequented by horse @-@ drawn buggies carrying tourists . Old Montreal is accessible from the downtown core via the underground city and is served by several STM bus routes and Metro stations , ferries to the South Shore and a network of bicycle paths .

The riverside area adjacent to Old Montreal is known as the Old Port . The Old Port was the site of the Port of Montreal , but its shipping operations have been moved further east to a larger site , leaving the former location as a recreational and historical area maintained by Parks Canada . The new Port of Montreal is Canada 's largest container port and the largest inland port on Earth .

= = = Mount Royal = = =

The mountain is the site of Mount Royal Park , one of Montreal 's largest greenspaces . The park , most of which is wooded , was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted , who also designed New York 's Central Park , and was inaugurated in 1876 .

The park contains two belvederes , the more prominent of which is the Kondiaronk Belvedere , a semicircular plaza with a chalet , overlooking Downtown Montreal . Other features of the park are Beaver Lake , a small man @-@ made lake , a short ski slope , a sculpture garden , Smith House , an interpretive centre , and a well @-@ known monument to Sir George Etienne Cartier . The park hosts athletic , tourist and cultural activities .

The mountain is home to two major cemeteries , Notre @-@ Dame @-@ des @-@ Neiges (founded in 1854) and Mount Royal (1852) . Mount Royal Cemetery is a 165 acres (67 ha) terraced cemetery on the north slope of Mount Royal in the borough of Outremont . Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery is much larger , predominantly French @-@ Canadian and officially Catholic . More than 900 @,@ 000 people are buried there .

Mount Royal Cemetery contains more than 162 @,@ 000 graves and is the final resting place for a number of notable Canadians . It includes a veterans section with several soldiers who were awarded the British Empire 's highest military honour , the Victoria Cross . In 1901 the Mount Royal Cemetery Company established the first crematorium in Canada .

The first cross on the mountain was placed there in 1643 by Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve , the founder of the city , in fulfilment of a vow he made to the Virgin Mary when praying to her to stop a disastrous flood . Today , the mountain is crowned by a 31 @.@ 4 m @-@ high (103 ft) illuminated cross , installed in 1924 by the John the Baptist Society and now owned by the city . It was converted to fibre optic light in 1992 . The new system can turn the lights red , blue , or purple , the last of which is used as a sign of mourning between the death of the Pope and the election of the next .

= = Demographics = =

According to Statistics Canada , at the 2006 Canadian census the city had 1 @,@ 620 @,@ 693 inhabitants . A total of 3 @,@ 635 @,@ 571 lived in the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) at the same 2006 census , up from 3 @,@ 451 @,@ 027 at the 2001 census (within 2006 CMA boundaries) , which means a population growth of + 1 @.@ 05 % per year between 2001 and 2006 . In the 2006 census , children under 14 years of age (621 @,@ 695) constituted 17 @.@ 1 % , while inhabitants over 65 years of age (495 @,@ 685) numbered 13 @.@ 6 % of the total population .

People of European ethnicities formed the largest cluster of ethnic groups . The largest reported European ethnicities in the 2006 census were French 23 % , Italians 10 % , Irish 5 % , English 4 % , Scottish 3 % , and Spanish 2 % . Some 26 % of the population of Montreal and 16 @.@ 5 % that of Greater Montreal , are members of a visible minority (non @-@ white) group , up from 5 @.@ 2 % in 1981 .

Visible minorities comprised 31 @.@ 7 % of the population in the 2011 census . The five most numerous visible minorities are Blacks (9 @.@ 1 %) , Arabs (6 @.@ 4 %) , Latin Americans (4 @.@ 2 %) , South Asians (3 @.@ 3 %) , and Chinese (2 @.@ 9 %) . Visible minorities are defined by the Canadian Employment Equity Act as " persons , other than Aboriginals , who are non @-@ white in colour " .

According to a report published by the city , the population of the island was expected to number 1 @,@ 991 @,@ 200 by 2012 , with 3 @.@ 9 million in the Greater Montreal Area , an increase of 15 @.@ 8 % over 2001 . However , in 2009 , the Greater Montreal Area was estimated to number 3 @.@ 86 million people , suggesting that the area would surpass the four million threshold by 2012 . According to StatsCan , by 2030 , the Greater Montreal Area is expected to number 5 @,@ 275 @,@ 000 with 1 @,@ 722 @,@ 000 being visible minorities .

In terms of mother language (first language learned) , the 2006 census reported that in the Greater Montreal Area , 66 @.@ 5 % spoke French as a first language , followed by English at 13 @.@ 2 % , while 0 @.@ 8 % spoke both as a first language . The remaining 22 @.@ 5 % of Montreal @-@ area residents are allophones , speaking languages including Italian (3 @.@ 5 %) , Arabic (3 @.@ 1 %) , Spanish (2 @.@ 6 %) , Creole (1 @.@ 3 %) , Chinese (1 @.@ 2 %) , Greek (1 @.@ 2 %) , Portuguese (0 @.@ 8 %) , Romanian (0 @.@ 7 %) , Vietnamese (0 @.@ 7 %) , and Russian (0 @.@ 5 %) . In terms of additional languages spoken , a unique feature of Montreal among Canadian cities , noted by Statistics Canada , is the working knowledge of both French and English possessed by most of its residents .

The Greater Montreal Area is predominantly Roman Catholic ; however , weekly attendance in Quebec is among the lowest in Canada . Historically Montreal has been a centre of Catholicism in

North America with its numerous seminaries and churches , including the Notre @-@ Dame Basilica , the Cathédrale Marie @-@ Reine @-@ du @-@ Monde , and Saint Joseph 's Oratory . Some 65 @.@ 8 % of the total population is Christian , largely Roman Catholic (52 @.@ 8 %) , primarily because of descendants of original French settlers , and others of Italian and Irish origins . Protestants which include Anglican Church in Canada , United Church of Canada , Lutheran , owing to British and German immigration , and other denominations number 5 @.@ 90 % , with a further 3 @.@ 7 % consisting mostly of Orthodox Christians , fuelled by a large Greek population . There is also a number of Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox parishes . Islam is the largest non @-@ Christian religious group , with 154 @,@ 540 members , the second @-@ largest concentration of Muslims in Canada at 9 @.@ 6 % . The Jewish community in Montreal has a population of 90 @,@ 780 . In cities such as Côte Saint @-@ Luc and Hampstead , Jewish people constitute the majority , or a substantial part of the population . As recently as 1971 the Jewish community in Greater Montreal was as high as 109 @,@ 480 . Political and economic uncertainties led many to leave Montreal and the province of Quebec .

The religious breakdown of the population of Montreal is :
Christian : 65 @.@ 8 %
No religion : 18 @.@ 14 %
Muslim : 9 @.@ 6 %
Jewish : 2 @.@ 2 %
Buddhist : 2 @.@ 0 %
Hindu : 1 @.@ 4 %
Sikh : 0 @.@ 03 %
Other religions : 0 @.@ 3 %

= = Economy = =

Montreal has the second @-@ largest economy of Canadian cities based on GDP and the largest in Quebec . The city is today an important centre of commerce , finance , industry , technology , culture , world affairs and is the headquarters of the Montreal Exchange .

Industries include aerospace , electronic goods , pharmaceuticals , printed goods , software engineering , telecommunications , textile and apparel manufacturing , tobacco , petrochemicals , and transportation . The service sector is also strong and includes civil , mechanical and process engineering , finance , higher education , and research and development . In 2002 , Montreal was the fourth @-@ largest centre in North America in terms of aerospace jobs .

The Port of Montreal is one of the largest inland ports in the world handling 26 million tonnes of cargo annually . As one of the most important ports in Canada , it remains a trans @-@ shipment point for grain , sugar , petroleum products , machinery , and consumer goods . For this reason , Montreal is the railway hub of Canada and has always been an extremely important rail city ; it is home to the headquarters of the Canadian National Railway , and was home to the headquarters of the Canadian Pacific Railway until 1995 .

The headquarters of the Canadian Space Agency is in Longueuil , southeast of Montreal . Montreal also hosts the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO , a United Nations body) ; the World Anti @-@ Doping Agency (an Olympic body) ; the Airports Council International (the association of the world 's airports ? ACI World) ; the International Air Transport Association (IATA) , IATA Operational Safety Audit and the International Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (IGLCC) , as well as some other international organizations in various fields .

Montreal is a centre of film and television production . The headquarters of Alliance Films and five studios of the Academy Award @-@ winning documentary producer National Film Board of Canada are in the city , as well as the head offices of Telefilm Canada , the national feature @-@ length film and television funding agency and Télévision de Radio @-@ Canada . Given its eclectic architecture and broad availability of film services and crew members , Montreal is a popular filming location for feature @-@ length films , and sometimes stands in for European locations . The city is also home to many recognized cultural , film and music festivals (Just For Laughs , Just For Laughs

Gags , Montreal International Jazz Festival , Montreal World Film Festival , and others) , which contribute significantly to its economy . It is also home to one of the world 's largest cultural enterprises , the Cirque du Soleil .

The video game industry has been booming in Montreal since 1997 , coinciding with the opening of Ubisoft Montreal . Recently , the city has attracted world leading game developers and publishers studios such as Ubisoft Montreal , EA , Eidos Interactive , Bioware , Artificial Mind and Movement , Strategy First , THQ , Gameloft mainly because of the quality of local specialized labor , and tax credits offered to the corporations . Recently , Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment , a division of Warner Bros. , announced that it would open a video game studio . Relatively new to the video game industry , it will be Warner Bros. first studio opened , not purchased , and will develop games for such Warner Bros. franchises as Batman and other games from their DC Comics portfolio . The studio will create 300 jobs .

Montreal plays an important role in the finance industry . The sector employs approximately 100 @,@ 000 people in the Greater Montreal Area . As of March 2016 , Montreal is ranked in the 21st position in the Global Financial Centres Index , a ranking of the competitiveness of financial centres around the world . The city is home to the Montreal Exchange , the oldest stock exchange in Canada and the only financial derivatives exchange in the country . The corporate headquarters of the Bank of Montreal and Royal Bank of Canada , two of the biggest banks in Canada , were in Montreal . While both banks moved their headquarters to Toronto , Ontario , their legal corporate offices remain in Montreal . The city is home to head offices of two smaller banks , National Bank of Canada and Laurentian Bank of Canada . The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec , an instutitonal investor managing assets totalling $ 248 billion CAD , has its main business office in Montreal . Many foreign subsidiaries operating in the financial sector also have offices in Montreal , including HSBC , Aon , Société Générale , BNP Paribas and AXA .

Several companies are headquartered in Greater Montreal Area including Rio Tinto Alcan , Bombardier Inc . , Canadian National Railway , CGI Group , Air Canada , Air Transat , CAE , Saputo , Cirque du Soleil , Quebecor , Ultramar , Kruger Inc . , Jean Coutu Group , Uniprix , Proxim , Domtar , Le Chateau , Power Corporation , Cellcom Communications , Bell Canada . Standard Life , Hydro @-@ Québec , AbitibiBowater , Pratt and Whitney Canada , Molson , Tembec , Canada Steamship Lines , Fednav , Alimentation Couche @-@ Tard , SNC @-@ Lavalin , MEGA Brands , Aeroplan , Agropur , Metro Inc . , Laurentian Bank of Canada , National Bank of Canada , Transat A.T. , VIA Rail , Novacam Technologies , Dollarama , Rona and the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec . Montreal had a GDP of C $ 145 billion (US $ 148 billion) in 2008 , placing it 41st city in the world .

The Montreal Oil Refining Centre is the largest refining centre in Canada , with companies like Petro @-@ Canada , Ultramar , Gulf Oil , Petromont , Ashland Canada , Parachem Petrochemical , Coastal Petrochemical , Interquisa (Cepsa) Petrochemical , Nova Chemicals , and more . Shell decided to close the refining centre in 2010 , throwing hundreds out of work and causing an increased dependence on foreign refineries for eastern Canada .

= = Culture = =

Montreal was referred to as " Canada 's Cultural Capital " by Monocle magazine . The city is Canada 's centre for French @-@ language television productions , radio , theatre , film , multimedia , and print publishing . Montreal 's many cultural communities have given it a distinct local culture .

As a North American city , Montreal shares many cultural characteristics with the rest of the continent . It has a tradition of producing both jazz and rock music . The city has also produced much talent in the fields of visual arts , theatre , music , and dance . Yet , being at the confluence of the French and the English traditions , Montreal has developed a unique and distinguished cultural face . Another distinctive characteristic of cultural life is the animation of its downtown , particularly during summer , prompted by cultural and social events , particularly festivals . The city 's largest festival is the Montreal International Jazz Festival , which is the largest jazz festival in the world . Other popular festivals include the Just for Laughs (largest comedy festival in the world) , Montreal

World Film Festival , Les FrancoFolies de Montréal , Nuits d 'Afrique , Pop Montreal , Divers / Cité , Fierté Montréal and the Montreal Fireworks Festival . There are many smaller festivals , totalling over 100 each year in Montreal .

A cultural heart of classical art and the venue for many summer festivals , the Place des Arts is a complex of different concert and theatre halls surrounding a large square in the eastern portion of downtown . Place des Arts has the headquarters of one of the world 's foremost orchestras , the Montreal Symphony Orchestra . The Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal and the chamber orchestra I Musici de Montréal are two other well @-@ regarded Montreal orchestras . Also performing at Place des Arts are the Opéra de Montréal and the city 's chief ballet company Les Grands Ballets Canadiens . Internationally recognized avant @-@ garde dance troupes such as Compagnie Marie Chouinard , La La La Human Steps , O Vertigo , and the Fondation Jean @-@ Pierre Perreault have toured the world and worked with international popular artists on videos and concerts . The unique choreography of these troupes has paved the way for the success of the world @-@ renowned Cirque du Soleil .

Nicknamed la ville aux cent clochers (the city of a hundred steeples) , Montreal is renowned for its churches . As Mark Twain noted , " This is the first time I was ever in a city where you couldn 't throw a brick without breaking a church window . " The city has four Roman Catholic basilicas : Mary , Queen of the World Cathedral , the aforementioned Notre @-@ Dame Basilica , St Patrick 's Basilica , and Saint Joseph 's Oratory . The Oratory is the largest church in Canada , with the second largest copper dome in the world , after Saint Peter 's Basilica in Rome .

= = Sports = =

The most popular sport is ice hockey . The professional hockey team , the Montreal Canadiens , is one of the Original Six teams of the National Hockey League (NHL) , and has won an NHL @-@ record 24 Stanley Cup championships . The Canadiens ' most recent Stanley Cup victory came in 1993 . They have major rivalries with the Toronto Maple Leafs and Boston Bruins both of which are also Original Six hockey teams . The Canadiens have played at the Bell Centre since 1996 . Prior to that they played at the Montreal Forum .

The Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League (CFL) play at Molson Stadium on the campus of McGill University for their regular @-@ season games . Late season and playoff games are played at the much larger , enclosed Olympic Stadium , which also played host to the 2008 Grey Cup . The Alouettes have won the Grey Cup seven times , most recently in 2010 . The Alouettes has had two periods on hiatus . During the second one , the Montreal Machine played in the World League of American Football in 1991 and 1992 . The McGill Redmen , Concordia Stingers , and Université de Montréal Carabins play in the CIS university football league .

Montreal has a storied baseball history . The city was the home of the minor @-@ league Montreal Royals of the International League until 1960 . In 1946 , Jackie Robinson broke the baseball colour barrier with the Royals in an emotionally difficult year ; Robinson was forever grateful for the local fans ' fervent support . Major League Baseball came to town in the form of the Montreal Expos in 1969 . They played their games at Jarry Park until moving into Olympic Stadium in 1977 . After 36 years in Montreal , the team relocated to Washington , D.C. in 2005 and re @-@ branded themselves as the Washington Nationals .

The Montreal Impact are the city 's professional soccer team . They play at a soccer @-@ specific stadium called Saputo Stadium . They joined North America 's biggest soccer league , Major League Soccer in 2012 . The Montreal games of the 2007 FIFA U @-@ 20 World Cup and 2014 FIFA U @-@ 20 Women 's World Cup were held at Olympic Stadium , and the venue hosted Montreal games in the 2015 FIFA Women 's World Cup .

Montreal is the site of a high @-@ profile auto racing event each year : the Canadian Grand Prix of Formula One (F1) racing . This race takes place on the famous Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Île Notre @-@ Dame . In 2009 , the race was dropped from the Formula One calendar , to the chagrin of some fans , but the Canadian Grand Prix returned to the Formula 1 calendar in 2010 . The Circuit Gilles Villeneuve also hosted a round of the Champ Car World Series from 2002 ? 2007 , and was

home to the NAPA Auto Parts 200 , a NASCAR Nationwide Series race , and the Montréal 200 , a Grand Am Rolex Sports Car Series race .

Uniprix Stadium , built in 1993 on the site of Jarry Park , is used for the Rogers Cup men 's and women 's tennis tournaments . The men 's tournament is a Masters 1000 event on the ATP Tour , and the women 's tournament is a Premier tournament on the WTA Tour . The men 's and women 's tournaments alternate between Montreal and Toronto every year .

Montreal was the host of the 1976 Summer Olympic Games . The stadium cost $ 1 @.@ 5 billion ; with interest that figure ballooned to nearly $ 3 billion , and was only paid off in December 2006 . Montreal also hosted the first ever World Outgames in the summer of 2006 , attracting over 16 @,@ 000 participants engaged in 35 sporting activities .

Montreal was the host city for the 17th unicycling world championship and convention (UNICON) in August 2014 .

Montreal and the National Basketball Association (NBA) have been in early discussions for an expansion franchise located in the city .

= = Media = =

Montreal is Canada 's second @-@ largest media market , and the centre of francophone Canada 's media industry .

There are four over @-@ the @-@ air English @-@ language television stations : CBMT @-@ DT (CBC Television) , CFCF @-@ DT (CTV) , CKMI @-@ DT (Global) and CJNT @-@ DT (City) . There are also five over @-@ the @-@ air French @-@ language television stations : CBFT @-@ DT (Radio @-@ Canada) , CFTM @-@ DT (TVA) , CFJP @-@ DT (V) , CIVM @-@ DT (Télé @-@ Québec) , and CFTU @-@ DT (Canal Savoir) .

Montreal has four daily newspapers , the English @-@ language Montreal Gazette and the French @-@ language La Presse , Le Journal de Montréal , and Le Devoir . There are two free French dailies , Métro and 24 Heures . Montreal has numerous weekly tabloids and community newspapers serving various neighbourhoods , ethnic groups and schools .

= = Government = =

The head of the city government in Montreal is the mayor , who is first among equals in the city council . Gérald Tremblay , who is a member of the Union Montreal party , resigned as mayor on November 5 , 2012 . The office of acting mayor was held by city councillor Jane Cowell @-@ Poitras until November 16 , when Michael Applebaum was selected as the new mayor . Applebaum resigned on June 18 , 2013 and Cowell @-@ Poitras again assumed the office of acting mayor until the selection of Laurent Blanchard . The November 3rd , 2013 elections were won by Denis Coderre . Coderre was sworn in on November 14 .

The city council is a democratically elected institution and is the final decision @-@ making authority in the city , although much power is centralized in the executive committee . The Council consists of 65 members from all boroughs . The Council has jurisdiction over many matters , including public security , agreements with other governments , subsidy programs , the environment , urban planning , and a three @-@ year capital expenditure program . The Council is required to supervise , standardize or approve certain decisions made by the borough councils .

Reporting directly to the council , the executive committee exercises decision @-@ making powers similar to those of the cabinet in a parliamentary system and is responsible for preparing various documents including budgets and by @-@ laws , submitted to the council for approval . The decision @-@ making powers of the executive committee cover , in particular , the awarding of contracts or grants , the management of human and financial resources , supplies and buildings . It may also be assigned further powers by the city council .

Standing committees are the prime instruments for public consultation . They are responsible for the public study of pending matters and for making the appropriate recommendations to the council . They also review the annual budget forecasts for departments under their jurisdiction . A public

notice of meeting is published in both French and English daily newspapers at least seven days before each meeting . All meetings include a public question period . The standing committees , of which there are seven , have terms lasting two years . In addition , the City Council may decide to create special committees at any time . Each standing committee is made up of seven to nine members , including a chairman and a vice @-@ chairman . The members are all elected municipal officers , with the exception of a representative of the government of Quebec on the public security committee .

The city is only one component of the larger Montreal Metropolitan Community (Communauté Métropolitaine de Montréal] , CMM) , which is in charge of planning , coordinating , and financing economic development , public transportation , garbage collection and waste management , etc . , across the metropolitan area . The president of the CMM is the mayor of Montreal . The CMM covers 4 @,@ 360 square kilometres (1 @,@ 680 sq mi) , with 3 @.@ 6 million inhabitants in 2006 .

Montreal is the seat of the judicial district of Montreal , which includes the City and the other communities on the island .

= = Education = =

With four universities , seven other degree @-@ awarding institutions , and 12 CEGEPs in an 8 @-@ kilometre (5 @.@ 0 mi) radius , Montreal has the highest concentration of post @-@ secondary students of all major cities in North America (4 @.@ 38 students per 100 residents , followed by Boston at 4 @.@ 37 students per 100 residents) .

Higher education (English)

McGill University is one of Canada 's leading post @-@ secondary institutions , and widely regarded as a world @-@ class institution . In 2015 , McGill was ranked as the top University in Canada for the eleventh consecutive year by Macleans , and as the best University in Canada ; 24th best University in the world , by the QS World University Rankings .

Concordia University was created from the merger of Sir George Williams University and Loyola College in 1974 .

Higher education (French)

Université de Montréal (UdeM) is the second largest research university in Canada and ranked as one of the top universities in Canada . Two separate institutions are affiliated to the university : the École Polytechnique de Montréal (School of Engineering) and HEC Montréal (School of Business) . HEC Montreal was founded in 1907 and is considered as one of the best business schools in Canada .

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQaM) is the Montreal campus of Université du Québec . UQaM generally specializes in liberal @-@ arts , although many programs related to the sciences are available .

The Université du Québec network also has three separately run schools in Montréal , notably the École de technologie supérieure (ETS) , the École nationale d 'administration publique (ÉNAP) and the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) .

L 'Institut de formation théologique de Montréal des Prêtres de Saint @-@ Sulpice (IFTM) specializes in theology and philosophy .

Le Conservatoire de musique de Montréal offers both a Bachelor and a Master program in classical music .

Additionally , two French @-@ language universities , Université de Sherbrooke and Université Laval have campuses in the nearby suburb of Longueuil on Montreal 's south shore . Also , l 'Institut pastorale des Dominicains is Montreal 's university center of Ottawa 's Collège Universitaire Dominicain / Dominican University College . The Faculté de théologie évangélique is Nova Scotia 's Acadia University Montreal based serving French Protestant community in Canada by offering both a Bachelor and a Master program in theology

The education system in Quebec is different from other systems in North America . Between high school (which ends at grade 11) and university students must go through an additional school

called CEGEP . CEGEPs offer pre @-@ university (2 @-@ years) and technical (3 @-@ years) programs . In Montreal , seventeen CEGEPs offer courses in French and five in English .

English @-@ language elementary and secondary public schools on Montreal Island are operated by the English Montreal School Board and the Lester B. Pearson School Board . French @-@ language elementary and secondary public schools in Montreal are operated by the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) , Commission scolaire Marguerite @-@ Bourgeoys (CSMB) and the Commission scolaire Pointe @-@ de @-@ l 'Île (CSPI) .

= = Transportation = =

Like many major cities , Montreal has a problem with vehicular traffic congestion . Commuting traffic from the cities and towns in the West Island (such as Dollard @-@ des @-@ Ormeaux and Pointe @-@ Claire) is compounded by commuters entering the city that use twenty @-@ four road crossings from numerous off @-@ island suburbs on the North and South Shores . The width of the Saint Lawrence River has made the construction of fixed links to the south shore expensive and difficult . There are presently four road bridges (including two of the country 's busiest) along with one bridge @-@ tunnel , two railway bridges , and a Metro line . The far narrower Rivière des Prairies to the city 's north , separating Montreal from Laval , is spanned by eight road bridges (six to the city of Laval and two that span directly to the north shore) and a Metro line .

The island of Montreal is a hub for the Quebec Autoroute system , and is served by Quebec Autoroutes A @-@ 10 (known as the Bonaventure Expressway on the island of Montreal) , A @-@ 15 (aka the Decarie Expressway south of the A @-@ 40 and the Laurentian Autoroute to the north of it) , A @-@ 13 (aka Chomedey Autoroute) , A @-@ 20 , A @-@ 25 , A @-@ 40 (part of the Trans @-@ Canada Highway system , and known as " The Metropolitan " or simply " The Met " in its elevated mid @-@ town section) , A @-@ 520 , and A @-@ 720 (aka the Ville @-@ Marie Autoroute) . Many of these Autoroutes are frequently congested at rush hour . However , in recent years , the government has acknowledged this problem and is working on long @-@ term solutions to alleviate the congestion . One such example is the extension of Quebec Autoroute 30 on Montreal 's south shore , which will serve as a bypass .

= = = Société de transport de Montréal = = =

Public local transport is served by a network of buses , subways , and commuter trains that extend across and off the island . The subway and bus system are operated by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) . The STM bus network consists of 197 daytime and 20 nighttime routes . STM bus routes serve 1 @,@ 347 @,@ 900 passengers on an average weekday in 2010 . It also provides adapted transport and wheelchair @-@ accessible buses . The STM won the award of Outstanding Public Transit System in North America by the APTA in 2010 . It was the first time a Canadian company won this prize .

The Metro was inaugurated in 1966 and has 68 stations on four lines . It is Canada 's busiest subway system in total daily passenger usage , serving 1 @,@ 050 @,@ 800 passengers on an average weekday (as of Q1 2010) . Each station was designed by different architects with individual themes and features original artwork , and the trains run on rubber tires , making the system quieter than most . The project was initiated by Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau , who later brought the Summer Olympic Games to Montreal in 1976 . The Metro system has long had a station on the South Shore in Longueuil , and in 2007 was extended to the city of Laval , north of Montreal , with three new stations .

The commuter rail system is managed and operated by the Agence métropolitaine de transport , and reaches the outlying areas of Greater Montreal with six lines . It carried an average of 79 @,@ 000 daily passengers in 2014 , making it the sixth busiest in North America following New York , Chicago , Boston , Philadelphia , and Toronto .

On April 22 , 2016 , a new planned automated rapid transit system , the Réseau électrique métropolitain , was unveiled . The 67 @-@ kilometre @-@ long (42 mi) network , consisting of four

branches and 24 stations , is planned to be completed by late 2020 and will be the third largest automated rapid transit network , after the Dubai Metro and the Vancouver Skytrain . Most of it will be financed by pension fund manager Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec .

= = = Air = = =

Montreal has two international airports , one for passengers only , the other for cargo . Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport (also known as Dorval Airport) in the City of Dorval serves all commercial passenger traffic and is the headquarters of Air Canada and Air Transat . To the north of the city is Montreal Mirabel International Airport in Mirabel , which was envisioned as Montreal 's primary airport but which now serves cargo flights along with MEDEVACs and general aviation and some passenger services . In 2015 , Trudeau was the third busiest airport in Canada by passenger traffic and fourth by aircraft movements , handling 15 @.@ 5 million passengers , and 232 @,@ 648 aircraft movements . With 60 @.@ 8 % of its passengers being on non domestic flights it has the largest percentage of international flights of any Canadian airport . Trudeau airport is served by 40 carriers to over 100 destinations worldwide .
Airlines serving Trudeau offer flights to Europe , the United States , Western Asia , the Middle East , Central America , the Caribbean , Africa , Mexico and other destinations within Canada and it contains the largest duty @-@ free shop in North America .

= = = Rail = = =

Montreal @-@ based VIA Rail provides rail service to other cities in Canada , particularly to Quebec City and Toronto along the Quebec City ? Windsor Corridor . Amtrak , the U.S. national passenger rail system , operates its Adirondack daily to New York . All intercity trains and most commuter trains operate out of Central Station .
Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) , headquartered in Calgary , Alberta , was founded here in 1881 . Its corporate headquarters occupied Windsor Station at 910 Peel Street until 1995 . With the Port of Montreal kept open year round by icebreakers , lines to Eastern Canada became surplus , and now Montreal is the railway 's eastern and intermodal freight terminus . CPR connects at Montreal with the Port of Montreal , the Delaware and Hudson Railway to New York , the Quebec Gatineau Railway to Quebec City and Buckingham , the Montreal , Maine and Atlantic Railway to Halifax , and CN Rail . The CPR 's flagship train , The Canadian , ran daily from Windsor Station to Vancouver , but all passenger services have since been transferred to VIA Rail Canada and the Canadian terminates in Toronto .
Montreal @-@ based Canadian National Railways (CN) was formed during in 1919 by the Canadian government following a series of country @-@ wide rail bankruptcies . It was formed from the Grand Trunk , Midland and Canadian Northern Railways , and has risen to become CPR 's chief rival in freight carriage in Canada . Like the CPR , CN has divested itself of passenger services in favour of Via Rail Canada . CN 's flagship train , the Super Continental , ran daily from Central Station to Vancouver , but after it was transferred to Via it was eliminated in 1990 .

= = Notable people = =

= = International relations = =

= = = Twin towns and sister cities = = =

Montreal has sister cities :
Friendship cities :
Paris , France ? 2006