

"The Right Formula" in Saint-Michel

Saint-Michel is one of the most culturally diverse urban neighbourhoods in Montreal, and indeed, in Canada. Like many neighbourhoods in the country, it has its fair share of social and economic challenges.

This may change. After a year of consulting, planning and researching involving 400 community members and stakeholders, a community collaboration, under the leadership of Vivre Saint-Michel en santé, has packaged a comprehensive plan to renew the community with a focus on three key areas:

- Employment, income and business development.
- Affordable housing.
- Culture, recreation and sports opportunities.
- Plans are one thing. Action is another.

Vivre Saint-Michel has a detailed workplan that will guide the broad-based community partnership in pursuit of 12 strategic targets, ranging from business development projects to programs to help people purchase homes.

Revitalizing a neighbourhood from the ground up is a big job. But thankfully the neighbourhood is not alone - they have powerful supporters that include, among others, the world famous Cirque du Soleil, the City of Montreal and Centraide/United Way of Montreal.

An observer of many neighbourhood renewal efforts, impressed by the spirit of community engagement in the Saint-Michel efforts, happily observed, "It might just be the right formula."