

2020 ACTIVITY REPORT

Talent and tech to move forward together





Montréal International: Serving Greater Montréal for 25 years

In 1996, Montréal International was born from an idea: Let's speak with one voice to promote Greater Montréal and its 82 municipalities around the world.

Its first mandate to attract conferences and international organizations to the city was the start of a great adventure that would also eventually include attracting foreign investment, entrepreneurs, skilled workers and students from all around the world to Montréal. Over time, Montréal International distinguished itself with its agile and effective teams, the strength of its business and partner networks, its record results year after year, and the determination to raise the profile of a city that has been a well-kept secret.

25 years later, the results speak for themselves. The agency played a key role in transforming Greater Montréal's economy and the region's industries of the future. So it bears repeating: The international factor

is a real growth vector. 2020 was the perfect example. Montréal International supported a record 90 projects, with investments totalling over \$2.23 billion resulting in the creation of over 8,000 jobs. These results helped position Montréal among the most resilient and successful cities in North America, despite the pandemic.

With the border closures, we had to quickly pivot to virtual activities, especially to connect with international talent still in demand in some industries. We therefore held 12 recruiting missions, including 7 fully virtual ones, and supported the hiring of 772 skilled foreign workers. We were able to connect with over 7,800 international students, in Montréal and around the world, and promote the possibility of studying or working here.

In terms of international organizations, the 2020 results were also quite positive as we created

the International Centre of Expertise in Montréal for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (ICEMAI) from the ground up with the financial support of the governments of Québec and Canada.

These achievements no doubt contributed, at the end of 2020, to Montréal International earning the title of best economic development agency from the International Economic Development Council and the title of best investment promotion agency from fDi Intelligence. This is outstanding worldwide recognition for the agency's 80 professionals.

Obviously, we did not accomplish this mission alone. We can count on the support of a committed and motivated community, most notably the members of the board of directors and our partners in the private sector. We are also very grateful for the continued trust of our public partners as they signed

new agreements for the next three years.

Backed by this engagement, Montréal International intends to leverage 25 years of expertise serving the region, not only to pursue the most promising projects but also to work on the post-pandemic recovery with our trademark ambition and agility.

Jean Laurin President of the Board of Directors

Stéphane Paquet President and Chief Executive Officer





An international recognition that gives us hope in a successful recovery





"We are incredibly proud to see Montréal International named the best economic development agency in the world. I am particularly pleased to see that the investments Montréal International has attracted have generated such well-compensated jobs."

François Legault Premier of Québec



"Thanks to partners such as Montréal International, we can have much hope in a recovery. Despite the pandemic, the MI team has stepped up efforts to keep positioning Montréal as a world-renowned city."

Mélanie Joly

Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages – Government of Canada



"I want to thank the entire Montréal International team for its dedication, vision and desire to always push the boundaries to make the city a world leader in economic development."

Valérie Plante

Mayor of Montréal and President of the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*

Our mission: contribute to building **Greater Montréal's international reputation** and prosperity by acting as a driving force for economic development



4 pillars to create prosperity

- **1.** Foreign direct investment
- 3. International workers and students

- 2. Foreign entrepreneurs
- 4. International organizations

An agile and diverse team

► **96%**

are bilingual (35% trilingual)

58%

are women

▶ 41%

were born outside of Canada

92%

hold a university degree (57% a master's degree)

50%

are under 35



in foreign direct investment through supported projects



Foreign direct investment: Record number of projects and jobs

In 2020, Montréal International supported a record 90 foreign direct investment projects, including 41 businesses that have set up operations here. These projects totalled \$2.233 billion, a 66% increase over five years (since 2016).





High value-added jobs



in foreign direct investment facilitated

- ▶ 90 projects
- ▶ 8,020 jobs created and 172 jobs maintained
- **\$83,976** in average annual salary

Evolution of foreign direct investments



*Despite a 15% decrease from 2019, these results show a remarkable performance considering the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates foreign direct investment has gone down 35% around the world in that same period.





Montréal International played a decisive role in



Projects that generate significant tax revenue



in tax revenue for Québec



in tax revenue for Canada

\$75M

in property tax collected by the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*



of foreign direct investment projects. Without the support of Montréal International, 25% of these projects would not have been established in Greater Montréal and 66% would have been on a smaller scale, with delays or higher costs.

*This annual survey is produced by research firm SOM



Profile of foreign investments

Greater Montréal has developed an outstanding expertise in several sectors, backed by collaborative, diversified ecosystems.

Thriving sectors in Montréal



*Cybersecurity, telecom, video games, visual effects and animation.

**Business services, clean technology, agri-food, etc.



Regional breakdown: Europe takes the lead in 2020



2020 ACTIVITY REPORT | 8

Key projects in a wide variety of sectors

Whether a company seeks to counter cyberattacks, reinvent the life sciences industry, meet global energy challenges or develop new game prototypes, there are countless reasons to invest in Greater Montréal. Here is a sample of the 90 projects announced in 2020.

BEHAVOX

United Kingdom/United States Artificial intelligence

Expand its Montréal office to accommodate new hires specializing in AI and machine learning to optimize a unique technological platform for exploiting data.



United States – Information technology

Set up an R&D centre to develop new technological solutions to make crosswalks much safer.



France – Video games

Set up a new AAA video game studio to develop different game genres (popular, adventure, action and role-playing) accessible to a diverse public.

[]GOSECURE

United States – Software (cybersecurity)

Expand its Canadian headquarters to counter cyberattacks around the world. 70 jobs created, which includes the hiring of ethical computer hacker.



Switzerland – Artificial Intelligence (clean technology)

Set up a research centre to support technological solutions development for the global energy sector.

Kraft*Heinz*

United States - Agri-food



Phoenix Labs

Singapore – Video games

Develop new game prototypes, including the biggest expansion of the blockbuster Dauntless.

Set up a new production chain to produce

over 100 million pounds of ketchup in two years.

France – Artificial Intelligence (life sciences and health technology)

Create a global AI hub, in partnership with Centech, to accelerate the discovery, development and availability of new therapeutic solutions for patients.



France – Telecom

Set up its first Canadian office to support the customer service department of North American companies. Aims to create over a thousand jobs.



Austria – Transportation & logistics

Expansion of local plant to supply the global automotive industry by developing and manufacturing aluminum suspension components.



International entrepreneurs are betting on Montréal's collaborative ecosystem

Incubators, accelerators and VC investors: Greater Montréal has a collaborative and diversified ecosystem sought by entrepreneurs. As such, Montréal International has continued with international prospecting efforts to support the launch of new companies in the region, particularly in the fintech, clean technology and AI sectors.

In 2020, the organization supported 10 entrepreneurs with their startup project, for a total of 27 projects since it was assigned this unique mandate in 2018.



200 meetings with entrepreneurs



new startups

Breakdown of new companies by sector



39* prospected startups

> *In the process of setting up in Montréal







International talent to address our workforce needs

In March 2020, the pandemic put an abrupt pause to in-person international recruiting missions. Nevertheless, virtual activities helped with promotion and prospecting among international skilled workers and students.

The team also provided strategic support to a number of Greater Montréal companies with the immigration process for their foreign workers.



Skilled workers

In 2020, Montréal International, via its Talent Montréal initiative, organized seven of the 12 recruiting missions virtually to support companies and organizations in Greater Montréal with their international recruitment efforts.

772 hires

> 12 recruiting missions

86 participating companies (69 onetime)





2020 ACTIVITY REPORT | 12





Immigration process

Once the foreign workers are selected, a dedicated team at Montréal International can help Montréal companies with the immigration process for their new hires as they seek to obtain a temporary work permit.

FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

486

workers supported

(912 people, including the families)

79

companies informed

FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE

► **127** workers informed









International students

I choose Montréal, an initiative by Montréal International in collaboration with the Government of Québec, helps attract and retain international students in Greater Montréal. In 2020, the team stepped up its efforts in virtual mode and was quite resourceful in achieving its mission.

+ 1M visitors to jechoisismontreal.com website

ATTRACTION ACTIVITIES

+4,300 international candidates reached worldwide

1,500

students registered for Study Connect,

a new virtual tool that simplifies the search for higher education programs and connects students with institutions.

*over a period of only 2 months

To recruit international students and graduates, post your job offers on

jechoisismontreal.com/en/

RETENTION ACTIVITIES

+3,400 international students

reached in Montréal



Artificial intelligence sparks international organization's interest

Montréal International remains one of the few investment promotion agencies to also have the mandate to attract and retain international organizations. In 2020, the team created an international organization from the ground up and supported two other organizations with their setup and expansion project.

What's more, the agency carried out 211 strategic initiatives for 48 international organizations already in Montréal, specifically so that they can better meet the challenges caused by the pandemic. It was a 41 % increase over 2019.

1 creation project to develop responsible Al



International Centre of Expertise in Montréal for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Montréal International set up a new organization, ICEMAI, as part of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), with the financial support of the governments of Québec and Canada.

By working with the industry, the scientific community and civil society, ICEMAI will help drive responsible AI development based on the principles of ethics, human rights, diversity and innovation.



2020 ACTIVITY REPORT | 16

1 attraction project to support terrestrial biodiversity



Group on Earth Observations – Biodiversity Observation Network

In 2020, the MI team supported GEO BON in relocating its headquarters from Leipzig, Germany, to Montréal. The Québec Centre for Biodiversity Science, the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Natures et technologies, McGill University, Université de Montréal and Université de Sherbrooke partnered on this project.

GEO BON's mission is to improve biodiversity observations and to provide the best data to support decisions that protect and preserve biodiversity.

1 expansion project to fight climate change

futurearth

In collaboration with the *Fonds de recherche du Québec* and ClimateWorks Foundation, Montréal International supported Future Earth, established in Montréal since 2014, in creating a new project.

The purpose of Future Earth's Sustainability in the Digital Age initiative is to study the rollout of technology, such as digital surveillance, in tackling climate change or global crises.





Promotion strategies with digital and international focus

Montréal International has a team of experienced business intelligence and communication experts to promote all of Greater Montréal's economic advantages. They use strategic publications, targeted studies, digital campaigns or press relations to further the influence of Greater Montréal around the world.









Choisissez les universités de Montréal!

Montréal

Driving Life Sciences & Healthcare innovation with the Al advantage

Montréal

技術分野に投資することで





\$7.2M* media reputation gain worth

> 40% increase in media reputation gain from outside Québec

Enhancing Greater Montréal's reputation with press relations

Targeted promotion on the international stage

+1.5 million

visitors to MI websites

86% from outside Québec

+49% followers on social media (vs. 2019)

Media reputation gain remains high despite pandemic



Local media reputation gain

*gain in reputation is the dollar value of the reputational impact in the media, calculated by Mesure Média. Since 2017, Montréal International has used this data to assess the value of media coverage on Greater Montréal's economy, both locally and internationally.



Business intelligence focused on **Greater Montréal's** attractiveness

18 industry profiles regularly updated

- Data centres
- Fintech
- Software development
- Visual effects and animation
- Al in health
- Artificial intelligence
- Video games
- Life sciences
- IT services
- Health technology
- And more...

In addition to these documents, over a dozen strategic documents, including briefs, surveys and analyses have been produced, as well as a series of industry profiles as part of a new mandate for Investissement Québec International.



MTL Montréal Internationa

13 Mars 2020



Thanks to our partners

Montréal International's public and private partners play an important role in the agency's success. We would like to thank them for their commitment, which helps support promotional and prospecting efforts among foreign investors, international organizations as well as entrepreneurs, skilled workers and students from all over the world. Thanks to their mobilization, we will be able to support the economic recovery of Greater Montréal, Québec and Canada.

Public partners

Canada

Québec 🏼 🔹









Major partners



Private partners

AAA Canada Adaptive Financial Consulting Aéroports de Montréal AGA Benefit Solutions agileDSS Agylis Group AHE Aero Hardware Equipment Airbus Defence & Space Canada AKKA Group North America Alfid Group Amazon Web Services Amplexor Canada AP&C Advanced Powders & Coatings AppStud Aptum Technologies Association pour le développement de la recherche et de l'innovation du Québec (ADRIQ-RCTi) Atelier Monarque Architecture Avenue Code Avison Young Azimut Exploration Baker Tilly BDO Canada Beanfield Bédard Ressources

Behaviour Interactive Berger-Levrault Beyond Technologies Blakes, Cassels & Graydon Blue Solutions **BMO** Financial Group **BNP** Paribas Canada Booxi Borden Ladner Gervais brain. Broccolini Canadian Centre for Architecture Canderel CBRE Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de la Rive-Sud (CCIRS)

Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Laval

Cinesite

Claridge

Colliers International Québec

Commutifi

Concordia University Conseil du patronat du Québec

Cushman & Wakefield Cybersécurité Wallix Canada Cysca Technologie Deloitte

Derichebourg C Environnement Desjardins Group

Dialekta

Difuze

Digital Domain

Digital Shape Technologies École de technologie

supérieure

École Polytechnique de Montréal

Eidos

Electronic Arts

Enercon Canada

Ericsson Canada

Exeo Attorneys

ΕY

Fabrik8

Fasken

Fleur de Lys Relocation

Fonds de solidarité FTQ

Gameloft

Gestisoft

Giro

GlobalStep Tech

Go Concept

Gologic

Google Canada

Gowling WLG

jies
anada
5

Groom & Associates Groupe Focus GuruLink HEC Montréal Hitachi Systems Security Hub6 Hydro-Québec IMDS Canada Immétis Independent Robotics Innoprofits Solutions Innovitech Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer Interdata Laboratories lxiasoft JLL Real Estate Services Keyrus Canada Klimfax Kogniz KPMG Lallemand Langlois Avocats Laporte Consultants Larochelle Groupe Conseil Lavery Lawyers Leaders International Leduc RH Lette & Associés LGM Group

LGS Lib. WorkSpace Linkbynet North America LJT Lawyers LOK Corporation Ludia MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Magellan Group Maltem Mazars McGill University Menkès Shooner Dagenais LeTourneux Architects Miller Thomson Montoni Montreal Port Authority Morin Public Relations National Bank of Canada Nexio Group Novaquark onepoint Orthogone Technologies Patron Technology Plusgrade Primero Group Americas Pub Point Com (La Bande) Public Affairs Advisors PwC PYX4 Quebec Film and Television

Council

Quebec Technology Association Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton Regroupement des cégeps de Montréal (RCM) Regroupement des Centres de la Petite Enfance (CPE) de Montérégie (RCEPM) Rheinmetall Canada Richter Rodeo FX **Roland Berger** Royal Bank of Canada Safran Helicopter Engines Canada SERTI Informatique Inc Services & Solutions TWM Canada Inc (TeamWork) Siemens Canada Signifly SNC-Lavalin Sourcinc Stelia Stradigi Al Swiss-Canadian Chamber of Commerce Systematix TACT TechBonjour

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CREDITS

Montréal International's 2020 Activity Report is produced by the Business Intelligence and Communications Division.

Version française disponible.

Legal Deposit Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec Library and Archives Canada Second quarter, 2021

Credits: Montréal International, 2021

Montréal International would like to thank its partners for their financial support: the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec, the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*, the City of Montréal and private companies.







