

Pathways to Education Verdun Backgrounder

About Verdun

Verdun is located on the southern part of Montreal Island. The community is large and socio-economically diverse. There are more than 14,000 families with children living in the Verdun community. The Pathways to Education Program™ is located in the eastern part of Verdun, which is one of the most impoverished areas of Montreal. Some of the neighbourhood's features:

- Majority French-speaking residents
- 20% immigrant families
- 39% single-parent families
- 38% low-income families
- 33% adults have no secondary-school diploma (SSD)

Why Verdun

In 2007, 20.7% of Quebec Province's students left secondary school without getting a diploma. In Verdun, this figure is twice as high; the secondary-school dropout rate for the neighbourhood is 45.4%.

Prior to implementing the Pathways program in Verdun, local youth and families cited a range of barriers to academic success, including:

- Lack of school supplies
- Little support in the home for schooling
- Lack of communication between parents and school
- Stress, Peer Pressure, Bullying
- Students lacking organizational skills
- Lack of employment opportunities

When approached, community partners responded enthusiastically to the Pathways program.

Pathways in Verdun

Recognizing the common goal of combating school dropout rates and poverty, Toujours Ensemble formed a partnership with Pathways to Education Canada in 2007, in order to implement its recognized model. By doing so, Verdun has become the first community in Quebec to offer the Pathways program. Toujours Ensemble is a non-profit organization that has been offering services to young people for the last 31 years.

Host Agency: Toujours ensemble
4926 rue de Verdun, Verdun, Québec H4G 1N3
Tel.: 514-761-7867
Executive Director: Pierre Côté

**Pathways
Program Director:** Mathieu Sage

Boundaries: Neighbourhoods in east Verdun

**Area dropout rate
(pre-Pathways):** 50 per cent (Ministère de l'éducation, du loisir et du sport)

About Pathways to Education Canada – www.pathwaystoeducation.ca

Pathways to Education Canada is a charitable organization that helps youth in low-income communities graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education or training. Pathways addresses systemic barriers to education by providing leadership, expertise and a community-based program proven to lower dropout rates. Founded in 2001, Pathways operates in eleven communities across Canada, with programs in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

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For more information, please contact:

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