

# BORDERLESS MONTREAL: TOWARD A UNI-CULTURE

Montreal in 2063, CCA Charette 2013

Today, Montreal is a borderless city.

One remains in touch both inside and outside it. The projected improvement of high-speed connectivity upon the installation of Canada's first own trans-Atlantic fiber-optic cable network will further increase the city's permeability.

As a compounded consequence, Quebec's 'natives' and immigrants will be placed in tense opposition: existing trends towards a secularization of the provincial identity will be at a contrast to the hyper-cosmopolitanism of Montreal.

Apprehension of a potential uprising will convince Quebec's policy-makers to implement policies to gradually achieve a homogenized, neutral identity for the province. Citizens, wary of the exhausting complications of cultural tensions, will be reluctant to protest such measures.

Social and technical engineering will ultimately merge, replacing cultural distinctions with an all-encompassing uni-culture. Montreal will be accepted as a place for all, gradually dissolving any preconceived cultural associations to its built spaces.

For instance,

Street names would become de-cultured and codified.

The cross of Mont Royal would be clipped, existing as a neutral column celebrating the founding of a neutral city.

Montreal would be freed of the language laws.

This increasingly convenient neutrality would persuade UQAM and UdeM to hide their yellow bricks. Forthcoming tax incentives would entice them to reclad everything.

The Jewish General Hospital and the planned Islamic Hospital would respectively become Montreal's second and third General Hospitals.

CIBC would become the NBC – even in the commercial sector, references to Canada's imperial past would be taken offensively.

UNESCO's preservation laws would become obsolete.

Some row houses would remain, others would be torn down and replaced, and many would become rentable data centers for local offices. They would remain as valued spaces - but never again would they be treated preciously.

Identity cards would gradually become redundant, and indistinguishable. Ethnic names will be replaced by contemporary, secular ones. With the birth of second and third generation migrant families, traditional social rules will fade, and intermarriage will erase visible ethnic differences between older and newer arrivals to the province. This transition to a new culture eliminates discrimination.

Holidays become Peacedays.

In 2063, Montreal is a unified city.



2012  
Student strikes - Printemps érable

2015  
World Summit on Arts and Culture

2025  
Continued immigration from post Arab Spring societies

2032  
Major fiber optic advancement - Immigration and employment increase

2038  
Religious symbol crisis

2041  
Bill 52 - All religious symbols banned

2042  
Incident related to names with religious connotation - Neutralization of names

2054  
Renaming of Montreal - Bill 671 symbolic street names are banned

2063  
Montreal becomes the first city to be recognized as uni-cultural by the UN

