



MRC
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The MRC d'Argenteuil implements additional measures related to COVID 19

Lachute, March 27, 2020 – Nearly two weeks after the declaration of a health emergency by Québec Premier François Legault in response to COVID-19, as the local government body, the MRC d'Argenteuil is actively pursuing its efforts to support the population during this exceptional period. In addition to the measures announced during the press briefing held on March 18, 2020, the MRC d'Argenteuil remains proactive and is involved on several fronts with the community and within its multidisciplinary team.

Creation of an emergency fund

At a working meeting on March 26, 2020, the MRC Council approved the creation of a \$30,000 emergency fund to implement special measures to support the community. This fund may be used for communication with the public, public safety, food security, or other uses.

Regional mobilization for volunteer recruitment

In a show of support and solidarity, the MRC d'Argenteuil joined forces with some twenty community partners to set up a telephone line dedicated to recruiting volunteers. Since its launch on March 23, 2020, the line has helped build a bank of volunteers who are on hand to support organizations in the region by preparing food baskets, delivering food and other basic necessities, and making friendly phone calls. To this end, a multi-platform dissemination campaign is underway including local radio and social media advertising. The public is invited to call 450 409-2015 to offer assistance or to obtain further information on the initiative. It is also possible to register as a volunteer on the jebenevole.ca platform.

Measures to support the local economy

The MRC's economic development department (Service de développement économique or SDE) is concentrating all its efforts on supporting and assisting the region's entrepreneurs, in conjunction with the governments of Québec and Canada. With the help of the Argenteuil Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIA), the SDE is in daily contact with local businesses and industries to identify layoffs and labour needs in order to facilitate networking within the community. At present, many businesses working in the food, health, environment and natural resources sectors are maintaining their activities

in accordance with government directives. Workers who have temporarily lost their employment and who are available to work and help meet the needs of other businesses can contact Marie-France Larose at mflarose@argenteuil.qc.ca or visit the website www.industrieargenteuil.com under the COVID-19 tab. In addition, employers who need to temporarily hire new employees are encouraged to share their job offers with the SDE at sde@argenteuil.qc.ca.

The rules and requirements of the Emergency Fonds Local d'Investissement (FLI) have been modified to be better adapted to the consequences of the pandemic. The maximum loan provided by the Emergency FLI is increasing from \$10,000 to \$50,000. To find out about the new conditions, entrepreneurs are invited to contact the SDE at sde@argenteuil.qc.ca.

The MRC d'Argenteuil encourages the business community to take advantage of the support offered by the CCIA to its members and non-members: admin@cciargenteuil.ca. The MRC also invites business owners to learn about the special support measures available at www.industrieargenteuil.com.

A platform called Achat Argenteuil, designed and operated by Trifecta Médias, will soon be available to facilitate online sales for businesses in the region at a very low cost. This online store will allow Argenteuil merchants who do not have their own digital platform to continue offering their services and selling their products during the period when businesses must be closed. Those who already have an online store may add their products and services to the Achat Argenteuil platform and therefore gain visibility by the online traffic generated on the platform. Created out of solidarity, this innovative project, which received \$5,000 in funding from the SDE, is essential for the survival of small businesses in this time of crisis.

The MRC d'Argenteuil encourages the population to support local businesses by using the site achatargenteuil.com. For further information, please contact info@trifectamedias.com

Work reorganization

As a preventive measure, the MRC d'Argenteuil announced, on March 17, 2020, the closure to the public of the centennial building at 430 Grace Street and the historic train station at 540 Berry Street in Lachute. Most services are maintained, and some are available online or by phone. Acting proactively to ensure the maintenance of services while protecting the health and safety of its staff and of the public, the MRC d'Argenteuil quickly made technical arrangements to enable telework, ahead of government regulations. At present, the vast majority of our team are carrying out their professional responsibilities from home. The public can reach the MRC and its staff at the usual phone number and email address: 450 562-2474 | mrc@argenteuil.qc.ca.

“The MRC d'Argenteuil is continuing to monitor the situation very closely and is cooperating with the Public Health Department and various community partners to protect the population in the best possible way. We remind all citizens of the importance of respecting the isolation and social distancing measures as well as following government directives to the letter. We must redouble our efforts to get through this unprecedented health crisis. Together, we will succeed,” said Scott Pearce, Warden of the MRC d'Argenteuil.

For more information on the measures taken by the MRC d'Argenteuil, visit the Coronavirus section at www.argenteuil.qc.ca.



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Source: MRC d'Argenteuil

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