

THE PEOPLE'S VISION

Community Responses to the City
of Montreal's 2021 Budget

Presented by the Defund the Police Coalition
November 26, 2020
defundthespvm.com

OUTLINE

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THE COALITION



DEFUND LA POLICE

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NO JUSTICE ALGO

DEFUND THE POLICE

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FOUNDING MEMBERS



Anti-Carceral Group
AQPSUD (l'Association Québécoise pour la promotion de la santé des personnes utilisatrices de drogues)
ASTTeQ (Action Santé Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec)

Black Lives Matter Montreal

Black Rose Alliance

Black Student Network

Black-Indigenous Harm Reduction Alliance

BUMP (Burgundy Urban Mediation Project)

COBP

Cruise Control

Hoodstock

Montreal Indigenous Community Network

Librairie Racines

Native Harm Reduction

Native Women's Shelter

Open Door Books

Prisoner Correspondence Project

QPIRG-Concordia

RawLaw McGill

REZO santé

Solidarité sans frontières / Solidarity Across Borders

South Asian Youth Collective

Stella, l'amie de Maimie

Student Society of McGill

Youth in Motion

defundmontrealpolice@gmail.com

COALITION
POUR LE
DÉFINANCEMENT
DE LA POLICE

Pour vous joindre à la Coalition, envoyez-nous un courriel.

To join the Coalition, send us an email.

OUR VALUES

The Defund the Police Coalition, formed in June 2020, consists of sixty-five community organizations and groups. The coalition centers Black and Indigenous voices, while seeking to support the security and wellbeing of communities most targeted by the police. We are committed to decolonization, decriminalization, and the abolition of police and carceral systems. Instead of these systems, we are advocating for further supports so community members in Tiohtiá:ke can thrive and have their human rights respected and protected.

OUR DEMANDS

OUR DEMANDS

Working with our member groups, the Coalition has outlined 10 demands that, together, will reallocate public money from the police to services and programs that truly support people's well-being and security.



OUR DEMANDS

- Defund
- Disarm and Demilitarize
- Reinvest
- Decriminalize



DEFUND

1. Immediately cut at least 50 percent from the \$665 million SPVM budget and redirect these funds to the programs and services, managed by and for affected communities, listed below.

DISARM AND DEMILITARIZE

2. Withdraw all weapons from police officers, including tasers, batons, firearms, rubber bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, and sound canons; disband militarized police units, including SWAT teams and other units using military grade weapons and surveillance equipment.



DECOLONIZE

3. Invest in Indigenous models of justice and empower Indigenous communities to address all harms committed by Indigenous people through these models; empower other oppressed communities, especially Black communities, to develop and run similar approaches to justice.

REINVEST

4. Invest in programs created and run by communities to prevent harm (including harms related to violence, mental illness, and drug use) and support transformative justice; empower communities to develop and manage programs that work for them, with the understanding that communities are not monolithic, experience multiple intersecting axes of oppression, and require leadership and programs that integrate and utilize an intersectional approach (e.g., LBGTQ2S, disability, sex work, drug use)

5. Create and fund unarmed service teams outside the police to address mental health and drug related crises, traffic violations, gender-based violence, juvenile "summary" offenses, and missing persons cases.

6. Invest in programs and services, including youth programs, recreation programs, and social housing, in presently criminalized communities; empower communities to develop and manage programs that work for them.



DECRIMINALIZE

7. Decriminalize all drugs, sex work, and HIV status, eliminate the SPVM drug squad, morality squad, Eclipse squad and all other units targeting marginalized communities, as well as all proactive surveillance programs, and release and expunge criminal records for drug and sex work charges.

8. Eliminate social control bylaws related to "incivilities," and release and expunge all records related to these bylaws (including unpaid bylaw fines), including surveillance and enforcement in public transit.

9. Permanently withdraw police from schools and sports programs, and cease police patrols of public parks, community events, and other spaces in which youth congregate.

10. End the criminalization and surveillance of migration by eliminating all collaboration between the police and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) agents and any other form of involvement of the SPVM in immigration matters.



WHY DEFUND AND REINVEST?

WHY DEFUND AND REINVEST?

The police target Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of colour. The police have been criticized for racial and social profiling since the 1970s, but the problem continues into the present. A 2019 report found that Black and Indigenous Montrealers were four times more likely to be stopped by police than white people. Between 2000 and 2017, the SPVM also killed 32 individuals. The majority of the victims were killed when addressing a mental health crisis. In the meantime, psychiatric services remain financially inaccessible to many Montrealers, and the wait time can last over a year.

WHY DEFUND AND REINVEST?

Police are trained to respond to crime, but few of the situations they are called to address today are about crime. Police, for example, are often considered the “first line of response” to people experiencing a mental health crisis. Too many people - particularly Black men - have died at the hands of police as a response to mental health emergency calls. Police are neither trained, nor should their mandates be confused, with appropriate, accountable, and safe responses to people in mental health crises.

WHY REFORM DOES NOT WORK

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Reformist policies attempt to correct a broken system. However, the institutions that make up these systems are rooted in historical oppression. Violence and racism are perpetuating tactics used by police. Therefore, police systems cannot be reformed to be made less violent and harmful because they were built and continue to thrive from these tactics.

WHY REFORM DOES NOT WORK

Most reformist strategies continue to invest in funding and resources into police departments, thus increasing the scope of policing in communities. Investment through reforming police bodies makes it more difficult for citizens to demand accountability and change. Spending on police budgets and reforms has far outweighed spending on life-affirming support services, and there is little evidence that policing actually results in lower crime. Historically, police reforms have furthered the expansion of the racialized carceral system with money that could otherwise be used to support citizens.

WHY REFORM DOES NOT WORK

Reform advances the idea that policing is an institution that can be corrected, rather than one that has strong roots in slavery, anti-Blackness, settler colonialism, and genocide. Reforms have for too long been focused on reducing the harms of policing, rather than reimagining the role of police and empowering communities to create change.

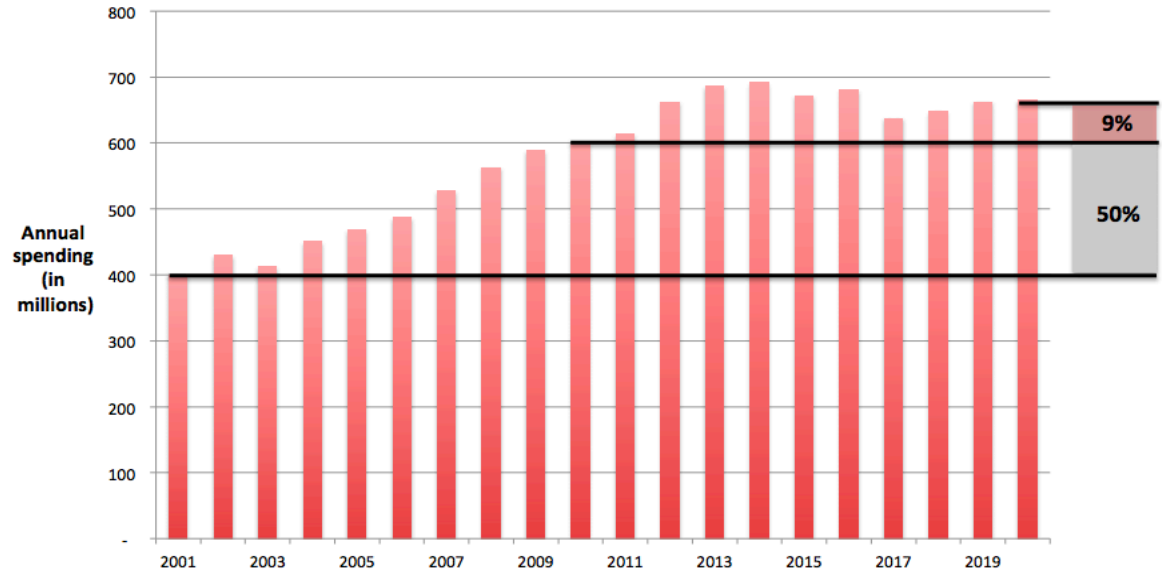
DEFUNDING THE SPVM

DEFUNDING THE SPVM

Montrealers strongly support defunding the police. This summer witnessed the two largest protests against police racism and violence in the city's history, and 60% of the participants in an August pre-budgetary consultation called for defunding the police. In spite of this, the city's proposed 2021 budget, released on November 18, 2020, includes a \$14.6 million increase in the SPVM operating budget and a \$6 million increase in the SPVM infrastructure budget. These increases need to be turned into decreases.

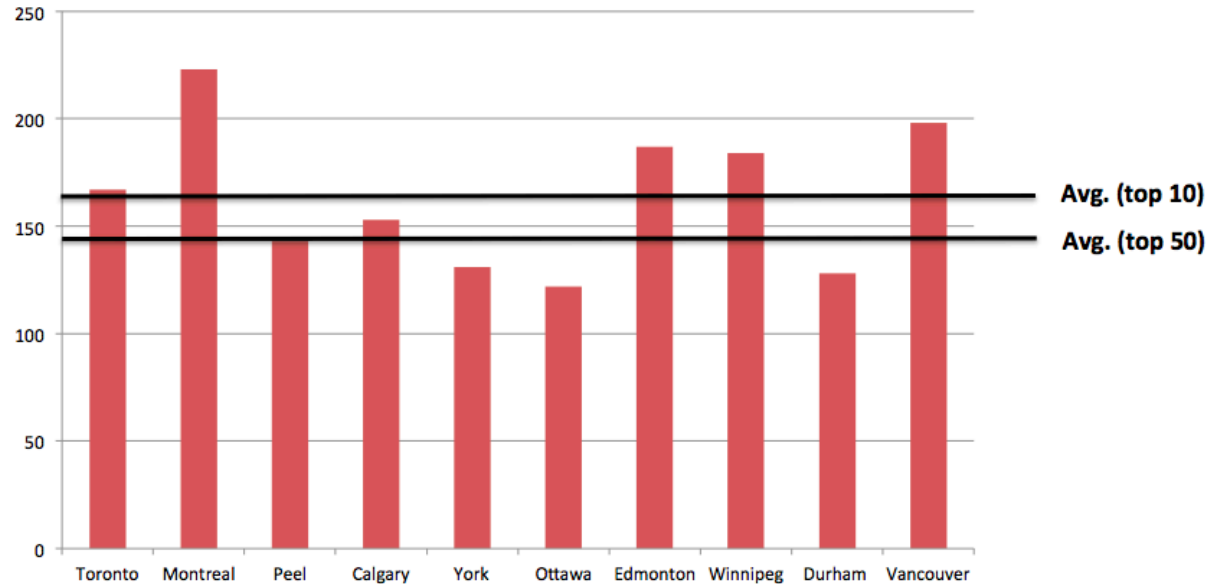
POLICE SPENDING

Montreal's spending on police has increased dramatically since 2001, increasing 50% in 2001-10 and 9% in 2011-20. The police now consume \$660M of public money each year.



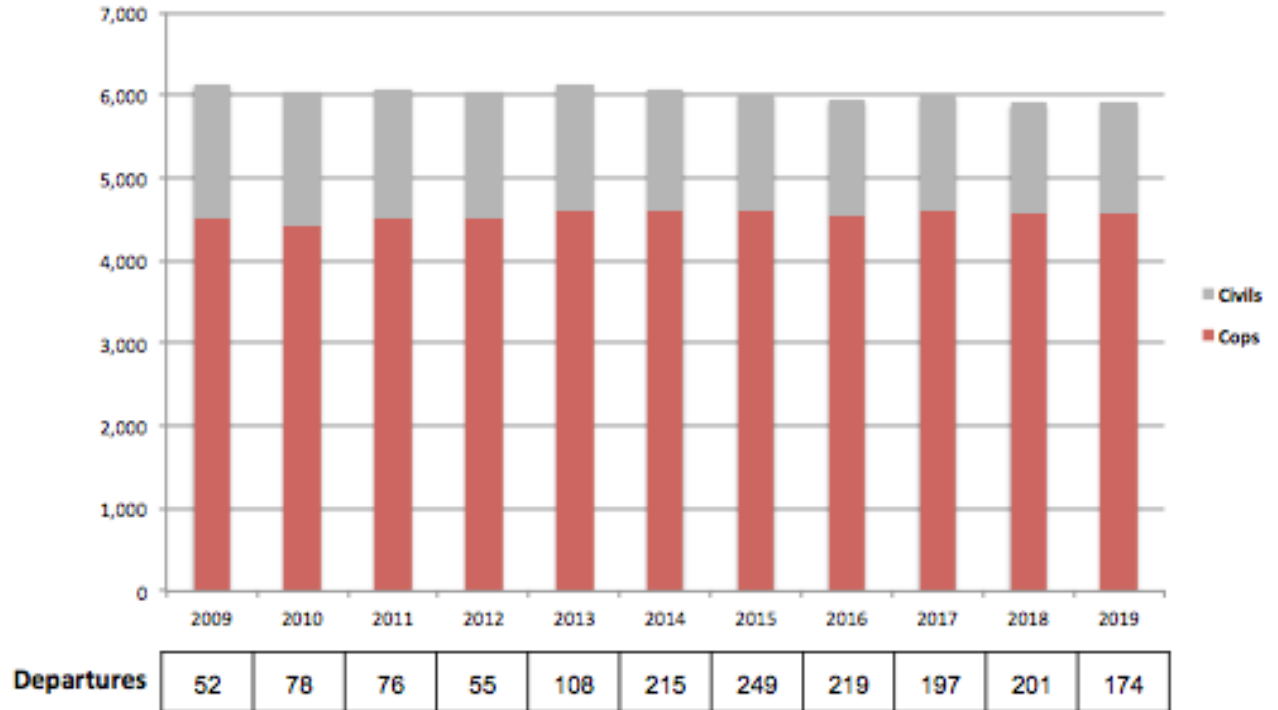
POLICE FORCE SIZE

Montreal has the highest number of police officers per capita in Canada - 36% higher than the average for the ten largest cities and 52% higher than the average for the fifty largest cities.



PERSONNEL OVER TIME

The size of the Montreal police force has remained constant over time (around 6,000 employees), as departing personnel are generally replaced by new hires.



PERSONNEL OVER TIME

The constancy of *police force size* is remarkable, given the efforts made by the city to reduce other personnel. A five-year city workforce reduction plan was only applied to civilian police personnel and only in two years.

	Non-Police Workforce Reduction Plan (2014-2018)	Police Workforce Reduction Plan (2014-2018)
Reduction – leaving positions vacant	500	0
Reduction – not replacing departing personnel	2,205	78
Est. cost savings (\$)	\$240 MM	\$5 MM
Est. cost savings (%)	10 %	1 %

DEFUNDING PRECEDENTS

In the last six months, several North American cities have voted to decrease police budgets. Calgary has also voted in favour of a \$20 MM (5%) reduction, but will seek public input before finalizing it.

City	Police budget cut (\$)	Police budget cut (%)
Austin, TX	\$150 MM	33%
New York, NY	\$1,000 MM	17%
Los Angeles, CA	\$150 MM	8%
San Francisco, CA	\$120 MM	17%
Oakland, CA	\$14.6 MM	5%
Seattle, WA	\$4 MM	10%
Baltimore, MA	\$22 MM	4%

DEFUNDING PLAN

Our defunding plan reduces police spending and personnel by 50%. It achieves this by reducing the amount of work police are expected to perform, either by *eliminating tasks* or *transferring tasks to other bodies*.

Eliminating Police Tasks

- Eliminate police tasks that do not keep people safe and/or make them less safe:
 - Eliminate police work related to drugs, sex work, HIV status, and incivilities.
 - Remove police from schools and end surveillance of and involvement with youth activities.
 - End police collaboration with CBSA and all other involvement in immigration matters.

Transferring Tasks to Other Bodies

- Transfer police tasks to other bodies that can better perform them:
 - Replace police responses to mental illness and drug over-doses to a community response team
 - Replace police interventions in Indigenous communities with Indigenous justice models; gradually do apply similar approaches in Black and other oppressed communities.

DEFUNDING PLAN

The proposed reductions in police work make it possible to reduce personnel and spending to varying extents across the police department. Overall, 50% of police personnel and spending will be cut.

Police Unit	Current personnel	Reduction in personnel	Reduction in spending
Direction du service	50	20 (40%)	\$2.2 MM
Gendarmerie			
– Postes de quartier (30)	2,439	1,220 (50%)	\$134.1 MM
– Socio-communautaire	72	72 (100%)	\$7.9 MM
– Métro and airport	167	84 (50%)	\$9.2 MM
– Crossing guards (FTEs)	235 ²	235 (100%)	\$25.9 MM
– Other	605	303 (50%)	\$33.2 MM
Enquêtes criminelles	1,516	758 (50%)	\$83.3 MM
Intégrité et normes professionnels	156	47 (30%)	\$5.1 MM
Services corporatifs	667	233 (35%)	\$25.7 MM
Total	5,904	2,971	\$326.8 MM

Our research and data show that the SPVM is overstaffed and overfunded. There is an evident need to DEFUND the SPVM and REINVEST in the communities of Tiohtiá:ke.

REINVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

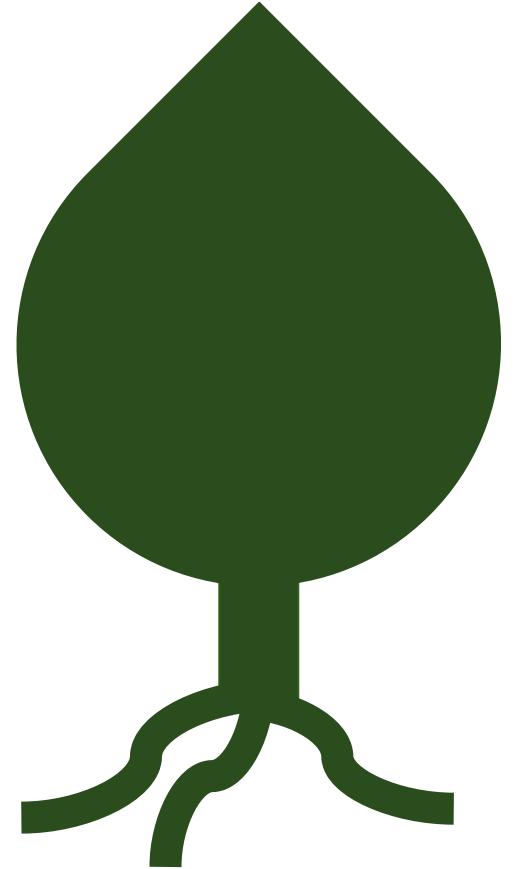
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- We asked **over 100 Tiohtiá:ke-based community organizations and groups** how they envision reinvesting the SPVM budget:
 - ① What would your organization suggest for reinvestment of SPVM funding?
 - ② What are the top three needs for the communities that organization supports?
- Their responses have been collected and analyzed, while group and individual consultations with community members continues

THREE ROOTS OF REINVESTMENT

Our consultation identified three priority areas, three “roots” of reinvestment:

- ① Community Emergency Response Teams
- ② Transformative and Restorative Justice Supports
- ③ Well-Being and Sustainability Supports



WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Advocacy Supports

- Community to community solidarity supports
- HIV/AIDS Support
 - Employment: improve working conditions, salaries, and benefits
 - Meal support
 - Access to computers, electronic devices, and internet services to avoid isolation during the pandemic
- Increased popular education initiatives to support community members who are often oppressed by colonial institution

Accessibility Supports

- Prioritize the leadership of Black and Indigenous disabled people in all reinvestment planning
- Peer led and initiated support programming by and for disabled people
- Well-being and healing supports with a multiplicity of care options that are accessible to people's language(s), culture(s) and identities rather than being exclusionary
- Develop and facilitate trainings about ableism,
- Collaborate with disability rights and advocacy groups to do so
- Fund and amplify cultural work that is created and led by people with disabilities

WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

2SLGBTQIA+ Specific Supports

- 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth centre
 - Confidential spaces with active listening supports
 - Substance management supports
- 'One-stop-shop' like space (ie. housing, health, justice, employment)
 - Support adults, but also have specific areas for youth
 - Communication hub for 2SLGBTQIA+ community organizations
- Training opportunities, with specific lens for community members using
 - Ex. De-escalation, crisis intervention support, safe injections, Naloxone, peer-listing etc.

Educational Supports

- Accessible education programs for community members at various learning capacities
 - Life skills programming including: relationship building, finance management, basic culinary skills, hygiene, literacy etc.
- Educational and work-place tandem programming
 - Community certification/degree programs that lead to jobs and continues to create career paths
- Peer intervention training and cross-community training
- Comprehensive, 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusive, disability-inclusive sex education that centers consent

WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Financial Supports

- Universal Basic Income (UBI)
- More robust welfare
- Financial education programming
- Sex worker emergency fund
- Affordable (free) transportation program for those on social assistance
 - Free monthly metro and bus passes for those who access social assistance supports
- Increased incomes for intervention workers, community support workers
- Financial support groups specifically for disabled young disabled peoples
 - Self-organize, goal setting and analysis skills

Family Supports

- Increased supports for families navigating through DYP/DPJ processes
 - Accompaniment to appointment supports
- Food sustenance programming specific for families
- Caregiver supports (ie accessible babysitting networks)
- Pregnancy supports
 - Accompaniment to health care related appointments
 - Pregnancy planning
- Adoption support programming
 - Educational tools, individual and family
- Family counselling

WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Safer Spaces

- Increased 24/7 shelter spaces for community members who are street involved, experiencing homelessness or have precarious living situations
 - Comfortable sleeping areas
 - Food security supports
 - Quiet spaces
- Anonymous entry and non-disclosed spaces for sex workers and others escaping violent situations to go
 - Female, male and 2SLGBTQIA+ specific locations
- Storage spaces for community members to protect belongings
- Increased clothing depots
 - With seasonal garments (ex. overnight freezing prevention)
- Increased infrastructures for community organizations
 - Gathering spaces
 - Individual meeting rooms
 - Office spaces

WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Housing Supports

- Youth housing
 - Transitional housing for youth transitioning out of the system to adulthood
- Adult housing for street involved community members
 - Transitional and permanent (with subsidized payment programming)
 - Substance management support housing
 - Specified housing programs based on communities
- Housing for sex workers
 - Where sex workers can continue to use alcohol/drugs
 - Gender non-conforming and trans inclusive
 - 'Lay low spaces'

Health Supports

- Development of an Indigenous Health Centre
- Holistic Health Supports
 - Emotional Health - grief counselling, lateral violence training, peer supports
 - Mental Health - psychosocial support services, lived experience supports
 - Physical Health - mobility supports, community-based
 - Spiritual Health - culturally-specific supports, on-the-land healing
- Rehabilitation
 - Physical/mobility, substance management supports
- Increase safe injection and consumption sites across the city

TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

Transformative and restorative practices of justice utilize healing, community, respect, voice, self-determination, and balance as fundamental elements.

TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

Through these values, individuals journeying through a judicial process can be provided a space in which they can address conflicts that occurred within their communities that often stem from impacts of colonial violence and intergenerational traumas.

TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

This leads to understanding how these conflicts have impacted their safety, that of their kin and fellow community members in a more holistic way. It also addresses appropriate healing measures and ways to repair harm.

TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

Transformative and restorative justice creates approaches to responding to violence, harm and abuse in ways in which community members can share their stories and be meaningfully listened to. This reciprocity is crucial to healing.

TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

Key Characteristics of Transformational and Restorative Justice:

Voice

- Allowing community members to speak on their behalf rather than being spoken for by judicial actors

Healing rather than punitive measures

Links to decriminalization of drugs, sex work, and HIV non-disclosure, etc.

- Individual, family/kin, and community wellbeing at the core of programming

Justice supports outside of the colonial legal system (abolition framework)

- Working towards this goal, systemic harm reduction by creating community diversion programming

TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMMING

Examples of Transformative and Restorative Justice programming:

- Justice Circle programming
 - Culturally and community specific
- On-the-land conflict resolution programming
- Connectivity building programming
 - Relationship and family specific

Community organizations and community members would like to see such examples grow in Tiohtiá:ke – defunding and reinvesting can make this happen.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

The creation of non-violent, community-driven emergency response teams in Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal) is a priority expressed by many community members and community organizations we consulted. Surveyed organizations have identified the need for a Community Emergency response team that is:

- Unarmed
- Extensively and continuously trained in the following areas:
 - mental health and suicide prevention
 - cultural safety and trauma-informed practices
 - non-violent intervention and restorative justice
 - moving beyond traditional notions of “health” and “wellness”
- Non-physical and non-violent in approach

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

Towards the creation of Community Emergency Response Teams

Objectives:

The Community Emergency Response team will work community members throughout Montreal who are experiencing a mental health crisis. The team can be made up of outreach workers, mental health support workers, trained peers, Elders, Knowledge-keepers, health professionals, and grief counsellors.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

Tasks of emergency response teams:

- ① Deliver immediate relief of distress in crisis situations and/or timely and accessible aid to people in crisis. Provide supports that will contribute to stabilizing a situation;
- ② Link to a 24/7 city-wide toll free phone line for individuals in distress to call for assessment and assistance;
- ③ Provide crisis services, including assessment, intervention, grief counselling supports and suicide prevention in person;
- ④ Facilitate crisis aftercare support to community members through appropriate referrals and follow up;
- ⑤ Ensuring common comprehension (example: language).

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

A model (example) :

Phase 1 :

**Modalities of Community Emergency Response team to be determined with the vision of a full staff working in small teams consisting of 2-4 trained workers, 24 hours, 7 days a week across all sectors of Montreal.*

- Establishing a strategic plan, outlining modality, organizational objectives, resources required, timelines;
- Connecting with existing outreach teams to consolidate knowledge and create partnerships;
- Creating a curriculum and training process for newly onboarded team members;
- Develop an evaluation process to collect information on best practices and areas of improvement for phase 2.
- Team and capacity building: hiring the identified number of staff and ensuring adequate and extensive training;
- Putting into place an emergency phone line and sharing the service information with community organizations;
- Pilot runs of the Community Emergency Response team (limited calls accepted and interventions taking place);
- Run Community Emergency Response team on a restrained schedule to evaluate interventions and adjust responses;
- Expand service provision as required in line with organizational capacity.

EXAMPLE BUDGET (PHASE 1) :

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Budget category	Description of projected expenses	Amount
Salaries and wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 1 full time Program Coordinator at 40 hours a week X 35\$/hours X 52 weeks b. 4 telephoniste X 40 hours a week X 25\$/hours X 52 weeks c. 14 Intervention workers 25\$/hour X 40 hours a week X 52 weeks d. 6 Health professional X 27\$/hour X 40 hours a week X 52 week e. Night bonus of + 7.50\$ per hour X 8 hours of Night shift per day X 7 days a week X 52 week X 5 staff working at Night 	\$1 454 960
Capital office acquisition	Two vans for transport of community members and equipment X 50 000\$ per vehicle	\$100 000
Mental Health Services	Mandatory wellness sessions for each intervention staff per week X 150\$ per sessions X 25 staff X 52 weeks	\$562 500
Organizational supplies and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 250\$ Harm reduction materials (naloxone kits, condom, syringe) for each staff per month X 20 staff X 12 months b. 250\$ of Culturally adapted materials (sauge, small drum, cedar, tobacco,etc) per month X 12 months 	\$60 000

EXAMPLE BUDGET (PHASE 1) : COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Budget category	Description of projected expenses	Amount
Transportation	a. 1500\$ a month of fuel x 12 months b. 10,000\$ of insurance per fiscal year	\$28 000
Office utilities and rent	a. 2,500\$ per monts for Rent of space for office x 12 months	\$30 000
Other Administrative Expenses	a. Admin fees of 15% of overall expenses	\$335 319

TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGET \$2 570 779

CONCLUSION

This is the vision of community organizations and community members who have raised their voices in support of the Coalition to Defund the Police in Montreal. Our demands and priorities are clear. We want to defund the SPVM's budget and reinvest this funding into support programming that further empowers our communities.

This is the time to reimagine public safety. Defund the SPVM. Reinvest in community supports. Adopt the People's Vision.