

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vaudreuil-Dorion unveils its first-ever policy on togetherness

Vaudreuil-Dorion, May 16, 2023 – At lunchtime today, elected officials and municipal employees, partners, organization representatives, as well as Marie-Claude Nichols, MNA for Vaudreuil, and members of the Citizens' Committee who participated in the process, gathered at the Centre multisports André-Chagnon for the unveiling of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's very first policy on togetherness (*politique du vivre-ensemble*). For the occasion, actor and director Didier Lucien, who is of Haitian origin, talked about his personal experiences on togetherness and openly exchanged thoughts on the subject with the audience.

Over the past twenty years, Vaudreuil-Dorion has undergone a significant transformation. The population has more than doubled and many of the new citizens have an immigrant background. It is with this in mind, and in accordance with the City's Strategic Plan 2020 > 2025 entitled *Habité par ma ville*, that the municipal administration has taken upon itself to set up welcoming and support mechanisms to promote the integration of all new residents. The aim of this process was to help renew the community's sense of belonging and create an inclusive and welcoming community life.

"The policy on togetherness is a result of the thorough work carried out by the City's teams, in collaboration with citizens and organizations, over the past 18 months. The goal is for this policy to become a reference framework for the administration and the municipal council. The action plan involves not only welcoming, inclusion and participation but also human resources, public safety and land use planning. I want to thank everyone who took part in the making of this policy. The collaborative work behind this entire process is, in itself, a classic example of the togetherness that exists in Vaudreuil-Dorion," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

To assist in the development process of the policy, the City called on intercultural relations specialist Bob W. White, Full Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Université de Montréal and Director of the Laboratoire de recherche en relations interculturelles (LABRRI). Over the years, Professor White has assisted several municipalities in matters related to intercultural issues. Incidentally, the City received financial assistance from the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration through its Programme d'appui aux collectivités. This grant will help cover 50% of the costs associated with the project, up to a maximum of \$27,500.

The policy and action plan are available on the City's website at ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca.