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Vaudreuil-Dorion Community Forum: Spotlight on Youth

Vaudreuil-Dorion, November 10, 2023 – The third edition of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's community forum was held today around the theme *La place des jeunes dans la communauté* (the place of young people in the community). About twenty young people, along with some sixty representatives of community organizations from sectors including health, education, public safety and seniors' homes, as well as City employees and elected officials, gathered at the *Opticentre St-Jean-Baptiste* to talk about the issue.

"For some time now, we have been wanting to address the needs of citizens in the 11 to 25 age group and, more importantly, work in collaboration with them. These young people represent our future, and the forum was an opportunity for us to come together to reflect on how we can support them through our initiatives and projects," said Chloé Marcil, Head of Culture and Community Life.

At the beginning of the day, three ambassadors presented inspiring initiatives that have been carried out for and by young people, including *Jeunes Ambassadeurs de Granby (JAG)* with Mélody Poulin - Head of Social Development for *l'Organisme Vie culturelle et communautaire de Granby*, *le Service Préados Ados (SPA²)* with Amélie Durocher – SPA² Coordinator for the City of *Saint-Constant*, and *ENvironnement JEUnesse (ENJEU)* with Marianne Renault Robitaille, former mobilizing agent and project manager for *ENJEU*.

Following the presentations, the audience was given an overview of the results of the youth survey that had taken place from August 15th to September 24th. More than 600 citizens between the ages of 11 and 25 took the time to answer the questionnaire aimed at uncovering their needs and concerns.

Célia Corriveau and Marie Gabrielle Lavoie, both employed with *Le Pôle d'économie sociale Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent*, led two action promoting workshops to serve as a guide in structuring reflections aimed at designing innovative projects for young people. For the third year, Natalie Poirier acted as host for the event, this time accompanied by student Maëlys Eouani. Lastly, the Vaudreuil-Soulanges chapter of Meals on Wheels provided the midday meal.

This year, participants were treated to a surprise activity to help stretch their legs as they were invited to take part in a short choreography taught by *Studio de danse 118*.

"In our policies, whether it's the *Planification stratégique 2020-2025*, the *politique familiale et des aînés* or the addition of a youth component to the participatory budget, we recognize the importance of our youth," said Guy Pilon, Mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Participatory Budget: The winning project in the Youth category

This year, as part of the third edition of the participatory budget, the City added a Youth category to lend a voice to residents aged 12 to 17. The 12 years-old winner, Alexandria Diardichuk-Marinakis, was on hand at the forum to present her project entitled *Jeunes artistes de Vaudreuil-Dorion : Paysages en fleurs*. This work of art will be carried out either in the form of a mural or several smaller works to be displayed in public places. With this project, Alexandria wishes to call attention to the beauty of the City, its parks and its landscape, through the eyes of young artists.