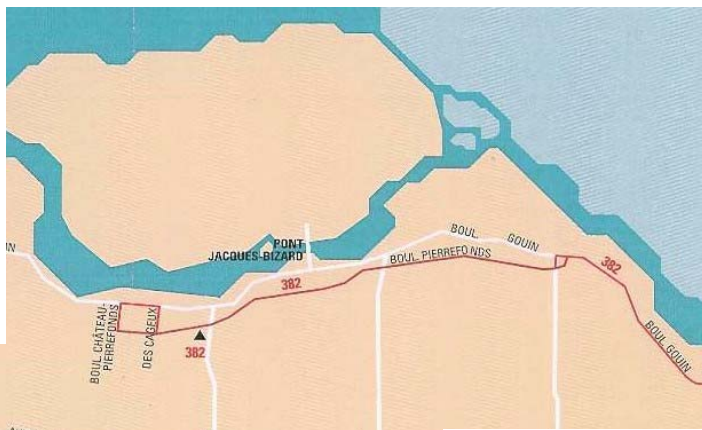


Portrait of West Island Youth Summary

The Community Mobilization Program

Presented by
La Table de concertation jeunesse de l'Ouest-de-l'Île



March 2006



Sécurité publique et
Protection civile Canada

Public Safety and Emergency
Preparedness Canada



Foreword

La Table de concertation jeunesse de l'Ouest-de-l'Île is an organization consisting of 32 organizations and establishments working with youths. Its goals are to determine the needs of the youth and to answer these needs, and all the while, sharing the information gathered concerning these needs, the resources, and the services available to them. In May 2005, a committee was established to draw a picture of the needs and the realities of youth on its territory. The following members participated:

Jean-Pierre Beauchamp, City of Beaconsfield
Kathy Dancsecs, West Island YMCA
Ann Davidson, West Island Community Resource Centre
Gilles Girouard and Shelley Haynes, City of Pointe-Claire
Caroline Lalli, Researcher
François Landreville and Dominique Grenier, Montreal Police Service
Howard Nadler, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres
Françoise Perreault, President of the Table de concertation jeunesse de l'Ouest-de- l'Île
Anna Valente, Borough of Pierrefonds-Roxboro
Claude Girouard, Joanna Coderre and Claire Wallot, CSSS Ouest-de- l'Île

This study was made possible by a grant from the Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF)¹ of the ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The financial support to the Table jeunesse allowed the evaluation of the needs of adolescents aged between 14 and 17 living on the West Island. The main goal of the grant program is to assist communities in creating crime prevention initiatives in a global and sustainable fashion, by focusing on the causes of the crimes.

We are pleased to present to you this portrait describing the various aspects of the youth community on our territory. We wish you an instructive reading.

Acknowledgements

The members of the committee for this portrait wish to thank Caroline Lalli, researcher and her assistant, François Huot. We also wish to thank all the partners who graciously took part in the preparation of this portrait: the youths professionals, and the participants of the focus groups. We thank you all for making time to contribute your valuable insights. This portrait would not have been possible without your participation.

¹ Before January 2006 the program existed under the name: The Community Mobilization Program.

1. Introduction

In the last few years, the youth population of the West Island has become increasingly diversified and enriched. However, professionals working directly with youths have noticed the emergence of troubling issues: drug and alcohol use, social and geographic isolation, victimization, learning difficulties, crime, etc. Faced with this reality, we wanted to get to know more about the situation of our youth within our community. This was the first step of a long term action plan aimed at preventing the deterioration of the youth's situation, notably crime and victimization.

The first part of this portrait presents a statistical socio-demographic and socio-economic profile of the West Island population, focused on the 12 to 25 year olds. The source of the data is the 2001 Canada Census.

The second part presents a profile of youth in situations of vulnerability (negligence, delinquent behaviour, psychological distress). This data is taken from the CLSC's, the youth centres, and the Montreal Police Service.

The third part presents the results of a qualitative study of perceptions and opinions from youth, parents, professionals, and representatives from the public transit and commercial sectors concerning the realities and the needs of today's teenagers. This qualitative approach (with focus groups and sector interviews) and quantitative approach (with questionnaires) has provided us with a rigorous and human view of the issue, as we were interested in the opinion of the various actors concerned with this subject.

The last part presents a brief portrait of the various youth organizations, services and programs available for youth in our community.

Lastly, the results of this portrait have allowed us to see the tendencies and establish recommendations in order to create a program that will adequately answer the needs of the youth of our community. Please note that this portrait is not comprehensive and complete: it is mostly a reflection to initiate action towards improving the well-being of our youth.

2. Statistical Portrait of the West Island

The territory studied here, one of the largest on the island of Montreal, consists of eight municipalities and two boroughs. The South section includes the municipalities of Pointe-Claire, Beaconsfield, Baie-D'Urfé, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Dorval, and the Sainte-Geneviève/Île-Bizard borough. The North section includes the municipalities of Senneville, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Kirkland, and the Pierrefonds/ Roxboro borough.

A specific look at the socio-demographic and socio-economic variables was done to try and observe certain differences within the population focused on in this study, the 12 to 25 year olds.

2.1 West Island Population

In 2001, the West Island population included 222,530 people, representing 12.2% of the Island of Montreal's population of 1,812,720.

2.1.1 West Island population according to sex and age

The population of youth aged 25 years or less of the West Island represents one third of the population (34.1%) compared to 29.2% for the Island of Montreal. There are **considerably more youth on the West Island** than elsewhere on the Island of Montreal. The over-60-year-old group represents 16.1% of the total population, compared to 19.8% for the whole Island of Montreal.

In 2001, the 12 to 25 year olds, constituted 18.7% (41,660) of the population of the West Island, **a higher portion than that of Montreal** (17.7%).

The two cities and the borough that had the highest population of 12-25 year olds were Pierrefonds/Roxboro (26.9%), Dollard-des-Ormeaux (25.2%), and Pointe-Claire (11.8%).

2.1.2 Immigration

In 2001, the portion of the population with an immigrant status was **an important dynamic part** of the West Island. One quarter of the population (25.1%) declared being born outside Canada, a portion slightly smaller than that of Greater Montreal (27.6%).

The highest concentration of immigrants is in Dollard-des-Ormeaux (33.5%), Pierrefonds/Roxboro, and Kirkland (25.6%).

The number of immigrant youth is significant in the boroughs of Pierrefonds (18.9%) and in Dollard-des-Ormeaux/Roxboro (17.7%).

2.1.3 Family Structure

On the West Island, there are 13.7% single parent families, 82.8% of which have a woman as head of the family. Montreal, by comparison, has a similar rate: single parenthood has a dominant female characteristic.

The highest concentration of single parenthood is in Sainte-Genevieve (**28.6%**) followed by Pierrefonds/Roxboro (**17%**), and Saint-Anne-de-Bellevue (**15.6%**). However, we noticed that many census sectors had a single parent rate higher than 20%.

- Three census sectors in Pierrefonds including Cloverdale;
- The census sector representing the old Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue;
- Two census sectors in Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

2.2 Socio-economic characteristics of the West Island

2.2.1 Employment rates

The unemployment rate of the 15 to 25 year olds was slightly lower (11.7%) than for the rest of Montreal (13.2%). For the general population, the age group most affected by unemployment was the 15 to 24 years old.

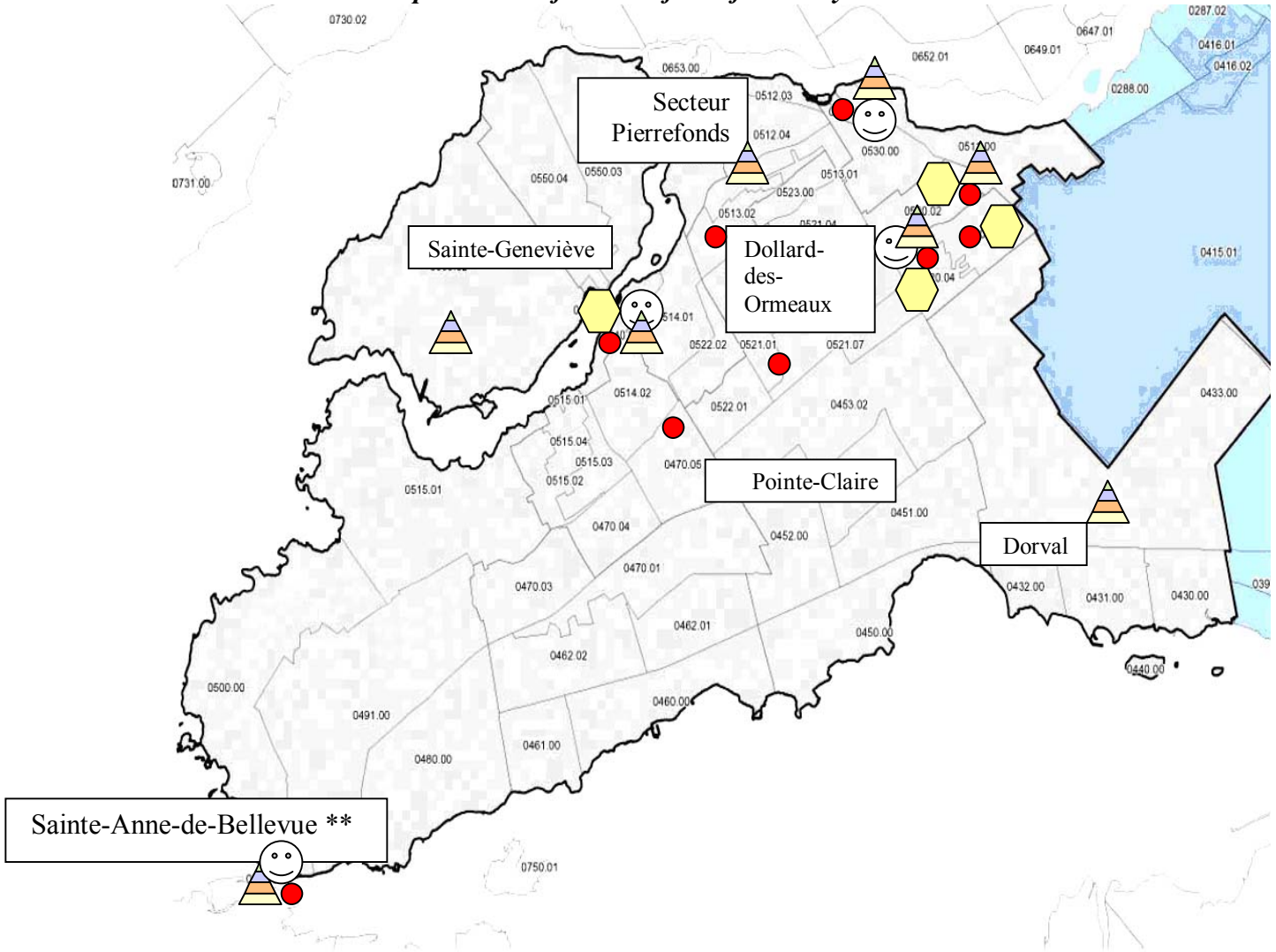
2.2.2 Education





The level of schooling for the whole West Island is higher than for Montreal as a whole. A total of 14.4% of the territory's population does not have a high school diploma.

However, when looking at individual census sectors one could see that there were areas where more than 20% of its population of 20 years and older, did not have a high school diploma (the dots indicate these sectors). The most affected sectors are:

- Sainte-Genevieve (27.8%);
- The census sector 433.00 in Dorval (24.5%);
- The census sector of the village of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (23.5%);
- Two census sectors in Pierrefonds one of which is Cloverdale.

Map 4 – Identification of risk factors by census tract



-  20% or more families comprised of single parents (2001).
-  20% or more of the population aged 20 years and older have not completed high school (2001)
-  High rate of youth aged between 12 and 25 not enrolled in school (2001)
-  Unemployment rate greater than 9% (2001)

2.2.3 School Attendance

The rate of youth in school part time is essentially the same for the West Island (7.2%) as for the whole Montreal Island (7.8%). The rate of youth not in school is 22.2% for the West Island.

For the 12 to 25 y.o. group, the statistics reveal alarming rates of youth not in school in certain sectors. It was noted that in Pierrefonds the rate is 64.7%, in Sainte-Genevieve it is 53.3%, in one Dollard-des-Ormeaux sector, it is at 38.1%, and in the village of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue it is 35.9%.

As for school drop outs for the 15 to 24 y.o. group, Sainte-Genevieve has a rate of 20%, ranking it 4th of the 50 sectors and boroughs of the Island of Montreal. Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is 16th and Pierrefonds is 26th.

3. Portrait of Vulnerable Youth

3.1 Centres jeunesse Activities

Two youth centers cover the West Island Territory: the Centres Jeunesse de Montréal (for francophones and allophones) and the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres (for anglophones).

Three CLSC's cover the West Island territory: CLSC de Pierrefonds, CLSC du Lac Saint-Louis, and CLSC du Vieux Lachine (Dorval).



Situations of West Island youth having been reported, under the Youth Protection Act

	2003-2004	2004-2005
Total number of youth signalled	876	777
Pierrefonds	650	584
Lac Saint-Louis	226	193

For the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, it is noted that compared to the 29 CLSC's in Montreal the average number of situations brought to the attention of the Director of Youth protection (from 1999 to 2004), Pierrefonds and Lac Saint-Louis **ranked first** (with 689 signalements). The number of signalements is an indicator of vulnerability on the West Island.

Number of Youths who Received Services, under the Youth Protection Act

	2003-2004	2004-2005
Signalements received	876	777
Retained signalements	446	343
Rate of retention	51%	44%

The number of retained signalements (from 1999 to 2004) by the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres for the CLSC Pierrefonds and Lac Saint-Louis territories ranks the West Island in **2nd place**.

The youth most susceptible to require services of the Centres jeunesse are between the ages of 12 and 17, in 45% of cases. We noted that **the most important problem** with this age group was in the category of the **behaviour problems**. The second most reported situation is negligence, followed by physical and sexual ill-treatment.

Lastly, all retained signalements reported under the Youth Protection Act (YPA) can be grouped within two issues: victimization and behaviour problems. The behaviour problems are the most frequent with the 12 to 17 y.o.

Signalements Related to Victimization and Behaviour Problems for the 0 to 17 Y.O. of the West Island (1998-2000)

	Victimization	Behaviour Problems
Total of signalements	403	483
Pierrefonds	312	333
Lac-Saint-Louis	91	150

3.2 Youth Suicide

The West Island CLSC's territories do not have a significantly higher rate of mortality due to suicide compared to the rest of the Island of Montreal. However, in 1997, according to a study by the Régie régionale, the Lac Saint-Louis CLSC's territory ranked **2nd for suicide attempts** in teens².



West Island teens are noted for their high number of suicide attempts. This observation came to light under a study from the Direction de la Santé publique de Montréal which confirmed that 15 to 19 y.o. teens (mostly girls) made up the most frequent hospitalizations for attempted suicide in Montreal.”

Despite a large geographic territory and a bigger portion of youth than that of other Montreal sub-regions (over 18,700 youth from 15 to 19 y.o.), the West Island **has no specialized youth psychiatric resource on its territory**.

3.3 Crime

Summary Portrait of Delinquent Youth

In 2004, **2%** of all reported crimes (2,960 of 151,114) in Montreal (adult and youth), were done by convicted youth. For the West Island, the portion of convicted youth is **3.1%** (351 of 11,226).

On the West Island, there was an increase in the



² Portrait of the CLSC Lac Saint-Louis population (January 2000).

number of accusations. In Dorval, Ile-Bizard/Sainte-Genevieve/Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, and Pierrefonds/Senneville the number of accused has **grown significantly**.

For all 351 youth convicted in the West Island:

- **45%** (158) of the accusations had to do with **Criminal Code** offences. In this category, 22.5% (79) were offences against persons, 13.3% (47) were crimes against property, and 9.1% (32) were other offences of the Criminal Code.
- **54.9%** (193) juvenile crimes were in the category of **breaches of municipal by-laws** and various laws related to drugs and other substances.

It was noted that for the West Island, **62% of the convicted youth are boys compared to 85% for the Greater Montreal**. The delinquent female youth are most frequently accused of simple larceny (theft) and breaking and entering. For all youth, the most frequent crimes were: **common assault** (49 charges), **aggravated theft and extortion** (23 charges), **simple larceny** (25 charges) and **breaches** to municipal by-laws including laws on drugs and other substances (193 charges).

4. Portrait of the Reality and the Needs of Youth

For this part, eleven focus groups (consultation groups) were organized on the subject of youth. To complement the group discussions, a short questionnaire was distributed to the participants. Here are the principal issues that were brought forth by the participants during the exploratory meetings.

4.1 Drug and Alcohol Use

The use of drugs and alcohol was noted as an important issue for all participants questioned concerning youth.



- Over-consumption by a minority of youth during special general events
- A higher use of alcohol (80%) than drugs (75%), a phenomenon that affects most West Island youth. The young gathering at youth drop in centers have been identified as bigger users of drugs and alcohol.
- The most frequent drugs used are cannabis and hashish. The use of cocaine and LSD is not as popular, but it is increasing.
- The youth are initiated at a younger age, averaging 13 and 14 y.o.
- Access to drugs and alcohol is easy.
- Drugs are used mainly in parks, wooded areas, and special events (including schools, in the home, and on public transit).
- The need to experiment is perceived by all as normal. Peer pressure has an important impact.
- The parental influence is perceived as an important factor when it comes to the use of drugs and alcohol by youth (little involvement, ineffective communication, alcohol and drug problems).
- Other factors that have an impact are a lack of activities for youth and a coercive attitude from adults in general.

4.2 Violence, Extortion, Intimidation, and Street Gangs

According to a national study, 11% of Quebec students are victims of intimidation.³

- Violence in general is considered an important and present phenomenon.
- Violent behaviour can be seen within couples.
- Assaults: we hear of more threats than we see in action, however action is more frequently used to justify carrying arms (knives) for protection. Assaults are committed by gangs against single youth.
- Intimidation is more frequent.
- Cyber-bullying is now considered a common phenomenon.
- Extortion of female youth is a major preoccupation of public transit agencies.
- Denunciation by an extortion victim appears to have negative consequences.
- The street gang phenomenon is perceived as a priority by all participants in the study. Street gangs recruit at a younger age. Most youth know some street gang members
- The growing phenomenon of “pseudo-gangs”, youth admiring street gang members, is a concern in that these youth present criminal behaviour.
- According to the participants, the factors leading to violence are: lack of activities, the search for power, low self-esteem, a need for belonging, and revenge.
- Vandalism and graffiti were not perceived as problematic issues for the youth participating in the study.

4.3 Learning Difficulties

Learning difficulties and drop-out rates are more important issues of concern for youth professionals than for the youth themselves



- Factors enumerated by the participants and relevant to school: lack of activities, lack of human resources and inadequate intervention
- The majority of youth reported knowing a drop-out amongst their peers.
- 20% of the young participants claimed little satisfaction or no satisfaction in their relationship with school personnel.

4.4 Other Issues

- Sexual behaviour issues concerning girls are more prevalent than for boys.
- Youth say that sexual education is too little too late on the part of parents.
- Internet is a contributing tool to sexual problems in youth.



³ Ministère de la Sécurité publique, Les jeunes et le taxage au Québec, 2003

- Ignorance and low self-esteem are contributing factors for the adoption of risky sexual behaviours of young girls (unprotected sex).
- Family structure has an important impact on the development of youth.
- The indulgence by parents contributes to the emergence of problematic issues in teens.
- The lack of communication between youth and their parents
- Most of the youth we met said they worked in order to buy goods.
- An inadequate integration of the immigrant population could be a source of educational difficulties and their desire to belong to a more or less deviant group.
- The public transit services on the West Island are identified as inadequate in certain sectors and this isolates the youth from the services.
- Tension exists between STM (bus), AMT(train) and Fairview Shopping Center and many student groups.

4.5 Awareness and Use of Youth Services and Programs Offered

- The Carrefour jeunesse-emploi is a well known resource amongst youth, however youth drop in centers are not.
- Barriers most frequently mentioned are the lack of information about the available resources, transport difficulties, and services with fees.

5. Problematic Places Identified on the West Island

5.1 Description of Identified Problems in Beaconsfield and Baie d'Urfé

Within the municipality of Beaconsfield, the 12 to 25 y.o. represent 17.4% of the total population of which 7% are immigrants. In Baie d'Urfé, the youths represent 15.3% of the total population of which 6.9% are immigrants.

Following the tragic death of Reverend Toope and his wife, a summer detached (street) worker program was introduced in 1998. It still operates every summer. In certain communities without bars or pubs, some youth take over parks, green spaces and wooded areas. This is where the street intervention is reaching out to youth. Some youth experiment with graffiti, break windows and cause other types of damages to public property or activities of the community in general. The municipalities of Beaconsfield and Baie d'Urfé are also victims of minor offenses toward its residents, shop owners, local or community organizations. In light of this portrait, despite some joint intervention between the public security and police services, we must acknowledge that youths are trying to find ways to spend time and energy. The services offered must better answer the needs of the youth.

5.2 Description of identified problems in Pointe-Claire

The 12 to 25 y.o. represent 6.8% of the population of Pointe-Claire of which 11.6% are immigrants.

Following some acts of vandalism and violence and some complaints from citizens of Pointe-Claire, a summer street worker program was established in 1999. The use of drugs and alcohol in Pointe-Claire is part of the culture of a large part of young teens. Some teens are also

members of street gangs that commit thefts, vandalism, graffiti, extortion, and violence towards other citizens. In Pointe-Claire, the places most affected by youth crimes are the Fairview Shopping Center, the Delmar sector, numerous parks and green spaces, school yards, both tunnels under Highway 20, and bus terminals.

According to the police of Station 5, the gang phenomenon is present and known at the Fairview shopping centre. Use of drugs, shoplifting, extortion are present from time to time at the shopping centre.

The Pointe-Claire public security agency informed us that green spaces and parks in Pointe-Claire fall victim to vandalism, graffiti, violence, drug and alcohol use during the year. These activities hit hardest at the green spaces and the parks near schools.

Some elementary and high schools of this municipality have problems of reselling, drug use, intimidation, extortion which often lead to dropping out of school. Also, school yards are sometimes used as battle grounds by youth groups of the West Island, where fights unfortunately occur due to cultural and linguistic differences. There are vulnerable residential sectors in Pointe-Claire such as Delmar. The teens from this sector have less resources than that of the majority of the population.

5.3 Description of Identified Problems in the Sainte-Genevieve/Ile Bizard Borough

Sainte-Genevieve sector

It may be the smallest community, however Sainte-Genevieve is considered to be a very disadvantaged area and it offers little or no resources to its youth. The 12 to 25 y.o. represent 18.6% of its population of which 14.5% are immigrants. Collège Gérald Godin brings in a student population from all over the West Island including the Vaudreuil-Dorion region. There is a high rate of single parenthood (45.3%) and the lowest level of education of the territory, having 27.8% without a high school diploma. A large part of the population, 23.4%, has an income less than 20,000\$. Finally, 30.8% of this population uses more than 30% of their revenues to pay rent. 68.7% are renters, compared to 64.2% for the Greater Montreal, and 42% for the whole of Quebec. The unemployment rate is 14.1%.

As in other parts of West Island there are large gatherings of youth. However, Bourgois park behind the Collège Gérald-Godin, and the park behind Sainte-Genevieve school are problem areas. Youth have few activities organised for them and the most marginal have no place to meet. These parks are excellent places for drug and alcohol use and other acts of vandalism.

Ile Bizard sector

This city is considered to be a sensitive area due to its high concentration of youth, 2,610 make up the 12 to 25 y.o. This age group represents 20% of the population of Ile Bizard. Only 3.7% are immigrants.

The island is a major attraction for large gatherings of youth, more than 50 times more than elsewhere, and for loitering because of its vast green spaces. According to various workers, youth gather during the summer and they make fires, use drugs and alcohol, sleep and party. Police on horse back and in all terrain vehicles find the youth in remote areas, such as in the nature park. These youth often have the money to use drugs and alcohol and gather to party. These parties can get out of control. Youth come from all of the West Island municipalities. The

parks creating the most problems are: Eugène Dostie, Jonathan Wilson, Desmarais, and the boat launch. During the 2005 summer, 16 of the 17 police raids on Desmarais park were to apprehend young users of drugs and alcohol.

5.4 Description of Identified Problems in Dollard-Des-Ormeaux

There are 11 census sectors for this city. Within the census sector 502.01, 15% of its population earns less than 20,000\$, 20.3% have little education, 23.6% are single parent families, and 42.8% are renters. As on Ile Bizard, Dollard-de-Ormeaux is a critical area because it is made up of large number of 12 to 25 y.o., 3,430 according to Statistics Canada 2001. This represents 22% of the total population of which 18% are immigrants.

Aside from its organized leisure activities, this municipality has no youth resources. Its youth gather in shopping centers during the winter, such as in the Galeries des Sources. In the summer, certain parks are the victims of young vandals. In the Coolbrooke and Centenaire parks behind the Sources high school, many youths gather. The Westminster and Westwood parks are preferred by ethnic youth groups. Further North, there are youth groups loitering all summer behind the train station, near the old Police station 3, where there are arcades and finally in small parks near Sunnybrooke.

The workers of the municipality agree to say that the reality of the youth of this sector is less known since there is no youth resource worker present.

5.5 Description of Identified Problems in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

The 12 to 25 y.o. group represents 14.7% of the total population of this city of which 6.5% are immigrants. There exists no youth resource in the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue. Many minors visit bars. Also, youth have been seen crossing the bridge for many years to go to the Maison des jeunes on Ile Perrot or in Vaudreuil-Dorion. According to street workers from Aiguillage, many youth gather during the summer at Terrasse-Vaudreuil, a municipality on the Vaudreuil-Soulanges territory. According to the Sûreté du Québec and Aiguillage, Terrasse-Vaudreuil is the victim of vandalism and criminal offences.

The Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue train station is victim to frequent broken items following the use of drugs and alcohol during youth gatherings.

5.6 Description of Identified Problems in Pierrefonds/Roxboro

Pierrefonds sector

In Pierrefonds, the 12 to 25 y.o. represent 19% of the total population. Following many events in the last years in the eastern part of Pierrefonds and according to the workers of this municipally, there is no doubt that the Cloverdale sector is an area with many problems. These factors contribute to the development of troublesome behaviours such as crime, vandalism and the use drugs and alcohol. This behaviour hinders the future of these youth and make for an climate of insecurity affecting the whole population of this area.

The portrait of the families of the Cloverdale sector demonstrates that it is one of the most disadvantaged areas of the Pierrefonds CLSC's territory. In 2001, there was a high percentage of single parent families, 47.4% compared to 21.1% for the overall Pierrefonds CLSC's territory. There is a significant immigration population, 39.4%. The majority (52.9%) of the Cloverdale population of 3,320 live below the poverty level.

It is important to note that 42% of the citizens of the Cloverdale area earn less than 20,000\$. 59.8% of the population 20 years and older did not reach college compared to 39.8% for the CLSC's overall territory and 48.4% for the Greater Montreal.

In the eastern area of Pierrefonds, there are 1,305 youth between 15 and 24 years old. Of these, 400 do not go to school and 120 go part time. Unemployment is at 11.4% for this age group. Consequently, an important number of 15 to 24 y.o. are excluded from the school and social systems, presenting a social and professional maladjustment risk.

Pierrefonds has many parks in which exist the use of drugs and alcohol, intimidation, graffiti on buildings, and street gangs. Some are more cause for concern than others. There were 13 police interventions in the Riverdale park, majority of which were related to the non respect of curfew. In the Yuile park 12 interventions concerned troubling of the peace and bonfires. The interventions in the Grier park were for complaints for the non respect of curfew.

Roxboro Sector

The 12 to 25 y.o. represent 19.9% of the total population of Roxboro of which 12.2% are immigrants. Youth problems occur mainly at the Roxboro train station. The Roxbox-Crew street gang is a problem. Gatherings create conflicts, loitering, regular offences, and graffiti.

5.7 Description of Identified Problems in Kirkland

The 12 to 25 y.o. represent 20.8% of the total population of Kirkland of which 9.2% are immigrants. In Kirkland, youth gatherings take place mainly at Riocan and at Kirkland's Cinéma Colisée and its surrounding parks and shopping centre. These gatherings result in loitering, conflicts among youth and the proliferation of graffiti.

6. Problems Related to Public Transit on the West Island

The problems are:

- Youth gatherings are a problem for the Montreal public transit (bus) and the AMT (trains)
- Youth loitering
- Inappropriate behavior (spitting, insults, extortion, inappropriate behaviour)
- Offences (carrying knives, vandalism, graffiti, drug trafficking, use of drugs and alcohol)
- Infringements of the STM and AMT internal rules (nuisance to employees and customers, pushing and shoving, crossing the tracks)
- Rise of graffiti
- Gangs (the "Bloods" and the "Crips").

Location:

- Near bus terminals, especially near schools and along bus routes. The 211 line particularly, and the lines used to go to the Fairview Shopping Center (problem routes, presence of some young offenders)
- In the West Island train stations, the problems are with the private high school students on three problem routes, called the “trains from hell”. There are three problem trains on the Rigaud/Dorion line (#17, 19, and 21), in particular the train from the Montreal West station to the Beaconsfield station after school is dismissed. It is the concentration of youth on these trains at these hours and on this line that cause the problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO PREVENT CRIME AND IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE YOUTH, THE TABLE DE CONCERTATION JEUNESSE DE L'OUEST-DE-L'ÎLE IS COMMITTED TO:

- **Work together** and develop better collaboration between the various professionals.
- **Update our information** to better understand the reality of our youth.
- **Break down the barriers and our way of doing things** in order to work more effectively with our youth.
- **Develop effective collaboration** by forging formal partnership agreements.
- **Develop actions for and with the youth** and support them to develop solutions.
- **Recognize the responsibility of parents** and involve them in developing solutions for the youth of the West Island.

WE RECOMMEND:

Developing financial resources to plan and develop a community youth worker program for the entire West Island territory