

QUARTIER DES LUMIÈRES

MONTREAL'S QUARTIER DES LUMIÈRES EARNS THE WORLD'S HIGHEST EVER "FITWEL COMMUNITY" RATING

Montreal, February 6th, 2020 – Montreal's Quartier des lumières can be referred to as the real estate development with the strongest focus on well-being and on global health in the World, according to the Center for Active Design, in New York, who has just awarded a "Three Stars Fitwel Community" certification to the new neighborhood developed by MACH and design firm Lemay on the former Radio-Canada site in Montreal. This is a remarkable achievement for this soon to be developed real estate project. It is the only neighborhood in Canada to hold this certification; moreover, it was also granted the highest international score in this assessment.

The new "Fitwel Community" global standard honours and recognizes excellence in urban design with respect to the progress of physical, mental and social health. The certification fosters design strategies that have positive outcomes for the community in seven key categories: increase physical activity, promote safety of residents, reduce morbidity and absenteeism, support social equity for vulnerable groups, generate feelings of well-being, and strengthen community health and access to healthy nutrition.

"In regards to social and affordable housing, access to local grocery stores and social and community outreach for the residents, the master plan fully met Fitwel's criteria," states Hugo Lafrance, director, Sustainable strategies, at Lemay, the architectural firm that designed the master plan for the Quartier des lumières in cooperation with MACH.

Clearly, MACH's approach to diversity and overall well-being in this giant 20 acres (765,000 sq. ft.) [project](#), which comprises social housing, office space, local retailers, vast parks, public areas, rental apartments and condos, has proven to be successful. The founding vision, now embodied under the Fitwel seal, will steer the project team on the path to the utmost standards in overall health.

"Receiving Fitwel's highest recognition, on a community-wide scale, is a great tribute which we aim to acknowledge at every phase of the Quartier des lumières development," proudly states Christopher Sweetnam Holmes, vice-president, Real Estate Development, at MACH, one of Canada's leading private real estate developers. "As a property developer, we are mindful of our duty of caring for the communities that welcome us and we will ensure that the Quartier des lumières offers a healthy, dynamic and inclusive lifestyle for everyone."

"FITWEL COMMUNITY" KEY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Increase physical activity;
- Promote safety of residents;
- Reduce morbidity and absenteeism;
- Support social equity for vulnerable groups;
- Generate feelings of well-being;
- Strengthen community health;
- Provide easy access to healthy nutrition.

ABOUT MACH

[MACH](#) is one of the most important private property owners and developers in Canada. The company owns or manages nearly 35 million square feet of commercial, industrial or residential properties in Quebec. Since its founding in 2000, MACH's philosophy consists in permanent investment in communities and long-term property management. With an integrated approach, including development, real estate services and construction, MACH pays special attention to customers and users needs. Its property portfolio includes the Sun Life Building, CIBC tower, Place Victoria or the TELUS building in Quebec City. In 2018, MACH received two INOVA Awards for the quality of its construction projects.

Lemay: Creative thinking. Collective value.

Founded in 1957 as an architectural firm, Lemay has become a leader in integrated design solutions for the built-up environment. Leveraging its creativity, its extensive capacity and its transdisciplinary offer, the firm translates its clients' ambitions into reality through its projects and contributes to the quality of living spaces worldwide. Its commitment to prestigious design is reflected in LemayLab, a research and innovation center, recipient of more than 350 awards and mentions. Lemay regroups around 450 professionals and ranks 45th among the 100 most prominent firms on the planet (World Architecture 100 - 2020).

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