



André Besner for Mayor 2017

## The benefits of REM in Saint-Bruno Réseau Électrique Métropolitain

1. Very large vacant lots can accommodate an REM terminal in Saint-Bruno. It could be as well on the east side as it is on the west side of Route 116.
2. The distance between Brossard and Saint-Bruno is only 9 kilometers. But, the road that connects them is Highway 30 which is very often congested. The REM in Saint-Bruno would help lighten it.
3. Residents of surrounding cities, such as Ste-Julie, St-Basile, Beloeil, Saint-Hubert and others, would be users of a REM terminal in Saint-Bruno. For many, this would be a new alternative to the use of their vehicle, thanks to the great territory coverage offered by the REM in Montreal.
4. Currently, Routes 116 and 20 direct drivers to the Montreal crossings of the Hippolyte-Lafontaine Tunnel and the Jacques Cartier and Victoria Bridges. An REM terminal in Saint-Bruno would become a magnet for all those users of the South-East Shore.
5. For the South-East Shore, current public transportation is very limited outside peak hours. Access to REM would influence the conversion of transportation usage through greater scheduling flexibility.
6. An easy and fast public connection would favor the attraction and interrelation of two major commercial centers, Quartier Dix-30 and Promenades Saint-Bruno.
7. The REM could be a replacement for the project known as Moïse Vincent, planned road layout and discussed for a long time in Longueuil.
8. A REM terminal in Brossard alone will not optimize the transportation of the South-East Shore, forced to use a congested highway 30 to access it. A terminal in Saint-Bruno would reverse this situation and have a multiplier effect on the use of REM.
9. The arrival of the REM in Saint-Bruno will allow businesses to have access to new human resources, particularly specialized professionals living in Montreal and for whom transportation to the South Shore is an obstacle. Bombardier Transportation of Saint-Bruno employs more than 800 people and the Canadian Space Agency has 600 employees.
10. Add that we have two airports in Metropolitan Montreal: Dorval and Saint-Hubert. The future REM would connect these two airports to the common denominators.
11. Many **small & medium businesses** would benefit from the arrival of a REM in Saint-Bruno. Candidate André Besner launched the **Saint-Bruno Inc.** project to accelerate the development of the two industrial parks of Saint-Bruno, which have a very large land to develop.
12. Saint-Bruno and other surrounding cities have large zoned residential land whose development could be accelerated with the arrival of the REM, which would become a new TOD. We are talking about a **possibility of 5,000 additional housing units in Saint-Bruno**.
13. **Ski Saint-Bruno** is the only downhill ski resort in Metropolitan Montreal. The use of a vehicle is mandatory to access it. The REM combined with a shuttle service would make it accessible to many residents of the Island of Montreal. Many Montrealer, including young people who are not old enough to drive a car, would go to the largest alpine ski school in Eastern Canada.
14. The **Mont Saint-Bruno National Park** is accessible by foot for the privileged who live on the outskirts. But, the use of a vehicle is required for others. The REM and a shuttle service would make it accessible to thousands of citizens of Metropolitan Montreal.

**The REM is an electrical rail transit project. It is scheduled for 2021. It will cross the island of Montreal to get to both Dorval airport and Deux-Montagnes. It will use the Champlain Bridge and travel to Brossard. It should then end at Quartier Dix-30. But**



**André Besner proposes that the REM route be extended from Brossard to Saint-Bruno. Let's take a closer look at the benefits that would result.**

## The next steps for a REM in Saint-Bruno

André Besner has been working on this project for a year. He sees many advantages over the development of Saint-Bruno, both residential and industrial, on the environment, on the quality of life, on access to sports and outdoor activities, on technological aspects.

Such a project is very promising. It must rally citizens, business people, elected officials. As such, it should be remembered that governments of Quebec and Ottawa support the realization of the Metropolitan Electric Network. Professional studies are required by the *Caisse de dépôt et placement* to confirm the construction of a REM terminal in Saint-Bruno.

André Besner developed the concept of this project. He now wants to work on it. He concurrently contacted the Prime Minister, the ministers concerned, the regional deputies and the candidates for the elections of the cities concerned. Citizens will be informed and consulted at each stage of the project.

I explained to you in the two previous leaflets that Saint-Bruno must take a major turning point in a True Change. Well beyond a simple slogan!

The strategy is based on the development of our two industrial parks with Saint-Bruno Inc. We have explained it in leaflet 2, always available at [www.partieequilibre.org](http://www.partieequilibre.org)

This Plan will provide a source of significant new revenue which will help keep taxes down. They will help update our sports and community infrastructure.

## The City of Sports

A sports infrastructure includes three major areas: 1- the pool; 2- the rink; 3- the gym. They can be grouped or distinct. Saint-Bruno has needs in each of these three areas. These are long-term investments, 30 years and more.

We have a realization plan to propose to you. This Plan has three main components.

The first component is to identify a central location that will host the **City of Sports**. This will be the place to progressively install each of the three sports facilities: ice rink, swimming pool, gymnasium.

The second component is to plan this sport complex from a regional perspective. We will propose to build these infrastructures in partnership with two

neighboring cities: Saint-Basile and Carignan. We already know the expectations of the citizens of Carignan. As for Saint-Basile with 17,000 inhabitants, they have no public swimming pool at this time.

The third component is to benefit from financial subsidies from the federal and provincial governments. André Besner was the only one of the five mayor candidates in Saint-Bruno to attend the presentation made by the Ottawa officials organized by the Montérégie MPs. The joint program of the two governments will bring billions to develop municipal infrastructure. The federal government alone will invest \$ 180 billion; the Québec government will announce its funding program in the near future.

## A real case: Rimouski

A "Ice and Pool" complex is under construction in Rimouski. It will be the most modern and environmentally friendly complex in Quebec. Its cost: \$ 41.4 million. Grants: \$ 25.7 million, or 62% of the project. Citizens will only have to pay \$ 20 a year in their tax bill.

The population of Rimouski is 49 000 inhabitants. The population of Saint-Bruno, Saint-Basile and Carignan is 51,000 inhabitants. We can extrapolate that we have a comparable population base to draw inspiration from the Rimouski project. André Besner has been following this file for months and has spoken with those who run it. We could almost copy and paste the Rimouski project. For more information, visit [www.ville.rimouski.qc.ca](http://www.ville.rimouski.qc.ca)

We could also add to the pool project, a relaxation center consisting of spas, saunas baths, whirlpools, massage and others. Parents who are expecting their children during their swim or ice sport could then take advantage of this time to relax at the Center.

## The next steps

The election of André Besner at the town hall will trigger the start of three immediate concrete actions:

- 1- The formation of a committee bringing together the sports associations of Saint-Bruno to define their own needs.
- 2- The invitation to the elected officials of Saint-Basile and Carignan to become partners in the project.

3- Preparation of a case file project to be submitted to both governments for a regional joint grant application; we will be among the first cities to apply under the Infrastructure Program, which is expected to be completed in the coming weeks or months.

We plan for babies ...  
and all citizens



#### And some other commitments ...

We have already submitted more than (30) thirty concrete commitments proposed in Pamphlets no. 1 and 2. We have just presented to you, two major commitments: the REM at Saint-Bruno and the City of Sports. We also submit other following commitments:

**1- The baseball, softball and football fields** that we find at Parc Rabastalière will be maintained. The outgoing mayor raises the hypothesis of moving them! The current facilities meet the needs and the City of Sports requires much larger spaces with a regional and long-term perspective.

**2- Volunteering in sports and community organizations** is invaluable. André Besner has volunteered for more than 20 years. We know that these organizations have a great common denominator challenge: financial resources are very limited. We make the commitment to support them by doubling the financial assistance that the City now gives them.

**3- The financial situation of the City** is healthy following the hard work of the previous administration composed of the tandem "Benjamin-Arpin". They had to rebuild the finances following the partial demerger of 2006. Our debt ratio is 1.7 versus the property values. By comparison, the City of Saint-Lambert is 2.0.

Saint-Bruno could borrow \$ 10 million to be at the same level as Saint-Lambert.

In addition, we have three advantages:

a) The Promenades Saint-Bruno are a "cash cow" in income, which Saint-Lambert does not have.

(b) We have two industrial parks while St. Lambert does not have one.

c) The strategy of Saint-Bruno Inc. will be the important source of new income which is impossible for Saint-Lambert.

**4- The environment:** A Force of Saint-Bruno is its nature. We expressed it with the new slogan " Saint-Bruno, Mont Bonheur Vert ". Our two greatest riches are: Mount Saint-Bruno and the 12,000 trees, and more, that we have across the City. We will create the position of " forest engineer " who will carry out the planning and improvement of our green environment. We have traveled the entire city and we know that about 4% of the trees need to be replaced. The service of the forest engineer is an investment for greater collective and individual wealth. ***Tree consultation services will be free for citizens.***

#### 5- Embellished squares

There are 51 "Places" in Saint-Bruno. A square is the central part of a U-shaped street which is surrounded by houses. Many of them are neglected. It will be a priority to redo them a beauty. The forest engineer, assisted by volunteers in horticulture, will embellish all the places, spread over a period of four years.

#### 6- And the people of the old age

There are more than 20% of the citizens of Saint-Bruno who are over 65 years old. The majority want to stay in their homes as long as they can. The city will be of pay attention to their need.

For those who want to settle in a residence for retirees, we will promote the construction of new homes with specialized private companies. We will also work with the firm Cogir who acquired the Natrel site.



**Simon Besner-Leblond, André Besner and Brigitte Masse**

### **You have two votes**

People often forget that, in municipal elections, they have 2 votes: a vote for the mayor; and another vote for the choice of councilor in their district. There is therefore a freedom to choose candidates who are not from the same party, which makes it possible to choose an independent candidate.

### **My strategy for councilors**

There are 8 electoral districts and therefore as many councilors to be elected. The strategy adopted follows discussions held with several people for many months. I do not present any candidate against my former colleagues who teamed up in the 2013 elections. There are 4 who run for the current elections. There are also 2 districts with independent advisors.

As a result, the Equilibrium Party has two candidates in the other two districts. We remain neutral for the other six districts. With André Besner, there will no longer be a "party vote" with a new Council of independent advisers and differences of allegiance.

### **The candidates of Parti Équilibre**

#### **District 4: Brigitte Masse**

Brigitte has lived in Saint-Bruno since she was a child and grew up in District No. 4. She still has relatives and friends. She is a university graduate with two children, a teenager and a young adult. Brigitte has been working as a travel advisor in an agency in downtown Saint-Bruno for more than ten years. She wants to get involved as a municipal councilor to bring her knowledge of the community and her balanced approach to the realization of important projects, including the optimization of the future downtown.

#### **District 3: Simon Besner-Leblond**

Simon is a native of Saint-Bruno. He has always lived there. He studied in his home town and is currently pursuing film production at the university. At 26, he is the youngest candidate. But, he is already an experienced entrepreneur; indeed, he started his own business seven years ago. His seasonal landscaping business has hundreds of clients.

Simon is actively involved in international, national and local politics. He favors two projects for his district:

- 1- the establishment of a sports and community complex in South 116, the future City of Sports;
- 2- concurrently to the sports center, he wants to solve the entrances and exits of the South 116 which is a major problem.

#### **Mayor: André Besner**

Mr. Besner is a manager with more than 35 years of experience. He spent his professional career at the Business Development Bank of Canada. He was vice-president of Quebec for small & medium enterprises consulting services. Upon his retirement, he created Innovation Besner Inc., a specialist in SMEs. His interest in politics led him to return to university. He obtained a master's degree in municipal management from ENAP in 2011. This training adds to his BBA and MBA. He has been involved for more than 20 years in volunteering. He has been a city councilor for 4 years. He is very familiar with the issues facing the city. He proposes a Plan for the future, for the citizens of Saint-Bruno. This Plan can be summed up by: the major development of the two industrial parks by Saint-Bruno Inc., the residential development in the South 116, the extension of the REM in Saint-Bruno, the establishment of the City of Sports with multi-activities, the revitalization of the green and dynamic downtown, the creation of the Youth Quarter for first-time homebuyers at affordable prices, the tax freeze for a minimum of two years, and many other fine and large projects for citizens, for today and tomorrow.

#### **Our commitments and videos**

We have produced three leaflets which are fully reproduced on the website [www.partieequilibre.org](http://www.partieequilibre.org). An English version is also there. We also produced some videos that you can watch on the site as well as on Facebook.

### **OUR VALUES**

#### **INTEGRITY, COMPETENCE, CONFIDENCE**

**Message to our English-speaking citizens:** an English version of each of the 3 leaflet is available on our website. You may also obtain a paper copy by phoning us at 450-441-5063

[www.partieequilibre.org](http://www.partieequilibre.org)

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