



Mayor Marc Doret's Speech on the 2024 Budget Forecast
and
the 2024-2026 Three-Year Capital Expenditures Program

Dorval, December 4, 2023

Dear citizens and municipal council members,

Welcome to this special council meeting on the adoption of the City of Dorval's 2024 budget forecast. As you may already know, the 2024-2026 three-year capital expenditures program was adopted on November 20, 2023, during a special council meeting.

The council's objective, with this budget, is to mitigate the impact of decisions on the citizens' tax burden and to provide the population with the desired services while controlling expenses. This \$158,366,000 balanced budget is the result of a rigorous planning process and considers the current economic situation caused by inflation, the irreducible expenses, and our contractual commitments. It is based on the principle of a sound management of public finance in respect to Dorval residents' ability to pay.

1. 2024 Main Budget Guidelines

The budget that we are adopting tonight plans for balanced revenues, expenses, and appropriations totaling \$158,366,000, representing a 6.67% increase compared to 2023.

The elaboration of a budgetary strategy must ensure that we can continue to provide quality services to our population and take into consideration unavoidable changes such as the increase in the cost of living on the costs of our contractual commitments, of our supply of goods, and of our public utilities, the increase in our employees' salaries, and, of course, our increasing share expense to the Montreal Agglomeration, which is now up to \$84.3M for 2024.

Our entire Agglomeration payment will increase by more than \$4M compared to 2023, which represents an increase of approximately 5%.

We have chosen to maintain our various financial assistance programs such as those for businesses to revitalize their commercial facades and signs, to fight against the propagation of the emerald ash borer, and for the acquisition or rental of reusable hygiene products, as well as our subsidy for the replacement of wood-burning appliances. Our financial assistance for citizens to purchase and install an electric vehicle charging station is also maintained. All these programs are part of our participation in the safeguard of the environment. Let me remind you that the City of Dorval is a leader in that regard on the island of Montreal, as it offers its citizens all these types of programs.

Our budget is balanced by revenues and allocations equivalent to expenditures. This year, to balance our budget, we did not need to use funds from the accumulated non affected surplus of previous years.

2. Various Tables

The following table presents the anticipated revenues by category.

Table 2.0 – Revenues

Revenues	2023	2024		
	\$	\$	Δ	%
Taxes	99,195,543	104,797,865	5,602,322	6%
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	31,959,532	33,852,101	1,892,569	6%
Other Local Revenues	8,898,925	8,588,639	(310,286)	-3%
Conditional Transfers	1,180,700	1,718,395	537,695	46%
TOTAL	141,234,700	148,957,000	7,722,300	5.47%

The following table illustrates the 2023-2024 comparison of local expenditures by function, including the Agglomeration expense.

Table 2.1 - Global Budget (Local Expenditures and Agglomeration Share Expense)

Operating Activities	2023 \$	2024 \$	Δ
REVENUES	141,234,700	148,957,000	7,722,300
EXPENDITURES			
General Administration	11,410,509	11,803,146	392,637
Public Security	946,469	1,228,657	282,188
Transport	14,179,279	17,095,020	2,915,741
Environmental Health	8,623,553	7,712,989	(910,564)
Health and Wellness	1,102,385	1,155,410	53,025
Urban Development	1,991,584	2,136,661	145,077
Leisure and Culture	19,619,920	20,747,016	1,127,096
Financing Fees	343,600	406,400	62,800
Amortization	9,675,000	11,732,000	2,057,000
	67,892,299	74,017,299	6,125,000
Agglomeration payment	80,572,701	84,348,701	3,776,000
TOTAL - EXPENDITURES	148,465,000	158,366,000	9,901,000
Operating Surplus (Deficit) Before Fiscal Reconciliations	(7,230,300)	(9,409,000)	(2,178,700)
Investment Appropriations	(500,000)	(500,000)	-
Operational Appropriations (surplus)	-	-	-
Other Fiscal Reconciling Items	7,730,300	9,909,000	2,178,700
TOTAL - APPROPRIATIONS	7,230,300	9,409,000	2,178,700
TOTAL - REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS	148,465,000	158,366,000	
Operating Deficit for Fiscal Purposes	-	-	-

I would also like to mention that our debt is constantly decreasing. First, funds borrowed more than 25 years ago are almost completely paid off. Furthermore, for the past few years, our investments have been financed through our surplus.

3. Increase on the Average Residential Tax Bill

As promised during our election campaign, our main preoccupation relates to the tax bill for residential properties.

Tonight, it is my pleasure to announce that, despite a 4.6% increase in the Montreal region consumer price index in October (inflation) and despite an increase regarding the Agglomeration payment, we have managed to create a budget with an increase of only 2% on the average residential tax bill. In the current context, this was not an easy task! To achieve this, we reviewed each of our budget lines and analyzed each expense. Our team of managers made great efforts to face the major challenges that await us. The City of Dorval will continue to do all that it can to limit the increase of the average residential tax bill, all the while continuing to offer quality services to its citizens. Unfortunately, we feel that we are now close to our limits, as the inflation adds a major burden to the City’s operations. Furthermore, the yearly Agglomeration payments that we make to the City of Montreal have increased by approximately \$15.6M since 2021, for a total of over \$84.3M.

This small increase of the average residential tax bill follows the reductions made in 2017 (-2.66%), in 2018 (-2.5%), in 2020 (-2%), in 2021 (-2.5%), and in 2022 (-2.5%) and the freeze of the tax bills in 2023. This shows, once again, our ability to properly manage the City’s finances and to offer our citizens an excellent quality of service, while at the same time respecting our taxpayers’ ability to pay.

Unfortunately, to partially compensate for the increase in the Montreal Agglomeration’s share expense, we will have to increase taxes for non-residential buildings, for industrial buildings, and for immovables consisting of six or more dwellings by 6%.

We are now in the second year of the triennial roll. As with the previous roll, we chose to spread the roll values over a three-year period to allow taxpayers to progressively absorb the property value increases, which were approximately 31.1%. We see that the average single-family dwelling value has increased by 38.23% in comparison to 2022.

I wish, however, to reassure you that the tax rate has been lowered in order to take this increase into account. Also, as previously stated, the tax bill for the average dwelling will increase by only 2% in 2024 compared to 2023.

The following table shows the comparison of the tax bill for the average residential dwelling.

Table 3.0 - Tax Comparison – Average Residence for Year 2 of the Roll

	2023	2024
Average Taxable Value	\$575,579	\$640,631
Tax Rate	0.5005 / \$100	0.4587 / \$100
Total	2 881	2 939
Écart	+ \$58 (2%)	

Despite an increase of 2% in their 2024 tax bill, citizens must realize that they benefited from a real life decrease due to the 4.6% inflation rate.

To further develop my analysis, I would like to go back to 2010. That year, the tax bill for the average single-family dwelling was \$2,867. In 2024, it will be \$2,939. We are talking about returning to 2010 taxation levels, which is to say 14 years ago!

4. Three-Year Capital Expenditures Program

We have considered the following objectives in the long-term planning of our investments presented in our three-year capital expenditure program: to ensure the sustainability of infrastructures, to maximize the use of subsidies, to improve the services offered to our citizens, and to reduce the impact of investment decisions on the citizens’ tax burden.

The year 2023 has been a good year for investments. As such, we have invested approximately \$25M in work related to the redesign of St-Charles Park, to the construction of Village Park, as well as to road, water main, sewer, and building repairs. These investments are part of our sustainable development vision and the desire to maintain our infrastructure in good condition.

We expect to invest over \$108M in the next three years. We have many projects to undertake: a covered refrigerated skating rink, a purposed designed skate park, the upgrading of the Ballantyne Aquatic Centre, the redevelopment of chemin du Bord-du-Lac–Lakeshore between Dorval and St-Charles avenues (village sector), the renovation of the gardener’s house at Pine Beach Park, the rehabilitation work on water mains and sewer pipes, the resurfacing work on many roads, and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. As always, our objective is to improve the quality of life of Dorval residents.

We plan on investing approximately \$50M in the upcoming year in work related to the three-year capital expenditures program (as presented in the following table), including the replacement of fuel vehicles with electric ones withing the Public Works Department.

Table 4.0 - Investments by Category

Activities	\$
Municipal Engineering	38,872,050
Buildings and Land	6,140,000
Public Networks	2,320,000
Vehicles	2,950,000
Information Technology	675,000
Total	50,957,050

In closing, this budget exercise was carried out in close collaboration between elected officials and directors of various services. I wish to thank members of council and the City of Dorval’s administration for their work and their dedication.

As always, your questions and comments on the expected quality of service help us in our planning and in the vision that we must have for the future of the City of Dorval. We thank you, and rest assured that the municipal council remains attentive to your needs.

The Mayor of the City of Dorval
Marc Doret