Department of Urban and Tourism Studies School of Management Université du Québec à Montréal International Conference on Ecclesiastical Heritage and its Future Challenges
Lund (Sweden)
25-26 April 2018

The Future of Church Buildings in the Province of Québec (Canada) New Uses - Shared Uses ?

Prof. Luc Noppen

Canada Research

CHAIR

on urban heritage

ESG UQAM



Québec Province One of the 10 provinces and 3 territories of Canada Population: 8,215 million

« Province de France » until 1759 with a Roman Catholic Established Church

Declared [cultural] Roman Catholics:

83 % of population in 2001

75 % of population in 2011

58 % of population in 2018

Less than 4,5 % of Quebecers are Churchgoers (23 % in the rest of Canada)

Québec and France are the most dechristianised countries in the Christian world

The « Heritage Load »

	France	Québec
Cultural Catholics	65 %	58 %
Churches open to worship (all traditions)	100 000	2932
% per capita	1 / 650 hab.	1 / 2 750 hab.
Churchgoers	4,5 % (IFOP)	4,5 % (estimation)
Listed churches (Historic Monuments)	16 000	367
% of listed churches in the corpus	16 %	13 %

A particular situation in Québec : the ownership of Church Buildings

Privately owned by the parish Fabriques (inherited from the French Regime)

Ownership ruled by the Act Respecting Fabriques (Loi sur les fabriques)

Fabrique: « a legal person constituted under this Act and consisting of the chairman, the pastor of a parish and the elected churchwardens of such parish »

By law the parish may only own properties that are directly related to worship (church, church hall, rectory and cemetery)

If a church closes to worship:

- it can no longer be an ecclesiastical property, property taxes apply
- It cannot host a new lay use, being « sacred » (catholic canon law)
- The building has to be desacralised
- Only a new owner can implement a new use (even a shared use with the congregation)

The decision to close a parish (and to deconsecrate the worship place) is made by the bishop But it is the local parish that puts on sale the Church Building

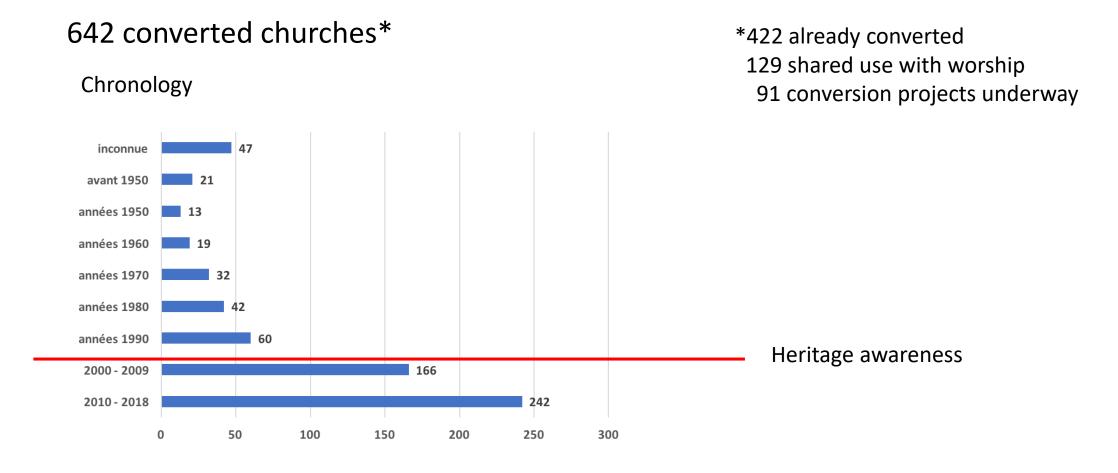
Conflict: the Diocese wants the proceeds of the sale, the parishioners want to hand over the Church Building to the local community (1 \$)

No planification for re-use or shared use is possible on a Diocesan scale

Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage database

Use of Church Buildings in Québec Province 2018		Montréal Island		Québec Capital Region		Regions in Québec Province		Total 2018	%
Churches used as worship places	Continuous use	312	431	128	131	1523	1606	2168	67,0
	 Conversion to host another tradition (Church to Church)* 	119		3		83			
Ongoing convers	ion projects		3	5		83		91	2,8
For sale		8		1		39		48	1,5
Abandoned						11		11	0,3
Closed to worshi	p (no project, discussions)		6	5		52		63	1,9
Converted to another use	• Lay use	58	64	26	33	338	_ 454	551	17,0
	Lay use shared with worship	6		7		116			
Subtotal		5	12	175		2245		2932	90,6
Demolished (sinc	te 1900)	1	.47	14		144		305	9,4
Total		6	559	189		2389		3237	100,0

^{*}not including the Protestant Churches merged by the creation of the United Church of Canada in 1925



1900-1960: Church demolition for replacement by larger buildings

1925-1940: (±75 small redundant churches (merge of protestant traditions in 1924) are converted

1960-1990: decline of worshipping, demolition of huge city centre catholic churches (no heritage considerations)

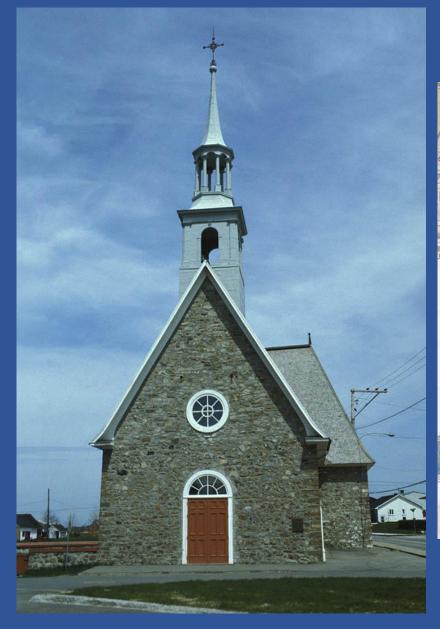
1990-2018: heritage awareness: conversion of Church Buildings

Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage database

642 converted churches

Ownership for 642 converted churches	Montréal Island	Québec Capital region	Other regions	Total	%
Private	28	10	195	233	36,3
Municipal [Local and regional] governement	4	15	131	150	23,4
National government and related (school board)	1	3	11	15	2,3
NPO	28	6	87	121	18,8
Unknown			17	17	2,6
Church Property – shared use (small scale)	6	4	96	106	16,5
Total	67	38	537	642	100,0

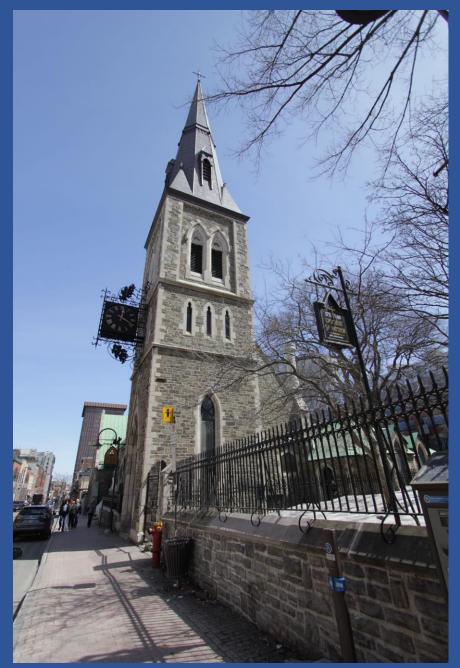
Early cases

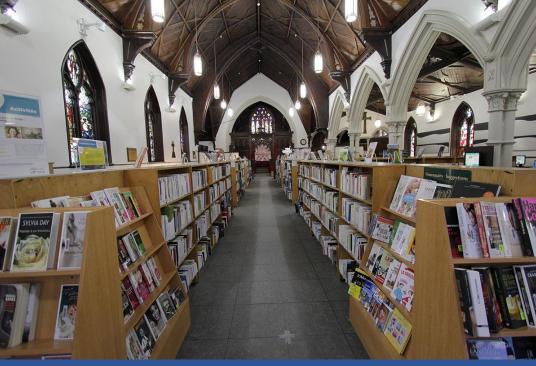




Église Saint-Pierre (I.O). Built 1717 à 1719. The oldest church in Québec Listed « historic monument» in 1958; bought by the governement in 1959

Early cases





Québec. St. Matthew's anglican Converted – 1980: local branch of public library



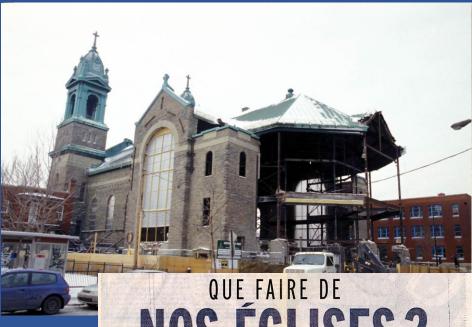
Early cases





Danville. Old United Church, 1928 Closed to worship in 1980 Opened as a restaurant in 1987 Le temps des cerises (Patrick and Martine Satre)

The rise of public awareness



Montréal. Place de la Croix Former Saint-Jean-de-la-Croix Converted for housing, 2002



ou fausse Histoire de sexe Page 4 CAHIER J | LA PRESSE | MONTRÉAL | SAMEDI 19 JANVIER 2002 LES ÉGLISES-CONDOS que des églises abriteraient des appartements en copropriété Pourtant, la conversion des lieux de culte ne lait que commencer. Il pourrait y avoir bientôt des centaines d'églises a transformer; il s'en rouve 600 a Montrea sculement dont plus de 259 de foi cubolique. Les presbytères ont troqué leurs bancs de bois pour des fauteuils plus confortables, puisqu'ils sont devenus des gires, des restaurants ou des résidences privées. Ils restaurants ou des residences privees, ils sont ainsi assurés d'un autre siècle de beaux jours. Les convents abritent maintenant des personnes âgées ou des coproprictaires comme c'est le cas dans l'ancien collège Mont Saint-Louis, transformé en immeuble preferent feinplacer le Curé par un chef denchesne plant que de vernée les bilmens à des prometeurs. Fourquoi s'oltisque's a des prometeurs. Fourquoi s'oltisque's randomes corpoptfééé? «D'abord pour des ralsons symboliques du Lan Noppen, initalize de la chaire de urbain à l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UAAM). Les poss ropposent à une utilisation laique des lieux sainus. Puis, sur le plan contraction de la companie de la companie de la companie de la companie de publication de la companie de l social, Utabitation est la privatisation ultime d'un lieu qui a najous ré public. C'est un changement de loucion extréma.

C'est un changement de loucion extréma.

Proportier social de la companya de la proportier de la proportier de cesa, tout l'intérieur est déririti afin d'avoir l'espace voulu pour dispuraissent, les colomes s'effondement, les boiseries d'epoque sons souvent perdues. En change, les colornées d'échoriente, les boiseries d'epoque sons souvent perdues. En change, les convieres construiteuit de nouvelles structures pour des stationnements des accurates et doèvent percet les mussafin d'offir aux acheteurs les fenêtres si convoitées. One granue cernanue

Si certains citoyens n'apprécient pas les
conversions d'églises, les acheteurs, eux,
les adorent.

A l'église Saint-Jean-de-la-Croix, prentière
eglise catholique romaine à être vendue a
un promoteur (Conceptions Bachel-Fullen).

The rise of public awareness





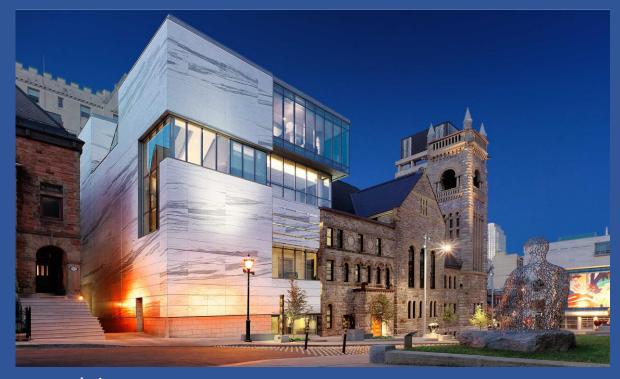






Montréal. Place de la Croix Former Saint-Jean-de-la-Croix Converted for housing, 2002

Cultural projects



Montréal
Former American Presbyterian Church
Converted as auditorium for chamber music by

The Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, 2008



Cultural projects







Former Saint-Denys-du-Plateau Catholic Church.
Jean-Marie Roy, architect, 1963
Closed and sold to the Municipality of Québec, 2009
Converted to a Public Library (local branch)
Dan Hanganu, architects, 2013

Cultural projects







Québec. La maison de la littérature

Sport facility (public)







Former Saint-Esprit Catholic Church, Québec, 1930 Sold to the Circus School in 2002 « *École de cirque* »

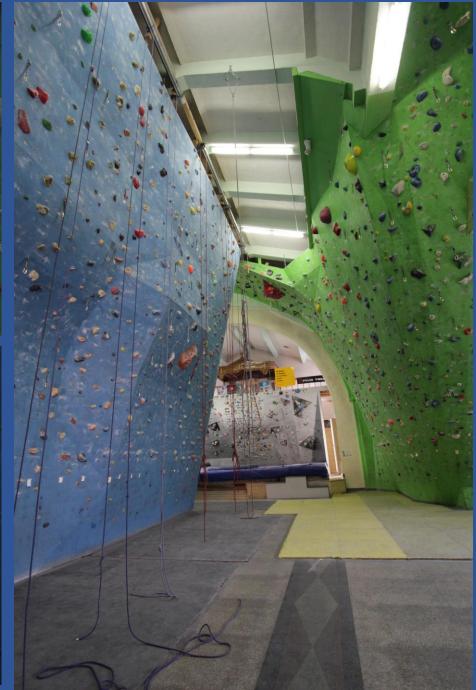


Granby Owned by the Municipality Sport facility (private)

Sherbrooke
Former Christ-Roi
Catholic Church
Climbing wall









Saint-Jérôme. Former Sainte-Marcelle Catholic Church. Community Center Le Méridien 74, 2003

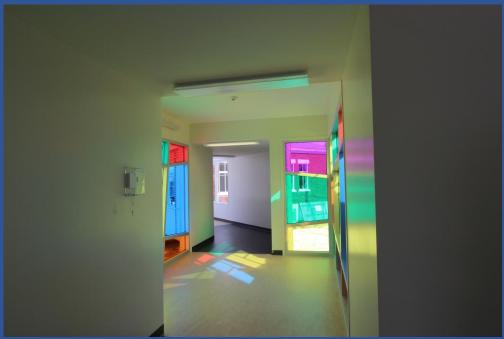


Longueuil. Former Saint-Josaphat Catholic Church Centre communautaire La Mosaïque, 2002

Saint-Rosaire Catholic Church.
Church bought by the school board
Converted – multifunctional (school, community and occasional worship)











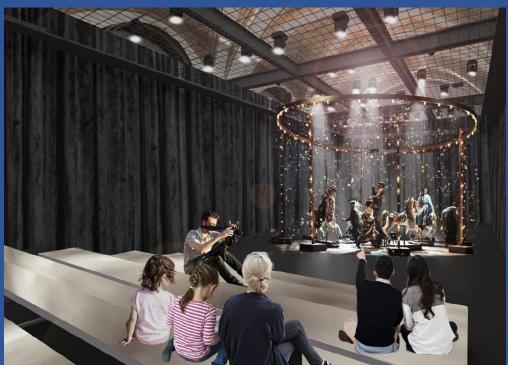


Sainte-Brigide Catholic Church (Montréal)
Parish site (church, rectory and parking lot)
taken over by a community group (NPO) in 2009: 250 000 \$
Total investment 2009-2019: 29 millions CAN \$ by 8 partners
+Public Value

Pilot project conceived at UQAM (applied research)



Sainte-Brigide Catholic Church (Montréal)
Third phase: 11,2 millions (Ministry of Culture)
Architectural competition for the conversion of the nave
Studios and offices for a theatre company (production facility)





Partners Building costs

Le PAS de la rue	\$580 000
Coopérative d'habitation Radar	\$6 730 000
En Marge 12-17	\$2 100 000
Groupe Information Travail (GIT)	\$790 000
Total des coûts de réalisation – Phase I	\$10 200 000
Centre culturel et communautaire Sainte-Brigide (lot patrimonial)	\$1 618 281
Le Cube, Centre international de recherche et	¢11 210 746
de création en théâtre pour l'enfance et la jeunesse	\$11 219 746
Centre culturel et communautaire Sainte-Brigide (toit et fondations)	\$975 000
Les Chemins du Soleil (travaux partiels de 1,1 million \$ complétés en 2014)	\$3 079 309
Le Relais du PAS (complété en 2015)	\$1 899 853
Total des coûts de réalisation estimés - Phase II	\$18 792 189
Color Color	
TOTAL DES COÛTS DE RÉALISATION	\$28 992 189

Projet de requalification de l'ancienne église Sainte-Brigide-de-Kildare (Montréal)

Heritage: an asset for local community development

Sainte-Brigide (Montréal)

Contribution to local development:

6,0 M\$ turnover

3,5 M\$ payroll

67 full time

108 part time

437 benevolent (7 750 hours)

69 housing units (artist coop)

And more to come (phase II)

To support decision making for local communities



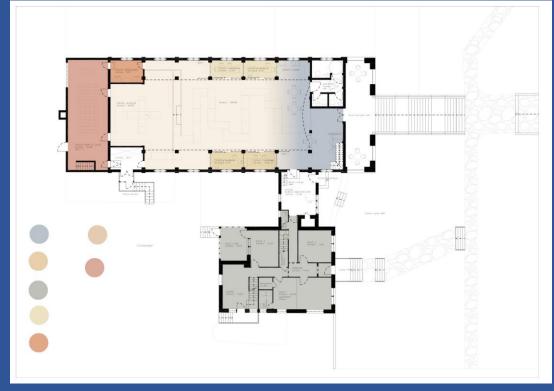


Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois Catholic Church

To support decision making for local communities



Val-Morin Église Saint-Norbert







Privately owned churches



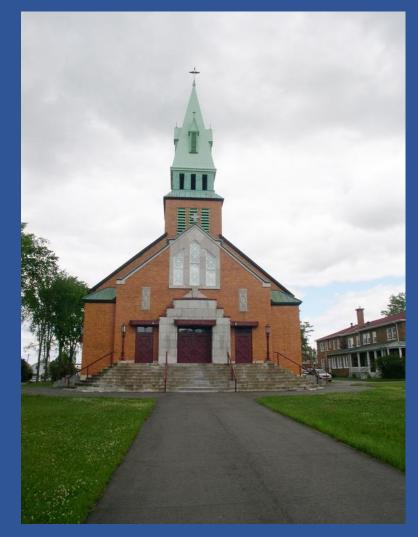






Flea markets

Privately owned churches





Saguenay (Kénogami) Former Saint-Laurent Catholic Church Closed 2004. Project for a Community centre abandoned Sold to a private owner

Privately owned churches









Shared use with worship

Former Sainte-Élisabeth de Warwick Catholic Church Cheese Factory and tasting site, 2005

The future of monumental listed churches











The future of monumental listed churches



Saint-Sauveur Catholic Church Built 1868. Steeple had to be removed, 2018





The future of rural listed churches



Deschambault



Sainte-Famille, I.O.



Wendake. N.-D.-de-Lorette



Vaudreuil



Saint-Jean-Port-Joli



Saint-Isidore

1957 – 17 churches listed as historic monuments

The Future of monumental listed churches



Former Catholic Church of L'Acadie Bought by the Municipality of Saint-Jean, 2018 Open to worship and shared uses





Thank you