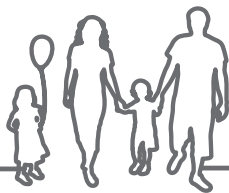


Road safety in Saint-Laurent: putting citizens first!



Background

For the last several years, Saint-Laurent has aimed to become a destination of choice for families. As a result of actions taken, the borough is now home to many young families; indeed, children aged 14 and under account for 18% of the borough's population.

Recognizing that the borough's municipal administration plays a key role in ensuring the safety of its residents, Saint-Laurent Borough Council passed a resolution on May 1, 2012 calling for all eligible new heavy vehicles in the borough's fleet to be equipped with lateral protection (side guards).

Saint-Laurent thus becomes the first borough in Montréal to outfit its fleet with this safety device, which helps to protect pedestrians and cyclists from falling underneath the body of vehicles so equipped.

The borough's resolution falls within the framework of the **Jessica Campaign**, an initiative started by the family of Jessica Holman-Price, a young Montréal woman who died following an accident involving a snow-removal truck in Westmount in 2005. In her memory, the young woman's family launched the campaign, one of whose goals is to improve road safety.

The project

Touched by the call to action issued by Jessica's family, Saint-Laurent Borough Council asked its Division de la mécanique, des bâtiments et de l'éclairage des rues (engineering, building and street-lighting department) to look into improving the safety of the borough's fleet of heavy trucks.

Following the example of the cities of Westmount and Dorval, the Borough of Saint-Laurent decided in 2010 to conduct a trial by equipping four Isuzu flatbed trucks with side guards designed to comply with European standards, specifically EU Council directive EUR-Lex 31989L0297. The device, constructed of steel or aluminum frames, is designed to cover the space between the vehicle's axles where tanks and other equipment are located. The department also had the original idea of installing storage containers to cover up the open space between wheels on certain trucks; these containers can also be used to carry equipment.

Objectives

Saint-Laurent has 33 vehicles that can be equipped with lateral protection devices, and these vehicles will be so equipped between now and 2015. Twelve vehicles, several of them used for snow-clearing operations, are already equipped with side guards. The borough estimates that it would cost 50 percent less to have side guards incorporated into the design of the vehicles and installed before delivery rather than added as an after-market option.

The addition of side guards has been included in Saint-Laurent's vehicle-replacement budget. The cost of installing side guards, which may reach \$3000 per vehicle, depends on the size of the truck; as such, the cost of the devices will be lower for smaller trucks. Saint-Laurent now also includes lateral-protection specifications in its purchase orders for heavy vehicles.

Installed side guards

| Year | 2010 | 2011 | Total |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|
| Number of vehicles equipped with side guards | 8 | 4 | 12 |

Side guards to come

| Year | 2012 | 2013-15 | Total |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of vehicles expected to be equipped with side guards | 4 | 17 | 21 |

Grand total **33**

Types of borough vehicles not equipped with side guards



Types of borough vehicles equipped with side guards



Isuzu 2712 vehicle – Parks department



Side guard



Isuzu 2715 vehicle – Sewer department



Isuzu 2929 vehicle – Sewer department



Side guard



Service truck 2404 – Engineering department



Cherry picker truck 4209 – Hydro power department



**Freightliner salt-spreader vehicle
5109-11 – Roads department**



**Side guard on left side
of vehicle**



**Side guard on right side
of vehicle**

Leading by example: taking concrete action

Through its participation in the Jessica Campaign, Saint-Laurent aims to lead by example in order to incite other municipalities and various private and public partners to take concrete action. In May 2012, the borough will launch a national awareness campaign targeted at municipal, provincial and federal entities and at associations involved in transportation and road safety.

It should be noted, in closing, that the borough's acquisition of vehicles is undertaken in accordance with Saint-Laurent's 2011-2015 Local Sustainable Development Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by favouring the use of energy-efficient vehicles (hybrids, electric vehicles and vehicles with smaller engines).

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