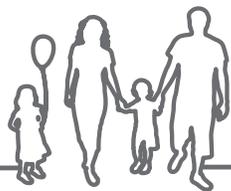


Road safety in Saint-Laurent: putting citizens first!



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 became 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 fell 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. Furthermore, the Borough has equipped 29 of its vehicles with back-up or dead spot cameras since 2012.

Objectives

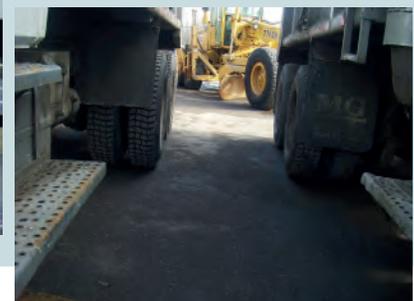
In 2015, Saint-Laurent achieved its primary objective, which was to equip 33 heavy vehicles with lateral protection devices. By 2017, 10 more vehicles will also be modified.

The addition of side guards has been included in Saint-Laurent's vehiclereplacement 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.

Important dates:

- 2005** Jessica Holman-Price passes away.
- 2006** Jessica's family launches the Jessica Campaign.
- 2010** Saint-Laurent outfits its first eight vehicles with lateral protection devices.
- 2012** Saint-Laurent adopts a resolution to outfit every new suitable heavy vehicle in its fleet with lateral protection devices.
- 2012** The Mayor of Saint-Laurent, Alan DeSousa, accompanied by Jessica's mother, Mrs. Jeannette Holman-Price, holds a press conference to announce the Borough's achievements.
- 2014** Inspired by Saint-Laurent's initiative, Ville de Montréal invests \$2.5 M to equip its heavy vehicles with lateral protection devices.
- 2015** Since then, Saint-Laurent has worked on other improvements, including back-up and blind spot mirrors, flashing lights on the right-hand side, and rear-view mirrors.
- 2017** A total of 43 vehicles will be equipped with lateral protection devices.

Examples of Borough vehicles without side guards.



Examples 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

Examples of Borough vehicles equipped with cameras.



Freightliner vehicle – Parks department



Volvo 5310 tanker truck – Roads department

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 launched a national awareness campaign targeted at municipal, provincial and federal entities and at suppliers and associations involved in transportation and road safety.

For example, in partnership with Transvrac, truckers responsible for snow removal in the Borough of Saint-Laurent, have heeded the call by starting to equip their trucks with metal frames serving as lateral protection devices.

Furthermore, inspired by Saint-Laurent's initiative, Ville de Montréal has invested \$2.5 M to equip its heavy vehicles with lateral protection

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).

COUNCIL OF SAINT-LAURENT



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