Ville de Montréal and ICLEI convene mayors, global leaders to drive the conversation on sustainable urban development

5 June 2018 - From 19 - 22 June the Ville de Montréal and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability are convening hundreds of local and regional leaders, international agencies, the private sector, academics, researchers, community groups at the ICLEI World Congress 2018 in the heart of Montréal. It is the largest global gathering of local and regional leaders dedicated to sustainable urban development this year.

With over two-thirds of the global population set to live in cities by mid-century, sustainable urban development is quickly gaining prominence as a core lever to advance global sustainable development. With more than 50 thematic sessions and workshops, prominent mayors and influential global figures, the World Congress will accelerate that conversation and look at specific policies and interventions to effective drive systemic urban transformation.

Event highlights

ICLEI will launch a new vision and action plan for systemic urban transformation, guiding the action of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions worldwide.

50 interactive thematic sessions and workshops will look at everything from eco-innovation and gender mainstreaming to resilient food systems and social transitions in industrial legacy cities

Field-based workshops will highlight urban innovation by the Ville de Montréal and its community, including tours of the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex and Frédéric-Back Park, exploring the unique metamorphosis of this former landfill.
Urban Transitions Forum will dive into the transformation process of industrial legacy cities, highlighting how they reinvent their economies, facilitate social transformation and overcome environmental crises to create their own resurgence.

The Ville de Montréal, ICLEI and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will host the Canadian Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue where city and national leaders will take stock of climate action in the Canadian context and chart a path to raise the national climate commitment under the Paris Agreement.

ICLEI will launch CitiesWithNature, a first-of-its-kind global report platform for subnational commitments and actions to enhance nature-based development in the urban context.

Noteworthy participants: Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, OECD David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Don Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton, Canada, William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburg, USA, Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal, Canada and World Congress host, Mauricio Rodas, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn, Germany and ICLEI President.

For more information, visit worldcongress2018.iclei.org/

Quotes

Valerie Plante, Mayor of Montréal, Canada: “The ICLEI World Congress 2018 is a chance for the ICLEI network to collectively show what the future holds. It is a forum for us to discover innovative ideas and solutions, forge new partnerships – and then apply some fresh creativity to our own sustainability strategies at home.”

Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn and President of ICLEI: “We will come together at the ICLEI World Congress in Montréal to invigorate collective action and hold ourselves up as the torchbearers of change in the urban context. By convening in Montréal and directing our joint path, we set an important marker in our efforts to build the sustainable urban future which ICLEI envisions for all citizens of this world. We are determined to leave no one behind.”

Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Secretary General: “In our urban era, the way cities and their surrounding regions grow, develop and change will play a decisive role in global development. Today, ICLEI is leveraging the power of our network to ensure urban
sustainability delivers on the goals and aspirations of the global sustainable development agenda.”

About the host

Metropolis of Québec and major Canadian city, Montréal is a key center for innovation and knowledge, and is known for its quality of life and its vibrant blend of cultures and languages. A leader in the field of sustainable development thanks to its determined governance, its policies and its transferrable initiatives, Montréal was selected to host the ICLEI World Congress 2018. Having set the ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, the city is also a leader in climate action. This Francophone metropolis of the Americas, also aims to integrate sustainable development principles in all its activities, projects and policies.

About ICLEI

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future.

For more information contact media@iclei.org