



Vaudreuil-Dorion

PRESS RELEASE

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## Departure of Mr. Michel Vallée

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, June 18, 2020** – Director General of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion, Mr. Olivier Van Neste, regrets to announce the departure of Mr. Michel Vallée, who held the position of Director of Recreation and Culture. Mr. Vallée's resignation is effective June 17.

Mr. Vallée had been employed by the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion since October 2009. From the moment he took up his position, he distinguished himself with the Je suis... project, which won multiple awards on the regional, provincial and international scenes. A visionary and excellent communicator, he propelled culture and played an active role in building the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's reputation. "It was a great pleasure working alongside Michel Vallée. He had a talent for imparting his passion for culture and, above all, his desire to break people out of isolation and give citizens the opportunity to meet one another. I respect and understand his desire to devote himself entirely to his field of expertise, and I have no doubt that he will continue to make culture a special place where people and art come together as one," stated Mr. Van Neste.

Mayor Guy Pilon would like to highlight Michel Vallée's exceptional contribution to the cultural vitality of Vaudreuil-Dorion. "Urbania magazine has chosen Michel Vallée as one of the top 50 Quebec personalities recognized for their extraordinary creative contributions. We also agree that Michel is one of those people who definitely stands out from the rest and makes sure everything is extra special. The City council also unanimously concurs: Michel Vallée clearly left his mark on our City's history. He is a man of ideas with a passion for culture and social development. We will miss his zaniness and creativity, but I have no doubt that our paths will cross again," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

It is worth recalling that Michel Vallée played a central role in helping the City earn the prestigious UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 International Award and be recognized as one of the world's 12 Leading Cities with regard to the Agenda for culture. He has lectured and provided training in Quebec and Acadia as well as in a dozen or so countries throughout South America, Europe and Asia. He also penned a book on cultural mediation entitled *Et si on se rencontrait!* launched in June 2019 during the symposium for the Les Arts et la Ville network held in Vaudreuil-Dorion.

"From the moment I arrived at the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion in October 2009, I had the privilege of gaining the trust of elected officials, the general management and my colleagues so that together we could set in motion one of the largest culture and sustainable development projects ever seen in a Quebec community. Over the years, several thousand cultural mediation workshops, led by exceptional artists and aimed at creating encounters between citizens of all origins, backgrounds and ages, have taken place throughout the community. More than 10 years full of wonderful adventures... with you! After taking the time to reflect, it became obvious to me

that I wanted to pursue my career in sectors that were in line with my expertise in art, culture, Agenda 21 for culture, cultural citizenship as well as community development,” shared Michel Vallée.

According to Mayor Guy Pilon, Michel Vallée brought cultural mediation into the lives of many Vaudreuil-Dorion citizens. He gave them a new perception of culture and used cultural mediation as a true engine of change. “As I have said many times, culture is now part of the DNA of the citizens of Vaudreuil-Dorion. Michel has largely contributed to this, with the help of people who are equally as passionate. Culture is and will remain of the utmost importance to us. Our many artists, volunteers and employees are all ambassadors who make our community an extraordinary place to live—and the City Council is convinced that this cultural vitality will only continue to grow. We are true cultural leaders and are intent on remaining so,” said the Mayor.

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion acknowledges Michel Vallée’s exceptional contribution and wishes him all the best in the pursuit of his dreams and passion.