



Vaudreuil-Dorion

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The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion amends its regulations to allow for organization-type religious associations in certain predominantly commercial areas within an urban framework

Vaudreuil-Dorion, March 8, 2022 – As part of its 2020 > 2025 Strategic Plan, which features among its five objectives the aspiration to make diversity a source of wealth, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion has recognized the need to amend its regulations to permit uses, in several areas within municipal boundaries, aimed at increasing the service offering for the different communities. The Municipal Council therefore adopted draft by-laws Nos. 1270-71, 1275-301 and 1743-3 during the public session held on March 7th, which aim at providing a better framework for the establishment of places of worship.

"The events of recent years related to the relocation of the Islamic Cultural Centre have made us realize that there is a problem with regard to places of worship. It is the reason why we decided to take a look at the regulations to ensure that locations could be identified to accommodate such places. We have had requests on a few occasions, which is fully justified, and it is important that we provide a suitable framework for them by establishing clear guidelines," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

It should be noted that the establishment of places of worship through religious organizations, where people gather to pray, and Cultural or Community Centres managed by a religious organization in areas identified for C2 and C3 commercial use will be subject to a series of criteria. The urban framework does not apply to Cultural or Community Centres, unless they are under the responsibility of a religious organization.

A face-to-face public consultation will be held on March 28 to allow citizens to ask their questions. Details will be posted by the end of the week on the City's website in the Public Meetings section.

Developing a policy for living well together

Over the past twenty years, Vaudreuil-Dorion has undergone a significant transformation. The population has more than doubled and many of the new citizens have an immigrant background. It is in this spirit that the municipal administration has assigned itself the goal to develop mechanisms for the welcoming, integration and support of all new residents. The City is set to begin the process of developing its very first Living Well Together policy. This approach, which involves the municipal administration, community partners and citizens of Vaudreuil-Dorion aims to renew the community's sense of belonging and develop a community lifestyle that is welcoming and inclusive. The City has obtained financial assistance from the *Ministère de*

l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration, through its *Programme d'appui aux collectivités* program. This grant will fund 50% of the costs associated with the project, up to a maximum of \$27,500. It is expected that the work to be done by the Steering Committee for the future policy will extend over a good part of 2022 so that the policy can be adopted in winter 2023.

A first step in this process was actually taken a few months ago through the creation of a new section within the Culture and Community Life Division: The Social Development and Diversity Section. Pascale Lauzon, Head of the new section, will work alongside the Steering Committee to lead the Living Well Together Policy project.

