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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Freeze on the municipal share **2021 budget focuses on hope and solidarity**

Lachute, December 3, 2020 – The MRC d'Argenteuil is proud to present its 2021 budget, adopted at the regular meeting on November 25. This balanced budget, with its message of hope and solidarity, is the result of responsible planning.

Highlights of the 2021 budget

The total budget of the MRC d'Argenteuil is \$13,269,070, including \$2,530,770 for Fibre Argenteuil Inc¹. As is the case for all MRCs across Québec, the municipal share is the main source of revenue for the MRC d'Argenteuil and is payable by its nine constituent municipalities. For the year 2021, the total municipal share comes to \$4,493,120, the same amount as in 2020. This means that 2021 will see an overall freeze on the municipal share.

In addition to the municipal share, other sources of revenue include reserves and accumulated surpluses, grants from the Québec and Canadian governments, and various other revenues. It should be noted that, as part of the 2020-2024 fiscal pact between the provincial government and municipalities, the MRC d'Argenteuil will receive additional funding to take on ever-growing responsibilities, including support for local development management, innovation and revitalization. In addition, in 2021 and for the following three years, the MRC d'Argenteuil will receive funding from the Québec government to pay for the hiring of two additional employees in its economic development department, in line with the new Accès Entreprise Québec network.

As of September 15, 2020, total property values (land and buildings) in the MRC d'Argenteuil stood at nearly \$4.8 billion, an increase of 6.56% compared to September 15, 2019.

¹ Fibre Argenteuil Inc: A non-profit organization, legally constituted in May 2019 at the request of the MRC d'Argenteuil, whose mission is to facilitate, provide and maintain telecommunication services, including high-speed Internet, to as many households as possible across the MRC.

An MRC dedicated to its community

In addition to assuming its mandatory powers under provincial laws, the MRC d'Argenteuil, as a local government, acts as a "service cooperative" for its constituent municipalities, thereby generating significant economies of scale in several sectors of activity, including civil engineering and local roads, computer and network engineering, geomatics, forestry engineering, etc. The nine local municipalities, as well as their community partners, can also benefit from personalized support from the MRC in the realization of their various projects and the protection of their best interests

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, 2020 was a very difficult year in many ways. In this unusual and challenging context, the MRC fully assumed its responsibilities and leadership for the benefit of the people of Argenteuil. For example, sensitive to the needs of the community, the MRC council did not hesitate to maintain and increase financial support in 2021 for economic development, social solidarity, arts and culture, and sports and outdoor activities.

MRC d'Argenteuil Warden Scott Pearce and Deputy Warden Carl Péloquin are pleased with the adoption of the 2021 budget. "Endowed with a vision that is realistic, ambitious and full of hope for its population and its territory, the MRC d'Argenteuil will continue its relentless efforts over the upcoming year to ensure that the issues and needs that are dear to its citizens are heard and that funding continues to be provided for them". These issues and needs include the deployment of essential high speed fibre optic Internet, local development and employability, public safety, paratransit and public transit, the protection of the environment and natural areas, municipal asset and waterways management in the context of climate change adaptation, and the adoption of a youth strategy.

"In the MRC's 2021 budget, everything is in place to promote social harmony and mobilization in order to continue to make Argenteuil an inspiring, attractive, inclusive and supportive living environment for the benefit of current and future generations", added Mr. Pearce and Mr. Péloquin.

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Source: MRC d'Argenteuil

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