



**MRC
D'ARGENTEUIL**
Authentique. Avec vous.



FIBRE
ARGENTEUIL

NEWS RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 1:30 P.M. ON JULY 21, 2021

Argenteuil soon to have 100% high-speed Internet coverage thanks to financial support from the governments of Québec and Canada and the community

Lachute, July 21, 2021 – It is with great pride and satisfaction that the MRC d'Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil inc. welcomed the announcement, on July 21, of a joint investment of \$12.6 M by the governments of Québec and Canada for the third and final phase of their high speed fibre optic Internet deployment project. Once completed, the large-scale project will ensure that the entire population of the MRC d'Argenteuil has access to this essential service.

Following on from the high speed Internet installations already underway in the region (*Québec Branché, Connect to Innovate* and *Régions branchées/Fonds d'Appui au Rayonnement des Régions*), the *Argenteuil Branchée, Volet Éclair II* project is specifically dedicated to connecting an additional 1,955 residences. The project, whose total cost is estimated at \$14,525,750, will receive \$12,636,585 from the Québec and Canadian governments; the difference will be covered by the MRC d'Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil Inc. This valuable financial assistance will enable the completion of the MRC d'Argenteuil's vast high speed Internet deployment project aimed at connecting nearly 8,000 homes, for which the governments of Québec and Canada will have provided a total of \$26 M in funding out of total investments estimated at \$34.6 M.

"In addition to providing substantial financial assistance for this major project, which the MRC has been working on for just over ten years, this announcement is a testament to the determination, tenacity and bold thinking of our local government, which has shown vision and leadership. By the end of 2022, the people of Argenteuil, through the MRC, will be the owners of a vast network of close to 1,000 kilometres of fibre optics that will provide high speed Internet access to nearly 8,000 homes. Our population will have an outstanding lever for social and economic development, for the benefit of the common good. We can proudly declare that that our perseverance and our continuous efforts have paid off, and we wish to thank the governments of Québec and Canada for their invaluable assistance in achieving our ambitious goal", said MRC d'Argenteuil warden Scott Pearce.

As part of its business strategy, the MRC d'Argenteuil created the non-profit organization (NPO) Fibre Argenteuil inc. in 2018, to which it entrusted the management and maintenance of the network, operations, and customer service. Fibre Argenteuil inc. is therefore an initiative of the MRC, with the mission of facilitating and providing telecommunications services to as many residents as possible.

The chairman of the board of directors of Fibre Argenteuil inc., Benoît St-Jacques, CPA, is delighted with this announcement: “Fibre Argenteuil is extremely proud to contribute to the development of the MRC d’Argenteuil and to actively participate in job creation in the community. This announcement will make it easier for our organization to fulfill its mission, particularly with regard to the speed of connections, and to maintain a high-quality, professional and personalized service, at highly competitive prices”.

Throughout this lengthy process, the MRC d’Argenteuil has insisted on and reiterated the essential and strategic role played by high speed Internet access in the economic and social development of a community. More specifically, high speed Internet positively influences the occupancy and vitality of the region, the retention of young people, and the arrival of new families. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the absolute necessity for all citizens to have access to an efficient and effective Internet service for purposes such as remote working, distance learning, online commerce and socialization.

The MRC d’Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil inc. wish to express their deep appreciation to Gilles Bélanger, MNA for Orford and Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier of Québec (high speed Internet) for his active involvement in the successful outcome of this vital project. The MRC would also like to give special mention to the attentiveness, availability and unfailing support of Argenteuil MNA Agnès Grondin and Argenteuil-La Petite Nation MP Stéphane Lauzon.

In closing, the MRC d’Argenteuil wishes to thank its nine constituent municipalities for the solidarity and full support they have shown throughout this ambitious undertaking. Finally, the MRC Council and the board of directors of Fibre Argenteuil inc. would like to recognize the professionalism, dedication and remarkable work of the members of their respective teams.

-30-

Source: MRC d’Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil inc.

Information :

Marc Carrière
Director General and Secretary-Treasurer
MRC d’Argenteuil
450 562-2474, ext. 2328 | mcarriere@argenteuil.qc.ca

Denis Huberdeau
General Manager
Fibre Argenteuil inc.
450 409-2010 | dhuberdeau@fibreargenteuil.ca