

CITIZEN CONSULTATIONS
ON THE TERRITORIAL REORGANIZATION
OF CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES

Summary of the impact study
on the consequences and costs of dismantling
THE CURRENT VILLE DE SHERBROOKE
and reconstituting
THE FORMER VILLE DE LENNOXVILLE

Subsequent to the National Assembly's passage of the Act respecting the consultation of citizens with respect to the territorial reorganization of certain municipalities, the Government of Québec will seek your opinion on the future of your community in accordance with its promise to hold citizen consultations and respect the principle of agglomeration taxation.

As part of this democratic exercise, a group of independent experts was commissioned to conduct an impact study on the consequences and costs of dismantling the current Ville de Sherbrooke and reconstituting the Ville de Lennoxville as well as of maintaining the present agglomeration.

The summary of the study by Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton presented here provides an overview of the main consequences of reconstituting the Ville de Lennoxville on **municipal organization**, the **cost of municipal services** and your **taxes**.

CITIZEN CONSULTATIONS

Persons on the referendum list for the former Ville de Lennoxville must sign the register to request a referendum on reconstituting their municipality.

At least **10% of those on the referendum list** in the sector corresponding to the former Ville de Lennoxville **must sign the register** for a referendum vote to be held.

The Ville de Lennoxville will be restored if the referendum results meet two conditions.

The number of votes in favor must:

- **Exceed 50% of valid votes;**
- **Equal at least 35% of the number of persons on the referendum list.**

The Québec Government will assume the cost of opening the registers. However, if a referendum is held, taxpayers in the sector corresponding to the former municipality must pay estimated costs of \$32,663.

Your municipality will provide information on hours, dates, and locations for signing the register. Directeur général des élections du Québec will provide information on the holding of referendums, as the case may be.

For technical reasons, “municipality” denotes *paroisse* (parish), *canton* (township), *cit * (city), and *village* (village).

CONSEQUENCES FOR MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

In the event that the current Ville de Sherbrooke is dismantled, an **urban agglomeration council** will be created. This council will be made up of elected representatives from all municipalities, including mayors, and will have the power to make decisions, collect taxes, and set rates for agglomeration services.

For reasons of efficiency and equity, the residual¹ municipality will provide services for the entire region. These are **agglomeration services**.

The number of votes for each municipality on the council will be determined based on population. Thus, the former Ville de Lennoxville would receive 4% of the votes.

Agglomeration council decisions will be by majority vote. The residual municipality has the right of veto.

The reconstituted municipality, under the direction of a municipal council, will provide **nearby services**.

Any service currently offered within the limits of the current Ville de Sherbrooke by an organization other than the latter will continue to be the responsibility of the organization in question.

1. The entity representing municipalities part of the agglomeration that will not be reconstituted.

URBAN AGGLOMERATION POWERS

SERVICES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE URBAN AGGLOMERATION COUNCIL

- Property assessments
- Management of municipal bodies of water
- Emergency preparedness
- Fire safety services
- Police services
- 9-1-1 emergency center
- Implementation of fire coverage and public safety plans
- Municipal court
- Social housing
- Assistance for the homeless
- Waste disposal and conversion
- Water supply equipment and facilities, except local watermains
- Water purification facilities and infrastructure, except local watermains
- Implementation of waste management plans
- Creation and adoption of waste management plans
- Public transit
- Road and arterial road management
- Economic promotion, including tourism, outside the limits of a municipality part of the agglomeration
- Tourist reception
- Industrial parks
- Any location or depot for snow removed from partner municipalities
- Any other responsibilities formerly under the jurisdiction of the regional county municipality in the event that the city took the place of the latter, including the land use and development plan, emergency plan, fire coverage plan, and the local development center
- Equipment, infrastructures, and activities defined to be in the collective interest in the appendix of the act

NEARBY POWERS

MAIN SERVICES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE RECONSTITUTED VILLE DE LENNOXVILLE

- Land use plans, regulations, and minor exemptions
- Issuing of construction and renovation permits
- Neighborhood improvement programs
- Local water and sewer mains
- Waste pickup and disposal
- Local road management
- Fire safety, nuisance, and public health regulations
- Local sports and cultural facilities*
- Local libraries*
- Local parks*
- Issuing of licenses for bicycles, animals, etc.

* Except the equipment, infrastructures, and activities defined to be in the collective interest in the appendix of the act.

CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COST OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES BASED ON THE IMPACT STUDY

Reconstituting the former Ville de Lennoxville would generate estimated transition costs of \$286,109, in addition to the referendum costs, which could reach \$32,663. These costs can mainly be attributed to the following:

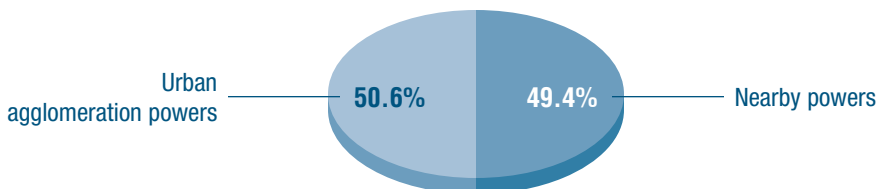
- Setting up a transition committee;
- Conducting studies on the division of certain assets;
- Implementation of information systems.

These costs will be paid by taxpayers of the reconstituted municipality. In the event of reconstitution, the former Ville de Lennoxville will finance these costs in its budget over a period of three years.

If the former Ville de Lennoxville is reconstituted, the firm estimates that additional material and human resource requirements will cost \$98,690.

IMPACT ON THE COST OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

<p>If the former Ville de Lennoxville is reconstituted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers of Ville de Lennoxville would pay the following for services related to urban agglomeration powers • Taxpayers of Ville de Lennoxville would pay the following for services related to nearby powers 	<p>\$2,224,817</p> <p>\$2,171,562</p>
TOTAL	\$4,396,379



CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUR TAXES ACCORDING TO THE IMPACT STUDY

Caution: The study is based on reliable data. However, assessing the costs and consequences of reconstituting former municipalities involves making projections. This data cannot be considered as binding on elected municipal officials.

The data below includes applicable taxes and fees.

After assessing the financial needs of the residual municipality and the former Ville de Lennoxville in the event that it is reconstituted, the firm has projected the following tax burden for taxpayers.

TAXES FOR A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING WORTH \$104,590

Average municipal evaluation in your sector

CURRENT SITUATION	\$1,681
IF THE FORMER VILLE DE LENNOXVILLE IS RECONSTITUTED	
• Agglomeration taxes	\$969
• Taxes of the reconstituted municipality	\$909
TOTAL	\$1,878
INCREASE (DECREASE)	\$197
IMPACT AS A PERCENTAGE	11.72%

Local improvement taxes (sectorial taxes) will continue to apply. They should be added as needed.

This table shows the potential impact that reconstituting the former Ville de Lennoxville would have on the total tax bill for a single-family dwelling. Please note that if a municipality is reconstituted, taxpayers will receive two tax accounts, one from the residual municipality for matters concerning agglomeration powers and one from the reconstituted municipality for matters concerning nearby powers.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Website of ministère des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir (MAMSL): www.mamsl.gouv.qc.ca
- The MAMSL information officer:
(418) 691-2048 (Québec City and region)
1 866 237-2481 (elsewhere in Québec – toll free)

You may consult the complete study on the cost of reconstituting the former Ville de Lennoxville on the MAMSL Website, at a MAMSL regional office, or at your city hall or municipal library.