

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 SUTTON
and reconstituting
THE FORMER MUNICIPALITY OF SUTTON

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 Sutton and reconstituting the municipality of Sutton as well as of maintaining the present agglomeration.

The summary of the study by Étude Économique Conseil (EEC Canada Inc.) presented here provides an overview of the main consequences of reconstituting the municipality of Sutton on **municipal organization**, the **cost of municipal services** and your **taxes**.

CITIZEN CONSULTATIONS

Persons on the referendum list for the former municipality of Sutton 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 municipality of Sutton **must sign the register** for a referendum vote to be held.

The municipality of Sutton 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 \$20,000.

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), *cité* (city), and *village* (village).

CONSEQUENCES FOR MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

In the event that the current Ville de Sutton 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 municipality of Sutton would receive 54,0% 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 Sutton 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
- Emergency preparedness
- Fire safety services
- 9-1-1 emergency center
- Implementation of fire coverage and public safety plans
- Municipal court
- Social housing
- 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
- Public transit
- Economic promotion, including tourism, outside the limits of a municipality part of the agglomeration
- 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 MUNICIPALITY OF SUTTON

- Land use plans, regulations, and minor exemptions
- Issuing of construction and renovation permits
- 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*

* 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 municipality of Sutton would generate estimated transition costs of \$68,000, in addition to the referendum costs, which could reach \$20,000. These costs can mainly be attributed to the following:

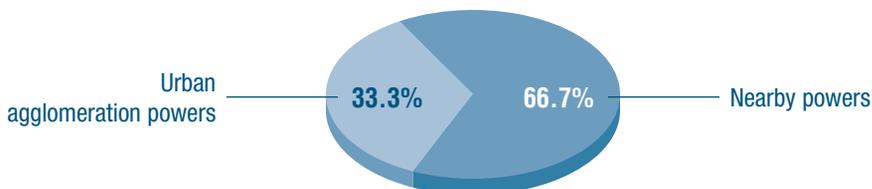
- Conducting studies on the division of certain assets;
- New municipal council elections;
- Relocation.

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

If the former municipality of Sutton is reconstituted, the firm estimates that additional material and human resource requirements will cost \$150,500.

IMPACT ON THE COST OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

<p>If the former municipality of Sutton is reconstituted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers of municipality of Sutton would pay the following for services related to urban agglomeration powers • Taxpayers of municipality of Sutton would pay the following for services related to nearby powers – this amount includes sums paid to Sûreté du Québec 	<p>\$1,124,535</p> <p>\$2,250,100</p>
TOTAL	\$3,374,635



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 municipality of Sutton in the event that it is reconstituted, the firm has projected the following tax burden for taxpayers.

TAXES FOR A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING WORTH \$129,848

Average municipal evaluation in your sector

CURRENT SITUATION	\$1,426
IF THE FORMER MUNICIPALITY OF SUTTON IS RECONSTITUTED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agglomeration taxes • Taxes of the reconstituted municipality 	\$530 \$1,093
TOTAL	\$1,623
INCREASE (DECREASE)	\$197
IMPACT AS A PERCENTAGE	13.8%

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 municipality of Sutton 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 municipality of Sutton on the MAMSL Website, at a MAMSL regional office, or at your city hall or municipal library.