



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 1, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to support Montreal's bid to host the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association's World Tunnel Congress in 2026.

I am delighted that you are considering Canada for this honour, and I am certain every effort will be made to ensure that the delegates have an extremely successful and enjoyable congress here. The City of Montreal would, I am sure, be an excellent host for the members of your organization, and I hope and trust that you will reach a decision in favour of its candidacy.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Trudeau', with a large, stylized flourish on the left side.

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Québec, le 4 mai 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Cher ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

Je désire, par la présente, témoigner mon appui à la candidature de la Ville de Montréal et à son Palais des congrès pour la tenue du World Tunnel Congress, de l'Association internationale des tunnels et de l'espace souterrain, en 2026.

Montréal compte plusieurs kilomètres de voies souterraines autoroutières et ferroviaires urbaines, comme le pont-tunnel Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine, construit sous la voie maritime du Saint-Laurent, le tunnel Ville-Marie, un échangeur souterrain qui traverse le centre-ville, et le tunnel ferroviaire foré sous le mont Royal.

Internationalement célèbre, le Montréal souterrain comporte 10 km de tunnels autoroutiers, 65 km de tunnels ferroviaires et 32 km de galeries piétonnes qui permettent, chaque jour, à plus de 500 000 personnes de circuler au centre-ville en toute sécurité et à l'abri des intempéries.

Ce réseau souterrain, au centre-ville de Montréal, a été conçu, dans les années 60, comme une solution de mobilité à un grand problème de la vie moderne : la circulation automobile. C'est autour de cette vision avant-gardiste que s'est développée la métropole du Québec, avec plusieurs chantiers qui ont favorisé la mobilité urbaine par divers modes de transport.

Aujourd'hui, c'est en alignement avec cette vision que se poursuivent de grands chantiers d'infrastructures qui favorisent la mobilité, tels que le mégaprojet du REM, qui comportera plusieurs kilomètres de tunnels ferroviaires, ainsi que la réfection de tunnels autoroutiers, à Montréal, sans oublier le projet de tunnel entre Québec et Lévis, actuellement en préparation.

En ingénierie, le Québec est un haut lieu de formation universitaire. En effet, quatre établissements d'enseignement en génie se trouvent dans la métropole, soit Polytechnique Montréal, l'Université McGill, l'Université Concordia et l'École de technologie supérieure. S'y trouvent aussi différents centres de recherche et d'exploitation qui appartiennent notamment au ministère des Transports du Québec, à la Ville et à la Société de transport de Montréal, ainsi qu'à Exo. Ces institutions disposent d'une grande expertise en génie et en exploitation d'espaces souterrains depuis plus de 40 ans. Par la rigueur de leur encadrement et la qualité de leurs laboratoires, ce sont des lieux par excellence pour l'expérimentation et l'acquisition des connaissances et des compétences sur les pratiques dans le domaine.

Le gouvernement du Québec est donc heureux d'appuyer pleinement cette candidature pour la tenue d'un événement si important. Votre organisation, qui vise, entre autres, à permettre aux ressources en ingénierie et en recherche actives en travaux souterrains de perfectionner leur expertise en encourageant le réseautage et l'échange des bonnes pratiques, trouvera, au Québec, un espace adéquat pour se renforcer et se concentrer sur la mobilité et le bien-être des populations.

Qui plus est, Montréal est reconnue comme une ville sûre aux divertissements multiples, dotée d'un centre de congrès de qualité supérieure qui peut accueillir de grandes réunions internationales. Situé au cœur de la métropole, ce centre détient la plus haute certification mondiale de l'industrie en matière de normes de qualité, ce qui place Montréal au premier rang des villes qui accueillent des rassemblements internationaux dans l'ensemble des Amériques.

En outre, je suis convaincu que le charme unique de Montréal et la combinaison de son caractère francophone et de son ouverture à la diversité sauront ravir les gens qui participeront au congrès. Montréal est une ville de culture, d'histoire et de sport qui propose une offre touristique variée et exceptionnelle dans un environnement entièrement sécuritaire.

J'espère sincèrement avoir le privilège de vous y recevoir en 2026.

Veuillez accepter, Messieurs, l'expression de toute ma considération.

Le premier ministre du Québec,



François Legault

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Québec, May 4, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

I would like to express my support for the candidacy of Montréal and the Palais des congrès de Montréal to host in 2026 the World Tunnel Congress of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association.

Montréal has several kilometres of underground urban road and rail lines such as the Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine Bridge-Tunnel built under the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Ville-Marie tunnel, an underground interchange that crosses downtown Montréal, and the bored railway tunnel under Mount Royal.

Internationally renowned underground Montréal has 10 km of road tunnels, 65 km of railway tunnels, and 32 km of pedestrian galleries that enable more than 500 000 people to circulate daily, safely and protected from inclement weather.

This underground network in downtown Montréal was designed in the 1960s as a mobility solution to automobile traffic, a major problem of modern life. Québec's largest city has developed around this avant-gardist perspective. It includes several projects that foster urban mobility through various modes of transportation.

Today, major infrastructure projects aligned with this perspective that promote mobility are being pursued, such as the REM megaproject, which will encompass several kilometres of railway tunnels and the rebuilding of road tunnels in Montréal, not to mention the tunnel between Québec City and Lévis, now being elaborated.

Québec is a major university training hub in engineering. Four engineering schools are situated in Montréal, i.e., Polytechnique Montréal, McGill University, Concordia University, and the École de technologie supérieure. Research and development centres belonging to the Ministère des Transports du Québec, Montréal and the Société de transport de Montréal, and to Exo are also found there. For over 40 years, these institutions have had at their disposal extensive expertise

in engineering and the operation of underground spaces. Their rigorous management and the quality of their laboratories make them outstanding centres for experimentation and the acquisition of knowledge and skills related to practices in the field.

The Québec government is, therefore, pleased to fully support Montréal's candidacy to host such an important event. Your organization, which seeks to enable engineers and researchers actively engaged in underground work to perfect their expertise by encouraging networking and the exchange of good practices, will find in Québec an ideal venue to allow attendees to pool their knowledge and focus on mobility and the well-being of populations.

What is more, Montréal is recognized as a safe city that offers varied entertainment. Its first-class convention centre can host major international meetings. The Palais des congrès is situated in the heart of the city and possesses the highest international quality standard certification in the industry, which ranks Montréal first among the cities that host international conferences in the Americas.

Furthermore, I am convinced that Montréal's unique charm and the combination of its Francophone character and openness to diversity will delight conference attendees. Montréal is a city of culture, history, and sports that proposes varied, outstanding tourism offerings in an entirely safe environment.

I sincerely hope to have the privilege of welcoming you here in 2026.

Yours truly,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

François Legault

Premier of Québec



La mairesse de Montréal

April 22nd, 2022.

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

It is with pleasure and pride that I support the Ville de Montréal's candidacy to host the ITA-AITES World Tunnel Congress in 2026.

Montréal has a lot to offer. The Francophone metropolis of North America blends its history with a modern city vibe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the daily realities of our metropolis, but its strength and vitality have weathered the storm, and continue to shine through Montréal's population, culture, fine dining and development.

Montréal continues to be a hub for innovative startups, where small and medium size businesses set up shop and grow, and where multinational corporations choose to settle and create jobs. These stakeholders contribute to our city's economic development and to enhancing its appeal. They remain at the heart of Montréal's economic development, thus ensuring that Montréal will continue to be an appealing metropolis for businesses, workers, students, tourists and investors alike.

Montrealers play a major role in our city's appeal. They are open, curious and socially engaged people, with a rich sense of culture and a passion for their city and its vibrant neighborhoods.

Moreover, I would like to emphasize that we are building the smart city of tomorrow, one that uses leading-edge technology to better serve the needs of all citizens and to build a more inclusive city. Montréal has a dynamic ecosystem of entrepreneurs and companies in a variety of fields including engineering, science and artificial intelligence. We are home to a number of hubs of innovation, which contribute to Montréal's vibrancy.

A city of knowledge, Montréal has four universities, two French and two English, as well as several prominent schools and research institutes, all of which contribute to our top rank as an innovative city. Moreover, its active teaching and research facilities, in and around Montréal, promote science, technology and engineering with thriving programs.

I hope that we will have the opportunity to show you everything that Montréal has to offer, and I look forward to welcoming you in our great metropolis.

Cordial greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. Plante', written over a yellow highlight.

Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montréal

Québec, le 15 décembre 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Chers membres,

Ayant pris connaissance de l'intérêt du Palais des congrès de Montréal à tenir l'Assemblée générale de l'International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association en 2026, la candidature de la ville de Montréal et du Palais des congrès de Montréal semble tout indiquée.

De fait, le Québec est l'un des premiers gouvernements fédérés du monde à avoir adopté une législation visant spécifiquement le développement durable. Il a amorcé, dès 2006, une transition favorisant à la fois la protection de l'environnement, le progrès social et la prospérité économique.

Afin d'incarner ce changement, d'inspirer la société civile et de la mobiliser pour qu'elle suive le mouvement, le gouvernement du Québec s'est doté d'outils structurants pour opérationnaliser le développement durable, particulièrement au sein de la fonction publique québécoise. La Loi sur le développement durable (2006) et la Stratégie gouvernementale de développement durable (2015) sont les pièces maîtresses de la démarche gouvernementale. Celles-ci permettent d'accélérer l'instauration de pratiques et de solutions innovantes visant l'essor d'un Québec plus vert, sobre en carbone et socialement responsable. La Stratégie gouvernementale de développement durable est en cours de révision et devrait être adoptée en 2023. Afin de répondre aux objectifs de la Stratégie, plus de 110 ministères et organismes ont adopté une planification en développement durable.

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De plus, la ville de Montréal semble tout indiquée pour recevoir l'Assemblée générale de l'International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association car, de tous les réseaux souterrains construits par l'homme dans le monde, le Montréal souterrain est le plus grand. Il s'agit d'un vaste réseau piétonnier qui s'étend sur 33 kilomètres sous le centre-ville et qui relie quelques 2 000 boutiques, 10 hôtels, environ 265 restaurants, des musées et des salles d'exposition, plusieurs pavillons de deux universités, 10 stations de métro, deux gares ferroviaires, deux gares régionales d'autobus, un aréna, des banques, des bureaux et des logements. Environ 500 000 personnes y circulent chaque jour.

Je souhaite à Montréal la meilleure des chances pour sa candidature. Veuillez agréer, chers membres, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Le ministre,



BENOIT CHARETTE

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Québec City, December 15, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

Having learned of the interest expressed by the Palais des congrès de Montréal in holding the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association's General Assembly in 2026, I am writing you to indicate why the candidacy of the city of Montréal and the Palais des congrès de Montréal seem to me to be highly appropriate.

Indeed, the province of Québec was one of the first federated states in the world to adopt legislation specifically dealing with sustainability. In 2006, we initiated a transition that simultaneously focused on environmental protection, social progress and economic prosperity.

In order to embody the principles guiding this transition, and inspire and mobilize civil society to join in the movement, the government of Québec created structuring tools to make sustainable development a reality, in particular within the province's public service. The Sustainable Development Act (2006) and the Government Strategy and Action Plans in Sustainable Development (2015) are the cornerstones of the government's efforts. They have enabled the province to speed up the implementation of practices and innovative solutions that aim to have Québec flourish in a greener, lower-carbon and socially responsible fashion. The Government Strategy in Sustainable Development is being revised, and the new version should be adopted in 2023. In order to meet the Strategy's targets, more than 110 ministries or agencies have implemented sustainable development plans.

As well, the city of Montréal is a venue that is extremely well suited to hosting the General Assembly of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, seeing as how Montréal is home to the largest man-made underground network in the world. This is a vast pedestrian network extending over 33 km beneath the downtown area and connecting more than 2,000 shops and 10 hotels, about 265 restaurants, museums and exhibit halls, several buildings belonging to two universities, 10 metro stations, two train stations, two regional bus terminals, an arena, banks, offices, and dwellings. About 500,000 people use the network every day.

I wish the city of Montréal the best of success in presenting its candidacy. Please accept, dear members, my most distinguished regards.

Sincerely yours,

The Minister,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

BENOIT CHARETTE

Markham, December 1, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association – ITA
Chemin de Balxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Subject: Letter of support for Montreal's proposal
to host ITA-AITES WTC 2026

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

Our organization is hereby pleased to share its support for Montreal's proposal, which is sponsored by the Tunnelling Association of Canada (TAC) and a local committee, to host the ITA-AITES WTC 2026 in 2026. We feel that Montreal would be an excellent choice of city to host this prestigious conference in Canada.

Montreal is representative of Canada's dynamic tunnelling ecosystem. It has many large corporations where engineers work in a wide array of sectors, including construction, hydropower, aerospace, artificial intelligence and life sciences. Montreal is also home to a large network of university institutions, which makes it fertile ground for the next generation of engineers and a reference in research, development and innovation. Thanks in part to this strong community, many international organizations have chosen to locate their headquarters in Montreal, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Secretariat for Water, and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Canada, being a country rich in water resources and the world's second biggest producer of hydropower, is home to over 15,000 dams. Some of the largest dams in the world are associated with Canadian hydroelectric and mine tailings developments. Our two sister organisations have collaborated on several of these projects. In Quebec in particular, the recent construction and commissioning of the Romaine 1,550-MW hydroelectric complex consisting of four hydropower generating stations with average annual output of 8.0 TWh has provided the province with renewable energy which will help meet current needs without jeopardizing the energy supply of future generations.

Overall, Montreal is an ideal choice to host ITA-AITES WTC 2026 because it can draw on Canada's engineering know-how to bring visibility to the engineering profession. In addition, the Tunnelling Association of Canada (TAC) is well known for its mobilizing capacity, which is why we are convinced that it is absolutely the right organization to run this event. For all these reasons, we kindly ask that you seriously consider Canada's proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Joy Morassutti
Executive Director

December 5, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

RE: ITA-AITES WTC 2026

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Minerals, Metallurgy and Petroleum, I am writing to support Montreal's bid to host the ITA-AITES WTC 2026. CIM is Canada's leading technical industry resource for the minerals, metals, materials and petroleum sectors with over 10,000 members, 11 societies, and 31 branches across Canada. We bring together industry professionals through conferences, technical resources, networking and social events. Our annual convention is held at the Palais des congrès every two years.

Our convention gathers over 6000 mining professionals from across the country and an Expo that showcases over 500 companies. The facilities at the Palais des congrès are well pointed and conveniently laid out for our attendees to move fluidly throughout from the conference to the Expo. The service reflects the true warm and friendly hospitality of Montreal.

With a strong partnership with the Palais des congrès and Tourisme Montreal, we have already booked our convention through 2029. Although we were once on a four-city rotation, we decided to bring our convention to Montreal every two years due to the high attendance and the draw that the city of Montreal has for our industry. It is a city that has a strong culinary scene, a nightlife, abundant history and architecture, and is extremely safe for our attendees.

As a loyal partner of the Palais des congress, I strongly recommend the committee to consider Montreal's candidacy and bring ITA-AITES WTC 2026 to our beautiful city. I am available if you require additional information or references.

Sincerely,



Christopher Marilley, CMP
Director of Events and Professional Development
Canadian Institute of Mining, Minerals, Metallurgy, and Petroleum



Ottawa, 8 November 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Subject: Letter of support for Montreal's proposal to host the ITA-AITES WTC 2026

Dear Selection Committee Members,

The Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) is pleased to extend its support to the Tunnelling Association of Canada (TAC) proposal to host the ITA-AITES World Tunnel Congress in Montreal in 2026.

Overall, Montreal is a great location to host the 2026 World Tunnel Congress, because it can easily draw upon Canada's engineering community and know-how to bring added visibility to this Congress. It has many large corporations where engineers work in a wide array of sectors, including construction, aerospace, artificial intelligence, and life sciences. Montreal is also home to a large network of university institutions, which makes it fertile ground for the next generation of engineers and an international reference in research, development and innovation.

In addition, the Tunnelling Association of Canada, one of EIC's 14 constituent societies, is well known for its mobilizing capacity, which is why we are convinced that it is the right organizations to run this event.

Best regards,

Donna Jean Kilpatrick, P.Eng., FCIC, FEIC
President, Engineering Institute of Canada

Cc: EIC Council
Bruce Downing, TAC President

PS: Established in 1887, the EIC is Canada's longest-standing engineering society and now a federation of fourteen [learned engineering societies](#). It promotes strong continuing education standards, recognizes meritorious engineers, records Canadian engineering history, holds thematic conferences and provides a policy advisory voice through the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE) and the Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum.

Montréal, October 3rd, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Re : ITA-AITES WTC 2026

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

It has been brought to my attention that the International Tunnelling Association is now looking into the organization of its ITA-AITES WTC 2026.

As Chief Scientist of Québec and President of the Québec Research Funds, I strongly support the choice of Montréal for such event. In fact, Montréal has become an international city gathering private companies, foundations, international organizations from all over the world. Historically bilingual, open to communities from all over the world, with French and English well known universities, Montréal has become a model in the way of thinking a city in the 21st Century.

In consequence, Montréal is now hosting most impressive international organizations and the Province of Québec has strong leadership with regards to life sciences whether at the level of research and innovation or at the level of commercialization, fostering graduate students and researchers recognized for their high level of knowledge, creativity and communication.

Therefore, I am highly supporting the application of Montréal to host the ITA-AITES WTC 2026. I am convinced it will be a success!

Yours very sincerely,

The Chief Scientist of Québec and
president of INGSA



Rémi Quirion, O.C., C.Q., Ph.D., m.s.r.c.



Palais
des congrès
de Montréal

Montréal, October 3, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balaxert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

We are delighted to invite you to experience Montréal, a vibrant, cosmopolitan destination named the **Americas' top host city for international events** in 2021 by the Union of International Associations and the International Congress and Convention Association. A city that thrives on discovery and sharing, a city that brings talent together, **Montréal is world-renowned for its wealth of arts and culture, its friendly welcome and its unmistakable *joie de vivre***. Its convention centre, the Palais des congrès, is in the heart of it all, right in the downtown core, housing an impressive track record of hosting major conferences and tradeshows from around the world built on fostering local talent and delivering unique event experiences.

The Palais des congrès de Montréal operates its own **Events Lab**, which is proving more valuable than ever at a time when the events industry is undergoing a renewal. A veritable hub of creativity, and designed with event organizers mind — no matter how big or small their event, the Lab reinvents the participant experience thanks to the expertise of innovative Montréal businesses. Solutions are tailored to the event organizer's present and future needs, and because the Events Lab is in-house, they can be deployed flexibly and swiftly.

Many of these innovations also star in our **OASIS immersion space** located inside the Palais. An integral part of our ongoing commitment to creating unforgettable moments and experiences, this immersive venue features a lineup of spectacular exhibitions geared toward the general public, but is also available to organizers who may wish to book it for their conferences or other events.

We take great pride in our **exceptional customer service** and our **teams of passionate event professionals**, which is why we value the **AIPC Gold Quality Standards** certification we've been awarded since 2015. Our **BOMA BEST certified** carbon-neutral building is home to numerous sustainability initiatives, including an urban agriculture lab, environmentally responsible catering services, GHG offsetting, an eco-conditionality policy, and more. The Palais' glass exterior may be multicoloured, but we operate **a truly green convention centre!**

We hope we are the host city for the ITA - AITES WTC (World Tunnel Congress) 2026. We are confident Montréal and the Palais des congrès **can elevate your events to new heights** and would be honoured for the opportunity to provide you and your participants with a uniquely unforgettable experience.

Yours truly,

Emmanuelle Legault
President and CEO

October 3rd, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space
Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland



Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

On behalf of Business Events Montréal, Tourisme Montréal's meetings and conventions unit, I am pleased to invite you to hold ITA-AITES WTC 2026 in Montréal.

Our city is home to some of the most renowned engineering companies in Canada and we currently have 12,000 engineering students enrolled at our local universities. You don't need to dig deeply to discover that Montréal loves the marvel and practicalities of tunnels—after all, we have the biggest man-made subterranean pedestrian network in the world called the RÉSO, and we're currently investing millions of dollars in underground public transit infrastructure.

Tourisme Montréal would be delighted to assist you in the planning of your convention by offering you a range of services, a vast choice of promotional material, as well as financial aid to build attendance for your event. As part of Team Montréal, a coalition of leaders in Montréal's meetings and conventions industry, we work in close collaboration with you to ensure that your meeting runs smoothly from start to finish, and that your Montréal experience is simple, efficient and successful.

Montréal is the perfect place to hold your event. Each year, our city hosts an impressive number of international conventions, events and festivals. Greater Montréal's various hotel categories total 27,500 rooms, including 15,000 within walking distance of the Palais des congrès de Montréal (Montréal Convention Centre), with something to satisfy every taste. Meeting venues are modern, functional and easily accessible. Located in the heart of the city, the Palais des congrès can fulfill all your requirements whether you are planning a convention, a trade show or a meeting. Montréal is also very easy to reach from all major North American and international cities, whether delegates choose to travel via the Montréal-Trudeau International Airport, Amtrak and Via Rail services, or one of many motor coach companies.

We would be very happy to show you the beauty of our city, an island gem in the mighty St. Lawrence River, and its exceptional quality of life. You are also sure to enjoy Montréal's multi-faceted character, with a diverse range of cultural activities, sporting events, historical sites and unique architecture.

Montréal would offer the ideal setting for ITA-AITES WTC 2026 and we truly hope to have the pleasure and privilege of hosting the conference in our city. We are confident that the delegates will love their experience and we look forward to showing everyone how Montréal works for you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yves Lalumière'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Yves Lalumière
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 11th, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 9
1219 Chatelaine-Geneva
Switzerland

Re: 2026 World Tunnel Congress in Montréal, Quebec

Dear ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives,

On behalf of Destination Canada Business Events, I wish to express my full endorsement of Team Montréal's bid for the 52nd edition of your World Tunnel Congress in 2026.

Canada has earned its place on the world stage with its reputation as a warm, welcoming, and inspiring location for conferences. In a country made up of some 200 diverse cultures, your delegates will find that genuine hospitality truly is a Canadian calling card.

Montréal is one of Canada's centrally located cosmopolitan cities, rich in tradition and unique experiences. Paired with a deep pool of Canadian expertise, academia and speakers who are spearheading Canada's excellence in the science of tunnelling and underground space.

With direct flights to Europe, Asia and throughout North America, delegates will have an easy time connecting into Montreal. A compact downtown and centralized meeting location will encourage delegates to explore the vibrancy of the city and take part in the many activities available within walking distance.

Research tells us that event ROI and delegate engagement soars when conferences are hosted here. Canada not only offers compelling locations, extensive knowledge capital and relevant experiences that help fuel attendance, but your delegates will find an array of equally interesting pre- and post-conference experiences before or after their event.

Destination Canada Business Events is in full support of Montréal's bid for the 52nd World Tunnel Congress and are confident the planning committee will create an event that leaves a legacy for your organization, Montréal, and Canada.

We look forward to hosting you in Canada and making the 52nd World Tunnel Congress the best yet. Thank you for considering Montréal.

With best regards,



Chantal Sturk-Nadeau
Executive Director, Destination Canada Business Events