

Montréal 2026



ITA – AITES World Tunnel Congress 2026

May 15 to 21, 2026
Montréal, Canada



→ Downtown Montréal.

© Henry MacDonald (@night.shotz) – Tourisme Montréal.

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→ An Invitation to Montréal

Connecting Communities
through Underground
Infrastructure

Connecter les communautés
au moyen d'infrastructures
souterraines



The Tunnelling Association of Canada (TAC) is pleased to present you with its official proposal to host the World Tunnel Congress (WTC) and the ITA General Assembly from May 15–21, 2026, in Montréal, Canada.

TAC has a strong history of hosting the World Tunnel Congress; both WTC 2010, hosted by Vancouver following the 2010 Winter Olympics and WTC 1989 in Toronto, are viewed as very successful conferences. By hosting WTC 2026 in Montréal, TAC will celebrate our bilingual connections, as exemplified by the proposed conference theme.

The strength, accomplishments, and leadership of Canadian tunnelling professionals, from contractors to engineers to researchers are recognized worldwide, and this wealth of talent as well as the different committees that will be put in place will guarantee the scientific value of the meeting.

WTC 2026 and the ITA General Assembly would be held at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, a modern venue devoted to national and international meetings, strategically located in downtown Montréal in the core of their underground transportation system and hotel district.

The event will also enjoy the support of a team of tireless professionals from the Palais des congrès de Montréal, Business Events Montréal (Tourisme

Montréal) as well as JPdL, professional conference organizer (PCO) who has been carefully selected. They will dedicate themselves to making this prestigious international congress a resounding success.

Welcoming delegates from around the world for WTC 2026 and the ITA General Assembly will not only generate considerable benefits for the tunnelling industry in Montréal, the Province of Québec and Canada, but will also promote their expertise and contribute to their advancement.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Montréal in 2026!

Bruce Downing, M.Sc, DIC, P. Eng.
President
Tunnelling Association of Canada

Dr. André Rancourt, PhD, P. Eng.
WTC Bid Committee Chairman
Tunnelling Association of Canada

→ Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel,
Vancouver © David Blackwell

Tunnelling in Canada

1.1 → Tunnelling in Canada

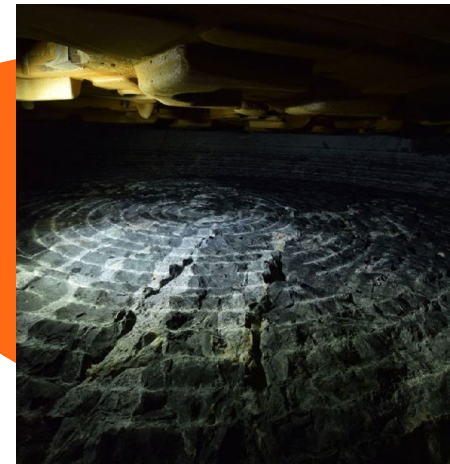
Canada is a vast country, covering approximately 10 million square kilometers of land and spanning six time zones from east to west. The climate ranges from temperate to arctic. The terrain varies from mostly lowlands in the east to plains in the Prairies and mountains along the western coast. And the geology features a complex mix of deep glacial deposits and weak to strong rock. It is within these extreme conditions that Canadian tunnelling expertise has been honed. Canada is also a country blessed with natural resources. In the pioneer days, when lumber and mining were the key commodities, the vast distances presented huge challenges for the transportation sector. As such, much of Canada's tunnelling industry has been closely tied to the development of transportation systems necessary for the utilization of these resources.

Canada is also a country with enormous water resources having approximately 890,000 square kilometers of total land mass as fresh water. The Great Lakes and numerous river systems, including the Fraser, the St. Lawrence and the Niagara River, play an integral part in Canada's water systems and economy. Many of Canada's earliest tunnels were constructed to circumnavigate these waterways to connect communities and facilitate trade with the United States. Other river systems like the Mackenzie, Columbia, Winnipeg and La Grande have been developed to produce hydroelectricity, only made possible through the construction of tunnels. Canada is currently the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the world. These projects have provided the country's electrical system with unique flexibility and storage capacity, along with stability, reliability and flood control. They have also created sustainable clean energy, jobs and economic development.

The development of Canada has long depended on a vital link to the progress and innovation of its tunnelling industry.

The impact of these benefits extends to the international tunnelling industry and the communities they serve. Canadian engineers, consultants, contractors and manufacturing sectors have all contributed to the advancement of tunnelling, with designs and technologies exported to every corner of the globe.

Canadian tunnelling expertise, largely gained in the tunnels required for metal-ore mining, was called upon in World War II when the Canadian army was responsible for extending the labyrinth of tunnels that form a honeycomb beneath the Rock of Gibraltar. The engineering work by two Canadian pioneers is credited for completing a major part of the Hoosac Tunnel in Massachusetts, United States, which is still to this day the longest railway tunnel east of the Mississippi River. One of the most renowned tunnel boring machines (TBM) suppliers was Canadian and ranked among the top in the world for companies able to deliver state-of-the-art tunnelling machines.



→ Hatch: Kemano T2 Project TBM
Cutterhead Inspection

Tunnelling in Canada

Canada has one of the most progressive tunnelling industries worldwide and is proud of its tunnelling achievements. Most major Canadian cities now have transit systems in tunnels and many more rely on networks of utility tunnels; road and rail tunnels have opened the Rockies to better connect the country and Canada's hydroelectric schemes are contributing to the country's green energy transformation.

Several of the world's most ambitious tunnelling projects have been recently completed here in Canada—from Québec's Romaine hydroelectric schemes, to deploying the world's largest rock TBM for the Sir Adam Beck power tunnels and pushing the envelope for Earth Pressure Balance machine (EPB) and slurry–pressurized tunnelling on the Port Mann Water Tunnel and Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnels, respectively. The future outlook is bright, and the Canadian tunnelling industry will continue to grow while remaining at the forefront of tunnelling technology. Plans for expanding transit, energy, hydroelectric and water supply systems across the country will continue to create demand for more tunnels and the industry's expertise.

Montréal is known for its Montréal Underground Network commonly known as “le Montréal souterrain” and has a rich history of tunnelling which goes back to the years of construction of the 5 km long roc Mont Royal Tunnel that started in July 1912 to be opened to rail operation on October 21st, 1918, after delays due to World War I and the Spanish Flu. After a relatively quiet period of heavy underground construction work in Montréal, the city is now experiencing a steady and growing number of projects spurred in part by interest in expanding the existing public transportation network, and updating the existing water and wastewater infrastructure. In particular, the injection of massive private investment in light rail system across the city has created massive work and expedited the speed of decision making and project delivery.

On the other side, aging infrastructure as well as a need to comply with new fire life safety requirements has added major rehabilitation work for both the existing subway system and road tunnels.

Tunnelling in Canada has a bright future, which will continue with the development of diverse sectors. With growing populations there are needs for municipal water and waste infrastructure, rapid transit for our cities and secure transportation corridors (railway, highway) to connect our communities; access and delivery of natural resources (mining, oil and gas) and energy (hydroelectric, nuclear) as well as military needs and fundamental explorations in particle physics. Canada will continue to rely on international expertise and innovation to achieve its goals.

For the next generation, it will also be a satisfying time for those who are interested in research and teaching. Universities across Canada are now graduating young students in every aspect of tunnelling and underground space development. Maintaining an adequate supply of capable graduates will provide inspiration for close cooperation between universities and various business sectors throughout Canada.



→ Cavern Crown, Vancouver Island, BC
© Rick Radell and Aecon

1.2 → Tunnelling Association of Canada

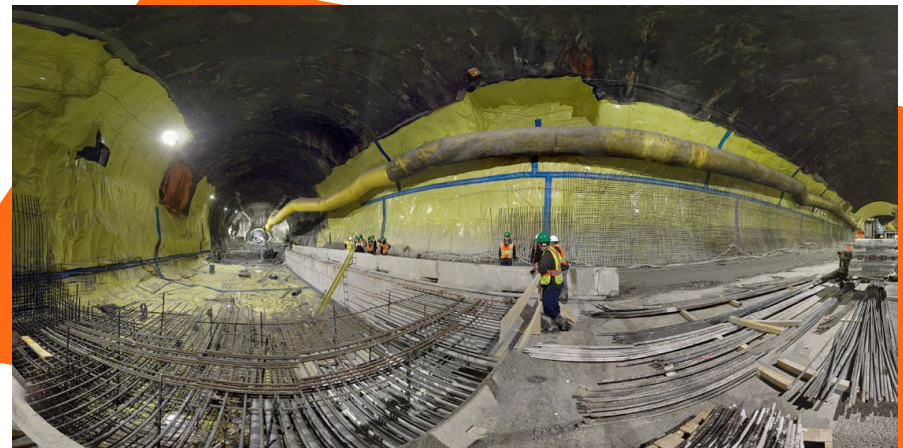
The Tunnelling Association of Canada (TAC) was founded in 1980, by a small group of Canadian engineers, in compliance with the goals of the International Tunnelling Association (ITA). The ITA was founded in 1974, with the purpose of promoting better use of the subsurface globally for the benefit of the public, the environment and for sustainable development.

TAC was accepted as the 35th nation in the ITA and has been an active member and respected voice. TAC's objectives and mandates are as follows:

- To promote and advance Canadian tunnelling and underground excavation technologies, and safe design, construction and maintenance;
- To facilitate the exchange of information on related activities and technical developments;
- To represent the interests of the tunnelling and underground excavation community in matters of technical and public concerns;
- To encourage the development and use of subsurface space;
- To act as an intermediary body between the ITA and those individuals and organizations in Canada who are interested in tunnels and underground excavations;
- To disseminate throughout Canada the news of the activities of the ITA and the technical information available as a result of those activities;
- To maintain and publish a Canadian register of tunnels, underground excavations and similar works.

Due to the geographical size of the country and to encourage communication, a plan was developed in the early 1980s, of starting regional TAC chapters across Canada. Two vice presidents were also appointed for East and West Canada, to facilitate national development and coordination for TAC. The Board approved chapters for Ontario (via Toronto), British Columbia (via Vancouver) and Québec (via Montréal), then subsequently for Alberta (via Edmonton) and the Prairies (via Winnipeg).

Regular meetings of the various chapters are held with both local and visiting speakers enthusiastically received by broadening audiences, including engineers, geologists, manufacturers, contractors, professors and university students. This diverse mix of professionals interested in the tunnelling industry has continued to grow since the inception of TAC and serves as one of the primary goals of the association. A recently formed TAC Young Members Group is now impacting additional growth.



→ Ottawa LRT – Confederation line construction site
Giuseppe Gaspari



Tunnelling Association of Canada Association canadienne des tunnels

As for present day, TAC continues with several other initiatives. These include the following:

→ CANADIAN TUNNELLING / TUNNELLING JOURNAL

Originally TAC had its own annual publication prepared by members and published in Vancouver. More recently, TAC has entered into partnership with “Tunnelling Journal.” The magazine is issued six times annually and twice each year (spring and fall) the magazine includes a back-to-back TAC-specific magazine – “Canadian Tunnelling” – that focusses on Canadian projects and TAC news and events. Membership in TAC includes a mailed subscription of “Tunnelling Journal.” TAC members are invited to submit ideas for project articles, news and events and other noteworthy items to the editor.

→ TAC ANNUAL AWARDS

Since 2012, TAC honours Canadian individuals and projects who have contributed to the advancement of the Canadian tunnelling industry. Every year TAC celebrates these by handing out awards in several categories, including:

→ TAC CANADIAN INNOVATION PROJECTS OF THE YEAR

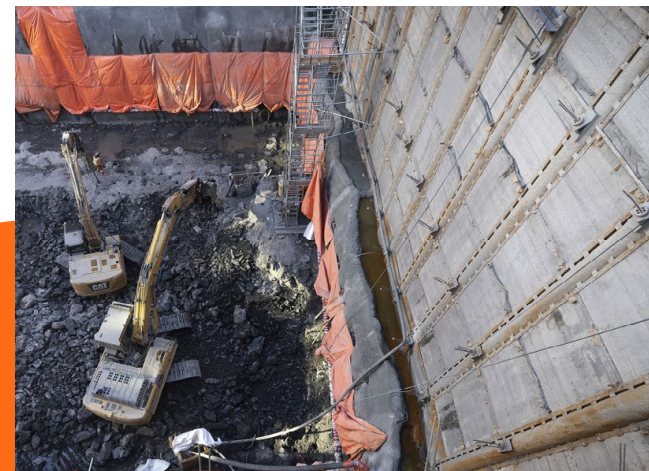
To a team who has delivered notable innovation to a project in Canada, which has demonstrated the highest level of engineering skill, shown insight and understanding of underground construction, especially for a project being undertaken in Canada in challenging conditions.

→ TAC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To an individual (contractor, engineer, owner or supplier) who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in the tunnelling and underground construction industry, in Canada and or internationally.

→ Z.D. (DAN) EISENSTEIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

To a post-graduate student planning to undertake, or currently undertaking, post-graduate studies in the field of tunnelling at a recognized Canadian university. Candidates are evaluated based on the relevance of their research topic to the tunnel industry, demonstrated record of academic excellence, relevant work experience, and involvement in TAC or demonstrated interest in tunnelling.



→ REM, Patrick Sanfaçon LaPresse

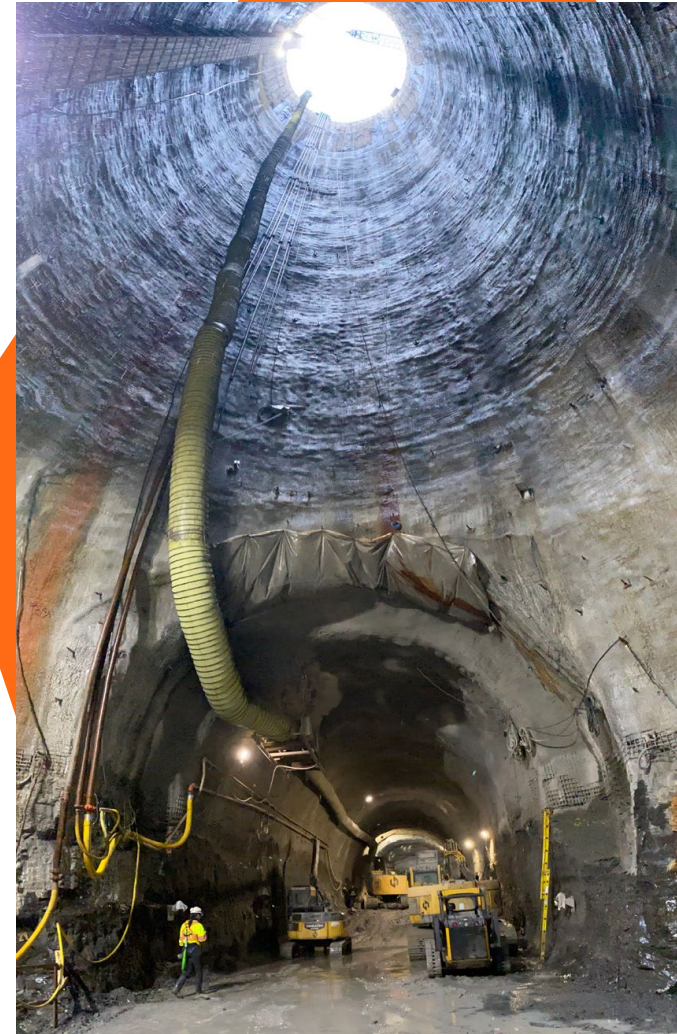
1.3 → Hosting History

In alternating years, TAC organizes professional development workshops and national conferences. Workshops target specific topics of current interest, creating opportunities to invite Canadian and international experts to share their knowledge with TAC members and other interested professionals. The TAC national conferences offer the presentation of technical papers of experiences, new developments and lessons learned on a comprehensive range of topics related to the tunnelling industry. In 2018, TAC celebrated its 25th national conference through a jointly held meeting with the Northwest Chapter of the North American Society for Trenchless Technology in Edmonton.

Successes with the local TAC chapters and national conferences led to decisions for TAC to host the World Tunnelling Congress (WTC) in Canada, first in Toronto in 1989 and then in Vancouver in 2010. In Toronto, more than 900 participants from around the world attended the Congress under the theme “Progress and Innovations in Tunnelling.” The Congress was a great success, with field trips taken to Churchill Falls, the Toronto Subway and various other ventures in eastern Canada.

In Vancouver, more than 1,500 participants from all continents took part in the Congress under the theme “Tunnel Vision Towards 2020.” Canada’s robust tunnelling industry was well represented, in particular with papers on the development and construction of tunnels for transit and water transfer in urban centres like Vancouver and Toronto, as well as in the development of energy and natural resources in more remote regions of the country.

TAC will continue its activities with the ITA and looks forward to hosting the 2026 World Tunnel Congress in Montréal.



→ Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant Outfall Shaft & Starter Tunnel © City of Toronto / Hatch with Jacobs / Southland-Astaldi Joint Venture



Overview of the Congress

2.1 → Theme of the Congress

Connecting
Communities
through Underground
Infrastructure

Connecter les
communautés
au moyen
d'infrastructures
souterraines

The tunnelling industry plays a vital role in connecting our communities through underground infrastructure – delivering transportation, water and sanitation, utility and energy networks that cross, connect and unite cities, regions and continents. The nature of these projects and the challenges they face are varied, and so the ITA-AITES and WTC play an important role in bringing together and connecting our community of owners, contractors, suppliers, consultants and academics. This is a diverse community, and very much like our communities at home, we often speak different languages, both literally and metaphorically; and so it is that we look to bring together our international community of tunnelling practitioners to connect across languages to share experiences and knowledge to make our projects more safe, economic, resilient and sustainable.

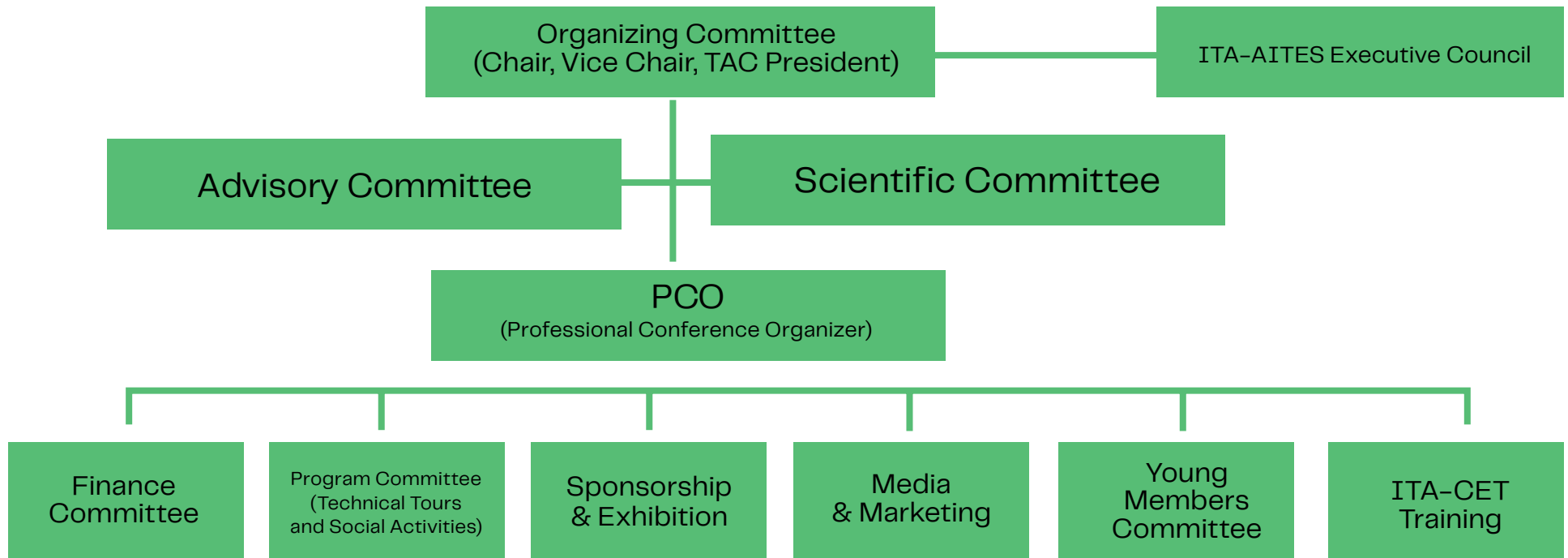
The technical program will be organized to bring together diverse voices to discuss emerging and cutting-edge solutions, connecting government decision makers and city planners with the international tunnelling industry. These connections will help to build a stronger global network, connecting Canadian knowledge and expertise with the growing infrastructure needs of the developing world. For example, the technical program will place emphasis on sharing Montréal's vision and innovation on its world-class Underground City, connecting it with the ITA community to advance its goals for better use of underground space. In addition, the technical program will include a forum to exchange on the best ways to delivery complex underground projects faster while minimizing risks and reducing cost through partnering with public and private sectors as well as frameworks that connect owners, designers, contractors, and suppliers to streamline project delivery. Case studies such as the fast-track delivery of the Montréal REM Project will be highlighted.



2.2 → Organization Chart

If selected, WTC 2026 Montréal will be organized by the Tunnelling Association of Canada (TAC) in collaboration with ITA-AITES. TAC will establish the theme of the Congress, co-chair the Scientific Committee with ITA, and coordinate keynote lectures, training events, technical site visits, and social activities.

An Organizing Committee (OC) has been developed based on the below Organizational Chart and it will maintain close coordination with ITA'S Executive Director and Executive Council (ExCo). The OC will be responsible for the financial control of the event and make sure that everything is handled in a timely and professional manner.



2.3 → Organizing Committee

TAC would propose the following Organizing Committee



Dr. André Rancourt, PhD, P. Eng.
Congress Chair
TAC Vice President East



Dr. Jean Habimana, PhD, P. Eng.
Congress Vice Chair
TAC Québec & Maritimes Director



Bruce Downing, MSc,
DIC, P. Eng.
TAC President



Dr. Erik Eberhardt,
PhD, P. Eng.
Scientific Committee Chair
TAC Immediate Past President



Dr. Jonathan Aubertin,
PhD, P. Eng.
Scientific Committee Vice Chair



Rick Lovat, P. Eng.
Advisory Committee Chair
TAC Past President,
ITA Past Vice President



Boro Lukajic, P. Eng.
Advisory Committee Vice Chair
TAC Past President



Michelle Richards, CPA
Finance Committee Chair



Andrée-Anne Sauvageau
Palais des congrès de Montréal
Business Development Manager



Andre Solecki, P. Eng., PMP
Program Committee Chair

2.3 → Organizing Committee

TAC would propose the following Organizing Committee



Sylvie Poirier, CAPM
PCO, Social and Spouse



Dan Ifrim, P. Eng.
Sponsors + Exhibit Chair



Giuseppe Gaspari, P. Eng.
Media and Marketing Chair



Anne-Marie Lefrancois,
P. Eng., PMP
Media and Marketing Vice Chair



Stephanie Robillard, P. Eng.
Technical Tours



Nichole Boulton, P.Geo., P. Eng.
Young Members Committee Chair



Tim Packulak, P. Eng., P.Geo.
Young Members Vice Chair



Dr. Connor Langford,
P. Eng., PhD
ITA-CET Training

2.4 → Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will be established in collaboration with ITA and TAC and will have the responsibility to review and comment on the abstract and manuscript submissions. The experience of the Scientific Committee members is crucial in order to deliver a high-quality technical program. The members will consist of an international group of technical specialists from industry and academia.

The Chairman will be Dr. Erik Eberhardt who was on the WTC2010 Scientific Committee and attended many WTCs.

2.5 → Advisory Committee

TAC will populate the Advisory Committee with experts who have significantly contributed to recent TAC Conferences and WTCs from around the world. It is envisioned to have 3–4 Canadian and 10 to 12 International experts who will be intimately involved with the planning and implementation of WTC2026.

The Chairman will be Rick Lovat who has extensive experience with the ITA ExCo and past WTCs. If Canada is successful to host WTC2026, Rick Lovat will serve as the Canadian representative for WTC2026 inside the ITA Executive Committee.



→ Outremont Metro Station, STM



→ Hydro-Québec

2.6 → Professional Conference Organizer

A dedicated team.

Founded in 1982 by Jean-Paul de Lavison, JPdL has grown into one of the world's leading business event specialists. From conferences to destination management services offered across Canada. JPdL is your one-stop for creating exceptional conferences.

By partnering with JPdL, WTC 2026 Montréal is guaranteed :

- A comprehensive network of trusted suppliers;
- Financial responsibility and stability;
- Unparalleled service standards;
- High quality results, every time.

The JPdL Advantage :

Operating as Professional Congress Organizers (PCO) as well as a Destination management company (DMC) allows us to be an active extension of our client's teams through:

- A team of passionate, multi-lingual and certified professionals for face-to-face, virtual and hybrid initiatives;
- The right mix of tools to help you meet and surpass your objectives, no matter the scope of the mandate;
- A depth of knowledge and experience with international events and world initiatives;
- A continual source of knowledge and best practices from proud memberships to the following associations:



TRUSTED EXPERTISE



Innovative Meeting Design



Strategic Planning



Financial Management



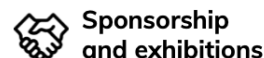
Site Selection



Registration



Scientific Program



Sponsorship and exhibitions



Publications



Logistics



Housing



Social Programs



Marketing and Communications







Sustainable conferences



Professional Congress Organizer (PCO)

Some conferences organized by JPdL

	Year	Participants	Location	Sector
 World Parkinson Congress	2013	3 500	Montréal	Scientific
World Parkinson Congress	2016	4 000	Portland	Scientific
World Parkinson Congress	2019	2 900	Kyoto	Scientific
World Parkinson Congress	2021	2 600	Virtual	Scientific
World Parkinson Congress	2023	4 500	Barcelona	Scientific
 Electric Vehicle Symposium (EVS29)	2016	1 750	Montréal	Engineering
Electric Vehicle Symposium (EVS33)	2020	2 000	Portland*	Engineering
Electric Vehicle Symposium (EVS36)	2023	2 900	Sacramento	Engineering
 International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics	2019	4 000	Montréal	Scientific
Canadian Cardiovascular Society	2020	2 700	Ottawa*	Scientific
 Goldschmidt Conference (Geochemical society)	2012	1 500	Montréal	Scientific
Goldschmidt Conference (Geochemical society)	2022	1 600	Honolulu	Scientific
Goldschmidt Conference (Geochemical society)	2023	3 500	Lyon	Scientific

Other notable events within the Palais des congrès de Montréal:

 Marine Biodiversity	2018	1 200	Montréal	Scientific
 Ordre des psychologues du Québec	2018	1 200	Montréal	Scientific
 International Joint conference on Artificial Intelligence	2021	2 500	*Montréal	Engineering
 Adaptation Futures 2023	2023	1 800	Montréal	Scientific

*Complete planning of face-to-face congress including in-mandate shift to virtual / hybrid events.



Hosted within the Palais des congrès de Montréal



Letter of Intent
between TAC and JPdL



2.7 → Draft Program

Time	Friday May 15, 2026	Saturday May 16, 2026	Sunday May 17, 2026	Monday May 18, 2026	Tuesday May 19, 2026	Wednesday May 20, 2026	Thursday May 21, 2026
7:30 - 8:00	ITA-CET Training course registration			Authors' Coffee	Authors' Coffee	Authors' Coffee	
8:00 - 8:30							
8:30 - 9:00							
9:00 - 9:30							
9:30 - 10:00							
10:00 - 10:30	ITA-CET Training course	ITA-CET Training course	ITA-AITES ExCo Meeting	Opening Ceremony	ITA Open Session	Technical Sessions	ITA Young Member General Meeting
10:30 - 11:00				Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:30							
11:30 - 12:00				Opening Ceremony & Keynote Lectures	ITA Open Session	Technical Sessions	ITA Young Member General Meeting
12:00 - 12:30							
12:30 - 13:00							
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Technical Tours
13:30 - 14:00							
14:00 - 14:30							
14:30 - 15:00				Technical Sessions	Technical Sessions	Technical Sessions	ITA General Assembly
15:00 - 15:30				WG Meetings	ITAtch AG Meetings		
15:30 - 16:00	ITA-CET Training course	ITA-CET Training course	ExCo Meeting / Committee Chairs / WG Animateurs				
16:00 - 16:30				Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
16:30 - 17:00				Technical Sessions	Technical Sessions	Technical Sessions	ITA General Assembly
17:00 - 17:30							
17:30 - 18:00						Closing Ceremony	
18:00 - 18:30							
18:30 - 19:00							
19:00 - 19:30							
19:30 - 20:00		ITA-AITES Reception	WTC 2026 Welcome Reception				
20:00 - 20:30							
20:30 - 21:00							
21:00 - 21:30				ITA Young Members Networking Event			
21:30 - 22:00							
22:00 - 22:30							
22:30 - 23:00:							

2.8 → Registration Fees

SUGGESTED REGISTRATION FEES

Registration categories	Euro*
Full Early Bird	€885
Young Early Bird	€485
Cat. 3 Early Bird	€575
Students Early Bird	€310
Full Standard	€1,060
Young Standard	€580
Cat. 3 Standard	€690
Students Standard	€370

Our goal in setting the registration fees is to provide value to attendees while keeping inline with previous WTC registration fees and competitive in comparison to related meetings.

CONGRESS REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE:

- All congress sessions
- Welcome Reception
- Access to Exhibition Hall
- Lunches
- Coffee Breaks
- Wi-Fi access

The event is proposed primarily as an in-person, face-to-face, event format with select key components provided in a virtual format. The virtual formats would consist of recording and rebroadcasting of the morning plenary sessions to a password-protected, client-appointed digital platform/website.

The budget is based on costs as they are known at this time and are subject to change.

*November 16, 2022, approximate exchange rate, Can\$1.00 = US\$0,7530 = €0,7237.

**Refer to the next page for the budget summary.



2.9 → Preliminary Budget Summary

Scenario for 1,500 participants

Revenues	Euro*
Partners and sponsors	€387,180
Registration	€1,393,015
Exhibitors	€669,785
Social program	€ 63,505
Grants and local contributions	€193,520
Total conference revenues	€2,707,005
Expenses	Euro*
Management, legal, financial, insurance	€137,990
Committees	€104,205
Registration	€36,105
Promotion & marketing, publications, prints	€247,035
Exhibition	€205,750
Venue, AV, equipment, signage	€532,600
Technologies and telecommunications	€138,045
Food and beverages	€442,315
Program	€157,800
ITA-AITES	€332,600
Contingencies, Non-refundable Taxes	€126,025
Total conference expenses	€2,460,470
Expected surplus / (loss)	€246,235
Expected surplus / (loss)	9%

The budget for WTC 2026 Montréal has been established in Canadian dollars, the currency used in Canada. However, in order to facilitate the reading and understanding of the budget for all, it is presented in this document in Euros, based on the exchange rate as of November 16, 2022 established by the Bank of Canada.

*November 16, 2022, approximate exchange rate, Can\$1.00 = US\$0,7530 = €0,7237.

The budget is based on costs as they are known at this time and are subject to change. A major international firm will be auditing the budget and reviewing all financial statements after the conference.

2.10 → Cancellation Policy and Contingency Plan

In-person Registration Cancellation

Cancellation of registration must be made in writing and received by the WTC2026 Secretariat before the dates shown below:

- On or before March 16, 2026: Cancellation will be accepted, with full refund after the Conference minus a €100 administration fee.
- After March 16, 2026: No refunds will be accepted or processed.

Substitution / Name changes Policy

Registrations are transferable from one person to another. A handling fee of €100 will be charged. All request for changes must be made in writing to the Congress Secretariat.

- No-shows at the Congress will be charged the full fee.

Contingency Plan for WTC 2026

TAC's target for WTC 2026 is to organize a successful congress in every aspect, highlighting the quality, high standards and principles of the Organizers.

To provide a clear and transparent agreement with the pre-registered participants, the Organizers have prepared a Contingency Plan in case certain unforeseen circumstances necessitate that WTC2026 has to be converted to a purely virtual congress. Hence, the Contingency Plan refers to the actions that the organizers will implement along with the financial arrangements that will apply.

Should a world crisis or Force Majeure occur that will be announced at least six (6) months in advance of the Congress by a well reputed and established International Authority (i.e., World Health Organization, etc.), the Organizers may activate the Contingency Plan.

A Postponement of the congress at a later date

Depending on the crisis, a modification plan will be set that will include the postponement of the congress at a later date. Registrations will be transferred to the new congress dates. Participants wishing to cancel their registration will have 30 days to make their request in writing to the WTC 2026 Congress Secretariat for a full refund minus a €100 administration fee.

B Altering the congress into a virtual one

In the event that the congress cannot take place by means of physical presence and if no other postponement arrangement can be agreed upon, WTC2026 could be conducted virtually, and a budget will be recalculated for this purpose.

C Cancellation of congress

If, for reasons beyond the control of the organizing committee, the WTC 2026 congress is cancelled, we aim to refund the registration fees in their entirety minus a €100 administrative fee.

A major international accounting firm will be hired to audit the accounts and review all financial commitments in the event of a cancellation, and we will work with ITA to manage refunds to all parties.

This is a preliminary contingency plan as of the date of this proposal. To avoid misunderstandings and to provide adequate notice to all participants, this plan will be adjusted and made available as soon as the Member Nation is selected and the WTC2026 website is operational.



Venue: Palais
des congrès
de Montréal

3.1 → Downtown Location

At the nexus of the action

The Palais des congrès de Montréal is strategically located in the downtown core of the city, connecting the Business District, the International Quarter, the Entertainment District, Health District, Chinatown and Old Montréal.

Only 20 minutes from the city's international airport, the Palais is close to 16,000 hotel rooms and linked directly to 4,000 rooms through the city's Underground Pedestrian Network.

It is located within walking distance of Old Montréal's heritage attractions and the St. Lawrence River as well as a great number of boutiques, department stores, museums, theatres, art galleries, bars and restaurants.



Official confirmation letter from Palais des congrès de Montréal

Previous page → Hall Place Riopelle, Palais des congrès de Montréal.

Right → Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal, in Old Montréal. © Stéphan Poulin.



3.2 → Floor Plans

Designed to meet your needs



A total of
+47,000 m² of
flexible rental
space.



View and discover the Palais
from all its angles (virtual visit)

The Palais offers modern, sophisticated, and flexible facilities, equipped with powerful event technologies and featuring abundant natural light.

As soon as you enter the building, you can feel the difference. Where else can you find a forest of 52 pink trees to hold an event? This Palais landmark created by Claude Cormier, one of Canada's most prominent landscape architect, is a unique reception or cocktail area. Also at the street level (**Level 1**), the Shopping Promenade is a direct link to the city's underground pedestrian network and subway system. Visitors are also able to enjoy free high-speed Wi-Fi everywhere on Level 1.



On the upper levels, you will find extremely versatile spaces suitable for any kind of activity. Organize your event on **Level 2**, presenting most functional exhibition venues including one of Canada's largest columnless halls. **Level 5** offers 63 meeting rooms all located on the same level allowing for the free flow of delegates. This level accommodates up to 10,000 people thanks to wide corridors and large public areas.

On **Level 7**, you will find the ideal space to create a unique event, both indoors and out. For a gala dinner with a panoramic view of downtown Montréal or a reception on one of our terraces, we can help you select the space most suited to your needs.

Above left → Lipstick Forest by Claude Cormier, Level 1.


Above right → Behind the colourful façade of the Palais.

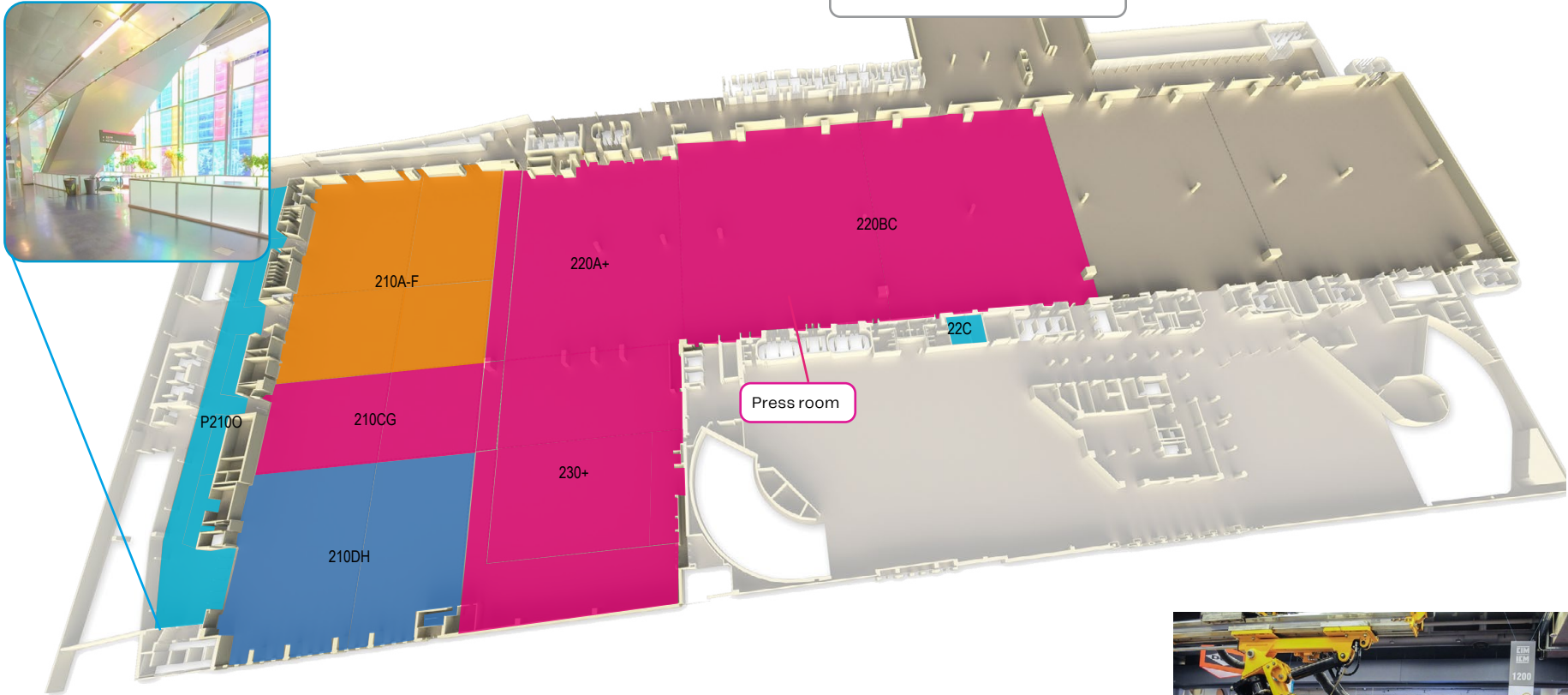






Floor Plans → Level 2

→ Registration



↑↓ 
Nonstop escalators take attendees
directly from Level 2 to Level 5



-  Registration / Office
-  ITA General Assembly (32 m X 46 m: 1,522 m²)
-  Exhibition / Posters / Catering / Press Room (9,600 m²)
-  Opening Ceremony / Plenary Session (2,284 m²), up to 2,700 people in theater style



Canadian Institute of Mining CIM Conference
and Exhibition in Montréal



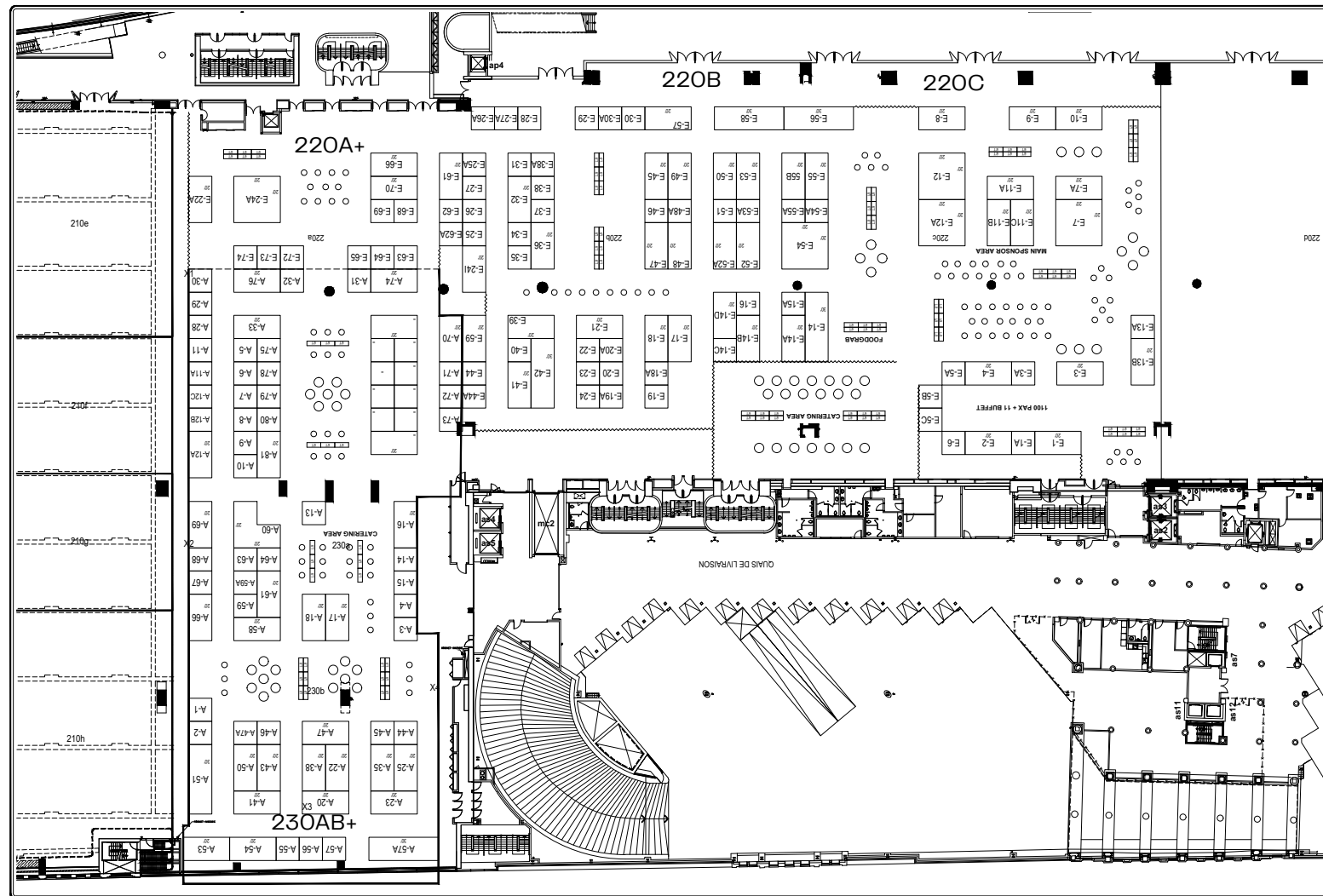
Back to the Table of contents

Montréal → May 15 to 21, 2026
ITA - AITES World Tunnel Congress 2026

SECTION 3

26

Floor Plans → Level 2 - Exhibition layout example



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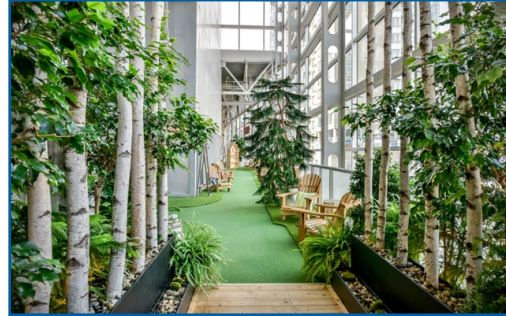
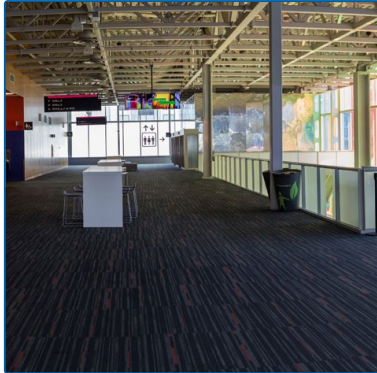
World Tunnel Congress 2026
Show Dates
Palais des congrès, Montréal
220ABC-230AB



Confidential Property Of
Global Experience Specialists
File: World Tunnel Congress 2026 May 02 22.dwg
Layout: Letter L clean
Plotted: May 2, 2022, 1:40:49 PM
By: Tremblay, Martin



Floor Plans → Level 5



Nonstop escalators take attendees directly from Level 2 to Level 5



President's Room, Secretariat and Executive Director's Boardroom will be located in VIP rooms on Mezzanine Level 4.

- Offices / Ad-hoc Meetings / Speaker Ready Room / Morning Coffee Lounge
- Training Courses / 20 Working Group and Committee Meeting Rooms (ranging from 25 to 50 seats in U-Shape)
- Technical Presentation Rooms (2X 350 and 2X 500 people in theater style)

3.3 → Experience and Expertise

Bright Minds and Ideas connect to create Bright Events

For over 35 years, the Palais des congrès de Montréal has hosted over 7,700 events, more than 20 million visitors and has built a reputation for excellence the world over. Our team of highly experienced professionals keeps track of the smallest details and thrives on finding solutions to all kinds of situations.



The Palais des congrès de Montréal is a celebration of form and function rendered in a mix of coloured glass and stone. The city and the Palais are as one, thanks to a multicoloured

facade creating an interplay of light and color inside and out, much like a stained glass window.

Choosing the Palais for your event means choosing a facility with a festive and creative environment *à la Montréal*.

Your event will be entrusted to one of our experienced managers who will work with a team of seasoned professionals, all committed to meeting your needs, to oversee the coordination, general planning and production follow-up of your event. Together, they will offer a truly personalized approach and go the extra mile to make your event a success.



“What made the Palais outstanding from a planner’s perspective was the Palais staff. The convention services team, catering, and in-house audiovisual personnel (to name just a few departments) were exceptional. Everyone I encountered was diligent, responsive, creative, cooperative – far and away, the BEST staff with whom I have worked.”

— Suzanne Dunbar
(AIHA) American Industrial Hygiene Association



A resourceful team with a customer satisfaction rate of 93% for the quality of its event support.



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Montréal → May 15 to 21, 2026
ITA – AITES World Tunnel Congress 2026

SECTION 3

29

→ Awards and Recognition



Number one city in the Americas
for international events



Number one host city in
the Americas for international
conventions



APEX AWARD

Finalist for the AIPC Apex Award
in recognition of the highest
client rating

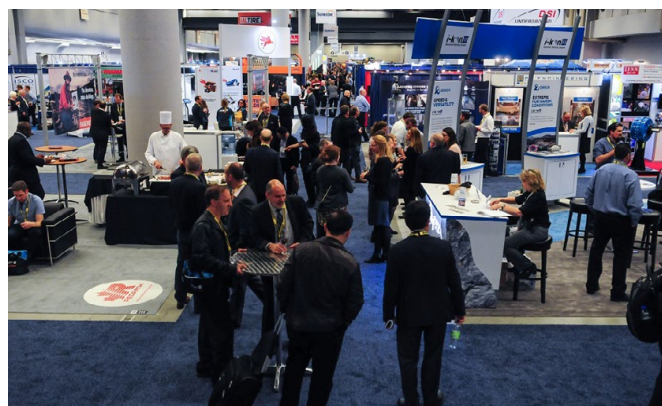


Testimonial

Arianne Brusselmans tells us about her
experience at the Palais des congrès de
Montréal, which hosted the 24th International
AIDS Conference, AIDS 2022 (August 2022).

Experience and Expertise

Some of our past events		Attendance
2017	Global Public Transport Summit UITP	2,500
2017	24th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems	6,000
2018	ICLEI World Congress ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	1,200
2018	22nd RoboCup International Symposium	4,000
2018	Neural Information Processing Systems – NeurIPS	8,600
2019	ICRA – IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation	3,650
2019	46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress	5,000
2019	ISMRM 27th Annual Meeting & Exhibition Intl Soc. for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine	6,200
2019	27th IUGG General Assembly	4,000
2022	24 th International Conference on AIDS	7,000
2022	SPIE Astronomical Telescopes and Instrumentation	2,500
2022	104th Lions Club International Convention	5,900
-	CIM Conference and Exhibition (1998, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019)	1,500



Some of our upcoming events		Expected attendance
-	CIM Conference and Exhibition every other year until 2029	1,500
2023	ISTH Congress and Annual SSC Meeting International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis	8,000
2023	International Council of Nurses Congress	8,000
2023	17th International Congress on Radiation Research – ICRR 2023	1,500
2023	IEEE International Ultrasonics Symposium – IEEE IUS	1,900
2023	International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment – WSBE	1,200
2023	XXVI World Congress of Neurology – WCN	5,000
2024	One Young World	2,500
2024	IISE 2024 Annual Conference & Expo – Institute of Industrial & Systems Engineers	1,600
2024	Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology Conference – ISMB	1,800
2024	International Symposium on Mathematical Programming	2,000
2024	3rd Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology – Society for the Study of Evolution	2,500
2024	75th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry – ISE	1,500
2025	247th Electrochemical Society Spring Biannual Meeting – ECS	2,000
2025	ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition – American Society for Engineering Education	4,000
2025	24th International Conference on Emergency Medicine	3,000
2026	23rd International Meeting on Lithium Batteries – IMLB	1,650
2026	World PM2026 Metal Powder	1,000
2026	13th International Conference on Geosynthetics (13 ICG)	1,000
2027	8th World Engineers Convention WEC	3,000
2027	Geological Society Association Annual Meeting & Exhibits	5,600

3.4 → Technology to Boost your Event

Broaden the reach of your event and take advantage of digital opportunities!

Hybrid events

To reach participants wherever they are!

The events landscape is in the midst of a transformation. In response, the Palais des congrès de Montréal has innovative solutions that will enable your events to go hybrid.

Hybrid events are physical meetings that also incorporate virtual online components, running simultaneously in real time, sharing the same content and including interactive elements.



Hybrid events give audiences the option of participating live in-person, or via the internet. They are perfect if you are concerned about a drop in attendance due to travel restrictions or if you are looking to set up a network of remote satellite locations.

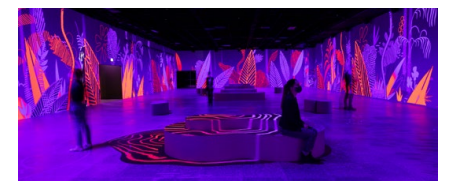
- Broadening WTC's audience
- Broadcasting special sessions and keynote presentations
- Setting up a virtual exhibition space complementing the actual on-site exhibition
- A team ready to assist remotely and on-site in our event spaces
- Interacting, Polling and Q&A from virtually anywhere
- Post-event reporting and statistics

→ OASIS immersion

The Palais is the first convention centre in the world to permanently house immersive rooms!

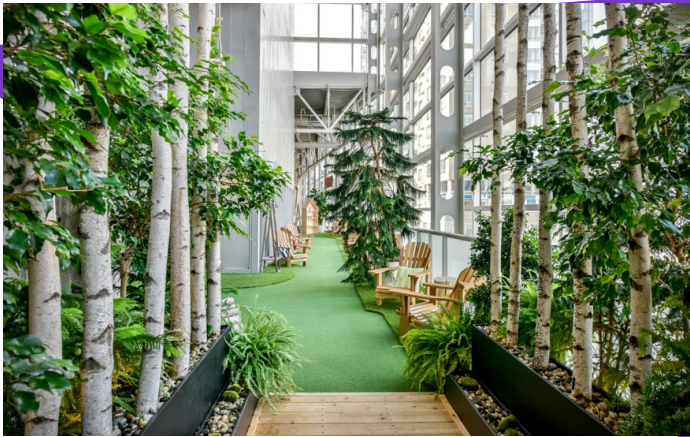
We're proud to introduce our three new OASIS immersion rooms spanning on 2,200 m² (23,680 sq ft.) of rental space. With 105 laser projectors and 119 surround sound speakers, the state-of-the-art equipment is making possible 360° projections on walls and floors that will capture the imagination of your participants.

<https://congresmtl.com/en/event-planning/oasis/>



3.5 → Sustainable Development

Changing the course of events



At Palais des congrès de Montréal, sustainable development is an integral part of our commitment to creating the convention centre of the future.

Montréal was the first Canadian city to join the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index)! Montréal has been ranked first in North America for its performance in rendering tourism more sustainable. [See press release.](#)

Today, the Palais' commitment continues unabated. By helping our clients organize carbon-neutral events, implementing sustainable practices in our management and procurement processes, and introducing various environmental and social initiatives for the Montréal community, we are doing our part for the future of the planet.

To hold ourself to international benchmarks, the Palais has embraced the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose 17 global development goals will guide all our current and future sustainable actions.

A 100% CARBON-NEUTRAL BUILDING

The Palais is one of the first convention centres in the Americas to be fully carbon neutral. In addition to working to keep our energy costs down, we offset GHG emissions by contributing to the forest management and tree planting efforts on four hectares of Université Laval's Forêt Montmorency, the largest university teaching and research forest in the world.



→ Our environmental certifications

- BOMA BEST® SILVER – Silver certification awarded by Boma Best, national green building certification program
- SUSTAINABLE EVENT STANDARDS BRONZE – Certification awarded by Event Industry Council that recognizes Montréal and the Palais as leading destinations for environmentally responsible events
- VÉLOSYMPATHIQUE – Bronze certification for the Palais' initiatives that encourage its clients and employees to use cycling as a green mode of transportation

Sustainable Development

→ Our guiding principles

In spring 2019, the Palais joined the United Nations' *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in order to equip itself with a global development framework.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We believe that anchoring our actions to the 17 international goals set by the UN enables us to maximize the impact of our sustainability commitments and initiatives.

→ Visit our website to discover all of our sustainability actions, organized based on their corresponding objectives.

<https://congresmtl.com/en/convention-center/sustainable-development/>





Montréal

4.1 → The City that Has it All

Montréal: number one
host city in the Americas
for international meetings*

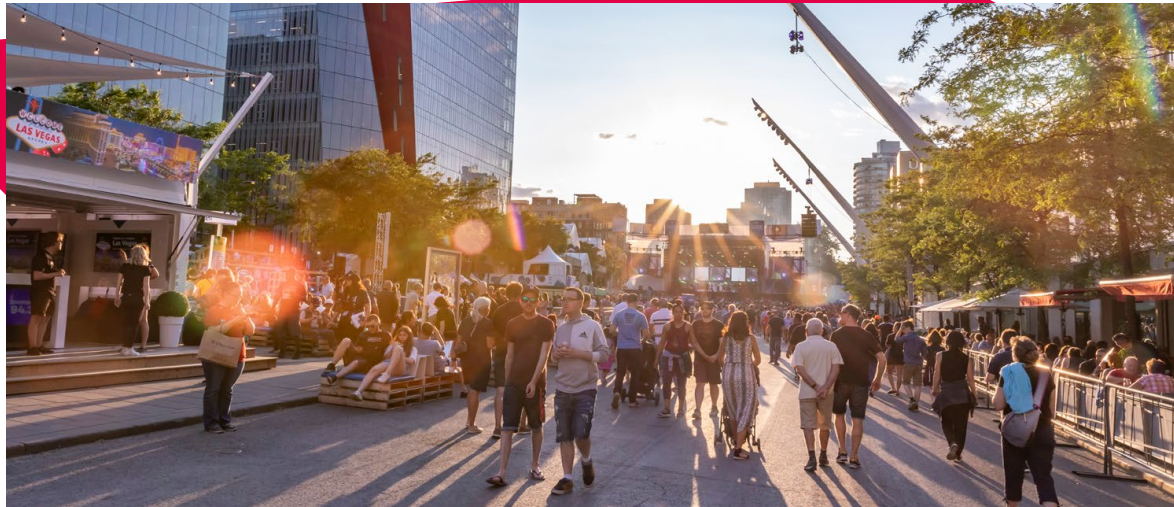
Building on Montréal's reputation as one of the best convention cities in the world, we are confident that the ITA-AITES World Tunnel Congress 2026 will attract a notably large number of delegates from around the world! Montréal has all the right ingredients to ensure the success of any international gathering:

- A safe city used to hosting major international events;
- A conveniently-located airport, only 20 minutes away from 16,000 downtown hotel rooms and the Palais des congrès de Montréal;
- The Réseau express métropolitain (REM), a light rail system connecting the city's downtown Central Station to the Montréal-Trudeau airport;
- A low cost of living;
- Over 6,000 restaurants city-wide offering some 80 different types of regional and international cuisine;
- A unique cosmopolitan city where French, English and over 140 other languages are spoken in a special Euro-American atmosphere;
- An exceptional line-up of all kinds of events and festivals, indoors and out;
- Over 1,000 parks and green spaces, 450 km of bike paths, beautiful Mount Royal and the great St. Lawrence River;
- Incredible circus arts and street performances;
- A city of contrasts and cultural pluralism, a free and open space for design and architecture;
- An excellent selection of pre- and post-tours right at Montréal's doorstep;
- Nightlife and entertainment Capital of Canada.

* UIA – Union of International Associations and ICCA – International Congress and Convention Association 2021 rankings



4.2 → Montréal, North American Hub and Canadian Metropolis



Montréal is located in Eastern Canada, in Southwestern Québec and is the largest city in the province of Québec and the second largest in Canada, with a metropolitan population of 4.3 million.

Montréal is situated on the Island of Montréal, the largest island in the Hochelaga Archipelago, at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers. The city occupies a strategic location on one of the world's greatest rivers, at the heart of a hydrographical system covering all of Eastern North America. A major industrial centre, commercial and financial metropolis, railway and maritime bridgehead, and home of Francophone culture in North America, Montréal is one of the world's great cities and enjoys international acclaim.

The highest point of the island, Mount Royal, is 232 meters high (761 ft.). In Montréal, the land area is 1,644 m² (4,258 sq. km.) with a population density of 919 people per square kilometre.

The entire island of Montréal is composed of 15 municipalities, of which Montréal is by far the largest. Montréal is divided into 19 boroughs.

→ Total population:

- **Canada:** 37 million
- **Province of Québec:** 8.5 million
- **Greater Montréal:** 4.3 million

(as determined by the 2021 Census)

4.3 → Transportation

Closer than you may think

Visitors appreciate the convenience of **Montréal–Trudeau International Airport**, only **20 minutes** away from 16,000 downtown hotel rooms and the Palais des congrès de Montréal.



So accessible.
So efficient.
So connected.
So safe.



A MAJOR HUB FOR AIR TRAFFIC

Some 35 passenger carriers operate regular or seasonal flights out of the Montréal–Trudeau International Airport, carrying 20.3 million passengers yearly. There are direct flights from Montréal–Trudeau to more than 150 destinations including 91 international, 28 U.S. and 31 domestic.



INTRODUCING THE REM, ONE OF THE LARGEST AUTOMATED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN THE WORLD

The *Réseau express métropolitain* (REM) is a major public transit initiative scheduled to start running in 2023. The light rail system will span 26 stations across the Montréal area and cover 67 km. In 2027, it will add an express 20-minute service providing fast, direct transportation from the city's downtown Central Station to the Montréal–Trudeau airport. Fully automated, the REM will deliver one of the most dependable and safest transit service in the world.

Taxi service to / from Montréal–Trudeau airport

Taxis charge a flat fee of Can\$48.40 from 5AM to 11PM and Can\$55.65 from 11PM to 5AM



Transportation → Direct flight destinations

Examples of direct international flights

Destination	Flying time
Algiers, Algeria	7 h 50
Amman, Jordan	10 h 20
Amsterdam, Netherlands	6 h 50
Athens, Greece	9 h 05
Basel, Switzerland	7 h 15
Barcelona, Spain	7 h 15
Beijing, China	12 h 40
Bordeaux, France	6 h 45
Brussels, Belgium	6 h 55
Bucarest, Romania	8 h 55
Budapest, Hungary	8 h 55
Cancun, Mexico	4 h 10
Cartagena, Colombia	5 h 25
Casablanca, Morocco	6 h 30
Cayo Coco, Cuba	3 h 45
Cayo Largo, Cuba	4 h 05
Doha, Qatar	12 h 00
Delhi, India	14 h 55
Dublin, Ireland	6 h 10
Fort de France, Martinique	4 h 50
Frankfurt, Germany	7 h 05
Geneva, Switzerland	7 h 15
Havana, Cuba	4 h 15
Istanbul, Turkey	9 h 35
Liberia, Costa Rica	5 h 30
Lima, Peru	8 h 10
Lisbon, Portugal	6 h 25
London (Gatwick), UK	6 h 35
London (Heathrow), UK	6 h 25
Lyon, France	7 h 10
Madrid, Spain	7 h 05

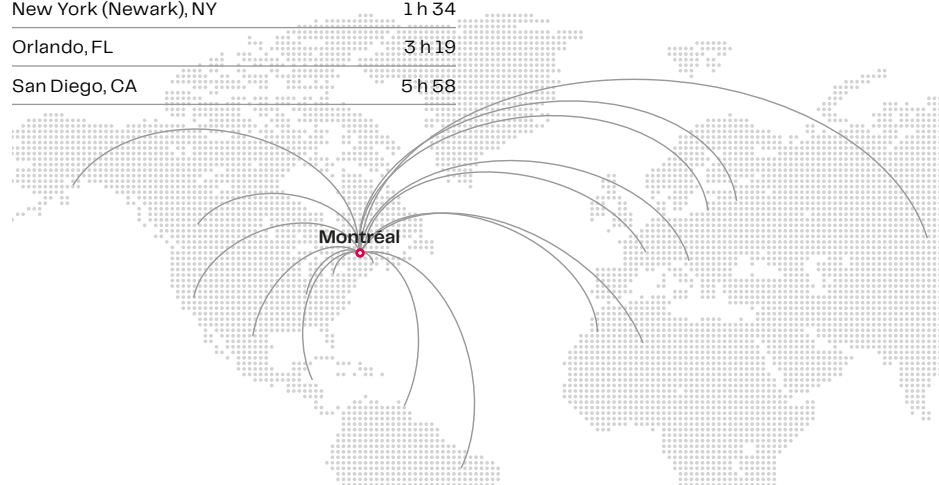
Destination	Flying time
Marseille, France	7 h 10
Mexico City, Mexico	5 h 20
Montego Bay, Jamaica	4 h 20
Munich, Germany	7 h 25
Nantes, France	6 h 25
Nice, France	7 h 25
Panama City, Panama	5 h 55
Paris (De Gaulle), France	6 h 35
Paris (Orly), France	6 h 50
Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe	4 h 40
Port-au-Prince, Haiti	4 h 15
Prague, Czech Republic	8 h 15
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	5 h 00
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	4 h 25
Reykjavik, Iceland	5 h 15
Rome, Italy	8 h 00
Samana, Dominican Rep.	4 h 15
San Salvador, Salvador	5 h 00
Santa Clara, Cuba	3 h 50
Simpson Bay, St. Marteen	4 h 45
St-Pierre, St. Pierre & Miquelon	2 h 50
San Diego	5 h 58
Shanghai, China	13 h 25
Tel Aviv, Israel	10 h 25
Tokyo (Narita), Japan	12 h 00
Toulouse, France	7 h 05
Tunis, Tunisia	7 h 15
Varadero, Cuba	3 h 45
Venice, Italy	7 h 40
Vienna, Austria	8 h 00
Zurich, Switzerland	7 h 25

Examples of direct U.S. flights

Destination	Flying time
Atlanta, GA	2 h 55
Boston, MA	1 h 20
Baltimore, DC	1 h 45
Chicago, IL	2 h 21
Cleveland, OH	1 h 47
Dallas / Fort Worth, TX	3 h 50
Denver, CO	4 h 04
Detroit, MI	1 h 54
Fort Lauderdale, FL	3 h 27
Hartford, CT	1 h 17
Houston, TX	3 h 30
Las Vegas, NV	5 h 20
Los Angeles, CA	5 h 52
Miami, FL	3 h 31
Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN	2 h 53
New York (JFK), NY	1 h 46
New York (LGA), NY	1 h 24
New York (Newark), NY	1 h 34
Orlando, FL	3 h 19
San Diego, CA	5 h 58

Examples of direct domestic flights

Destination	Flying time
Calgary, AB	4 h 40
Charlottetown, PE	1 h 27
Edmonton, AB	4 h 29
Fredericton, NB	1 h 27
Halifax, NS	1 h 28
Moncton, NB	1 h 29
Ottawa, ON	0 h 37
Québec City, QC	0 h 49
Saint John, NB	1 h 39
St. John's, NL	2 h 23
Toronto (Pearson), ON	1 h 17
Toronto Island, ON	1 h 10
Vancouver, BC	5 h 32
Winnipeg, MB	2 h 58





Transportation → Air Canada



Thursday, April 14, 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,

When the ITA-AITES WTC 2026 will be confirmed in Montréal, choose Air Canada as your preferred airline. We work very closely with our partners at the Palais des congrès de Montréal to manage events such as yours and to anticipate greater volumes in passenger traffic over a select period of time. Air Canada is Canada's largest airline and is recognized as a leader in global air transportation, technical excellence and passenger safety.

Air Canada knows what it takes to make your event an organizational success. Let me introduce you to our world and I am confident that our services will exceed your needs.

- Air Canada is the largest provider of scheduled flights in the Canada-USA and Canada-International market
- One of the highest On Time Performance records within North America.
- Your participants can reach top-tier status quicker by redeeming from various Star Alliance Frequent Flyer Programs
- Your delegates can save between 10-12% on airfares (conditions apply)

Air Canada is Canada's largest domestic and international airline and is among the 20 largest airlines in the world.

I welcome the opportunity to work with you as the preferred carrier. Please feel free to contact me at 416-278-7891 or at stefano.mastrantonio@aircanada.ca

Sincerely,

Stefano Mastrantonio
Senior Manager, Specialty Sales
Air Canada



4.4 → Visa and Customs

Visiting Canada

Every year, more than 35 million people visit Canada to enjoy the many opportunities our country has to offer.

Depending on where they live, and the reason for their visit, visitors will need to meet certain entry requirements. Organizers can count on the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to provide the best possible service in helping coordinate the border crossing requirements for their event.

VISA REGULATIONS

American visitors to Canada need a proper identification document (passport, birth certificate, a certificate of citizenship or naturalization, U.S. Permanent Resident Card).

Other international visitors to Canada need either a visa or an electronic travel authorization (eTA).

Find out what you need specifically to travel to Canada by answering a few questions at: <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Eligible travellers can apply online for an eTA, simply visit: www.canada.ca/eta

OBTAINING GUIDANCE FROM THE CBSA (CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY)

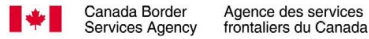
Working with the CBSA provides organizers with a single point of contact for the Government of Canada to help coordinate the border crossing requirements for their event. The CBSA offers guidance on admissibility requirements, coordination assistance with the ports of entry and collaboration between government agencies.

CBSA coordinators with the International Events and Convention Services Program (IECSP) can access a vast network of Government of Canada departments on behalf of meeting planners or show organizers and will ensure they are aware of all the border requirements related to their event early in their planning process.

To obtain information regarding CBSA regulations on the conditions and procedures for foreign or domestic organizations temporarily importing goods into Canada for a convention, meeting, trade show, exhibition or event, complete the Notice of an International Event, Meeting, Convention or Incentive Travel form, simply visit: www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/services/ie-ei/notice-avis-eng.html



Visa and Customs



April 8, 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,

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) appreciates the opportunity to be included as a partner and is pleased to offer our support for the ITA-AITES WTC 2026.

The CBSA's International Events and Convention Services Program (IECSP) serves as the event coordinator's focal point for the preparation, stakeholder awareness and successful delivery of Canadian entry processes for events taking place in Canada. Should the bid be successful, the IECSP will work with the event organizers to provide a clear understanding of admissibility requirements and provide guidance for the facilitative arrival of people and goods to Canada.

We hope that Canada's bid will be successful and look forward to contributing to the security and prosperity of this event.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at
MES-SEM@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Ian Donald
National Coordinator
International Events and Convention Services Program
Canada Border Services Agency
191 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L8, Canada

Canada

CUSTOMS BROKERAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

The Palais is considered "in bond" by Canada Customs and acts as a customs clearance point when your event is accredited with the Canada Border Services Agency.

Because a customs and transportation broker is part of an international network, it can handle the logistics of your event all the way through to transporting your material to the Palais and clearing it with customs on-site.



→ Montréal-Trudeau International Airport. © ADM.

4.5 → Climate

A city for all seasons



→
Montréal
experiences all
four seasons and
offers activities
for each of them.

Check the forecast before packing to see what the weather will be like while you're visiting Montréal. You can plan your activities accordingly because we like to take full advantage of our different seasons and you're sure to find something to do in the city and its surroundings, no matter what the weather!

Average temperature in Celsius (°C)

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
-5	-3	2	12	19	23	26	25	20	13	5	-2

Average temperature in Fahrenheit (°F)

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
23	26.6	35.6	52	66.2	73.4	78	77	68	55.4	41	28.4

Above left → Summer festival. © Susan Moss.

Above right → Friends drinking on a terrace.

© Tourisme Montréal – Madore – Daphné CARON.

→ Savour the sweetness of spring

The arrival of spring in Montréal brings a palpable energy to the city, as locals head outdoors in droves to soak up the warmth of the sun. Nothing says spring like an old-fashioned sugaring-off party to savour the fresh harvest of maple flavours.

Walk off your feast by hitting the streets to discover the city's architectural and historical heritage in Old Montréal, take some time to revel in the natural beauty of lilacs and tulips abloom at the Botanical Gardens, or watch the city spring back to life by immersing yourself in the myriad of colours, flavours and aromas of Montréal's popular public markets.

4.6 → Green Destination

An eco-friendly city

With over 1,000 parks and green spaces, 450 kilometres of bike paths, beautiful Mount Royal and the mighty St. Lawrence River, Montréal is as close to nature as any city can be.

FROM SEAWAY TO SUMMIT, MONTRÉAL IS A GORGEOUS GREEN GEM

Cosmopolitan culture and superb access to nature – that's Montréal's irresistible combination. With an abundance of protected green spaces, many urban and nature parks, including Mount Royal, downtown's year-round playground, this island city is a refreshing getaway.

A BRIGHT FUTURE BASED ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Montréal plays a leading role in the promotion of biodiversity initiatives at the local and international levels. The new Montréal Biodiversity Centre LEED building is located in the heart of the Montréal Botanical Garden. The Centre's mission is strengthened by the presence of the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), which has been established in Montréal since 1996.

GEOTOURISM CITY

Culturally vibrant and boldly innovative, Montréal is also firmly committed to sustainable development. The city affirmed this commitment in 2007 by becoming the first urban centre to sign the Geotourism Charter of the National Geographic Society.

Montréal is also the first major city in the world to have an urban Geotourism MapGuide, bearing the seal of the National Geographic Society. This map allows both domestic and international tourists visiting Montréal to experience the destination in a new way, through the eyes of Montréalers. Designed using local knowledge and with respect for the spirit of the various locations in the city, the National Geographic Society MapGuide is a unique tool that highlights the quality of activities and attractions in Montréal.

→ Canal Lachine. © Eva Blue.



- The Palais des congrès de Montréal has hosted the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) in December 2022. This major event concluded with the signature of a historic deal to protect nature and biodiversity: the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.

4.7 → Inclusive and Diverse City

A land of opportunities

Montréal is an inclusive metropolis at various levels, and numerous initiatives are deployed to celebrate but also support young people who are sexual and gender diverse, from visible minorities, First Nations or with reduced mobility.



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Mobility is an integral part of the Wapikoni approach, where they travel to youth living in Aboriginal communities to offer practical workshops tailored to their reality and their culture. It uses a methodology that develops self-esteem, skills and resilience. Youth are involved in practical workshops given onsite using the teaching method developed by filmmaker Manon Barbeau in collaboration with film professionals.



SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY

Project 10 works to promote the personal, social, sexual and mental well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersexed and questioning youth and adults 14–25. Through advocacy and education, using a harm reduction approach, Project 10 aims to facilitate the empowerment of youth at the individual, community, and institutional levels.



UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUTH

P3P (Pour 3 Points) coaches provide support to youth from underprivileged neighbourhoods by helping them acquire the skills they need to succeed in school and in life. The coaches taking part in the P3P program teach much more than just sports-related skills. They also nurture the life skills of student-athletes, which translate into a positive impact on our young people academically, socially, and in sports.



YOUNG PEOPLE WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

The AlterGo Sports Challenge is a unique event that values the success of athletes with functional limitations and contributes to universal accessibility. Each year, more than 5,000 elite and emerging athletes of all disabilities participate in this extraordinary event. Elementary and high school athletes from across the Province of Québec, as well as elite athletes from some 20 countries, come to demonstrate their resilience with film professionals.

4.8 → Out and About Montréal

Outside, or in the Underground City



Safe and clean.
Simply a walker's
delight.

THESE STREETS WERE MADE FOR WALKING

The streets of Montréal are a great way to discover the city and get you from your hotel to the Palais and back, at any time of day or night. In fact, the Palais is within walking distance of 16,000 downtown hotel rooms.

ABOVE AND UNDER GROUND

The Palais des congrès (Convention Centre) is directly linked to 4,000 hotel rooms via a 32 km (20 miles) Underground Pedestrian Network which is clean and brightly-lit network, "Montréal's Underground City," is visited by half a million people daily.

PUBLIC TRANSIT CONNECTIONS MADE EASY

The Palais is located right in the heart of the city, making it easily accessible on foot or by public transit. The Place-d'Armes subway station (Metro) is integrated in the centre and buses take you right to the Palais' front door.

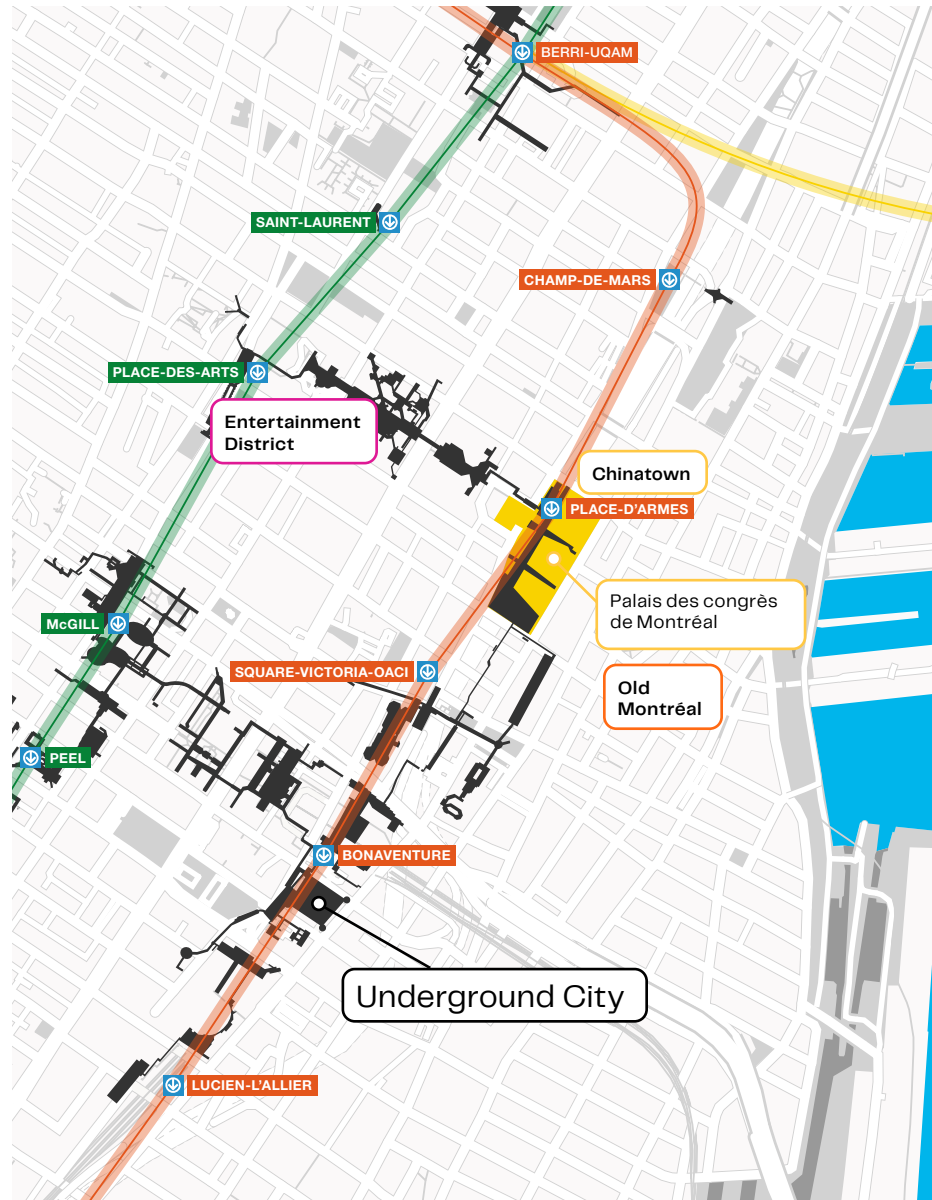
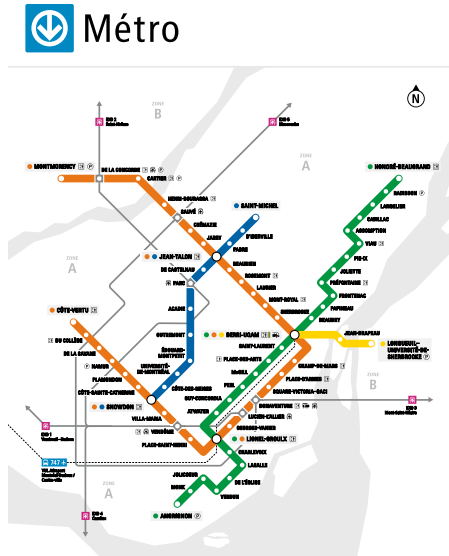


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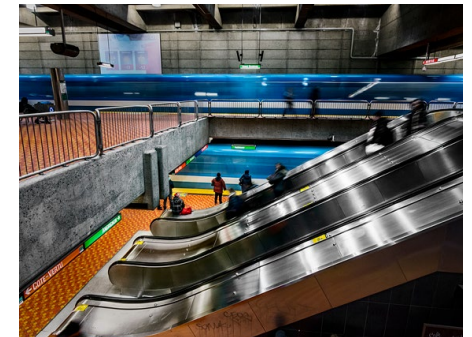
Montréal → May 15 to 21, 2026
ITA - AITES World Tunnel Congress 2026

Underground Montréal

Metro map



→ STM Info



→ Arcpixel



→ Bombardier Transportation

4.9 → Accompanying Person's Program

Must-see sites



Montréal Museum of Fine Arts

Since it was founded in 1860, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts' holdings have grown to almost 35,000 works, from all ages. The museum continually acquires new works to enrich its collections.

→ 20-minute bus and/or subway ride from the Convention Centre

www.mbam.qc.ca



Old Montréal

Charming cobblestone streets wind through the city's old district, connecting visitors to architecture dating back as far as 1685. It's quite literally like experiencing the city's early beginnings.

→ 3-minute walk from the Convention Centre

www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca



Mount Royal Park

Inaugurated in 1876, Mount Royal Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the visionary landscape architect behind New York City's Central Park.

→ 30-minute bus and/or subway ride from the Convention Centre

www.lemontroyal.qc.ca



Notre-Dame Basilica

A masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture, Notre-Dame Basilica was built between 1824 and 1829. Its extraordinary craftsmanship provides the backdrop for the most astounding sound and light show.

→ 4-minute walk from the Convention Centre

www.basiliquenddm.org



Attractions



Quartier des Spectacles

Festivals are a cornerstone of life in Montréal, and the Quartier des Spectacles is the city's hub of culture and entertainment. Jazz, comedy, avant-garde dance, poutine – name a season, an artform and you'll find Montréal has a festival for it.

→ 5-minute walk from
the Convention Centre

www.quartierdesspectacles.com



Olympic Park

Since its inauguration for the 1976 Summer Olympics, more than 67 million people have visited the Olympic Park. Home to the iconic 165-metre Montréal Tower, it has become an international symbol.

→ 25-minute bus and/or subway ride
from the Convention Centre

www.parcolympique.qc.ca



La Grande Roue

The highest observation wheel in Canada, rivalling the High Roller in Las Vegas for spectacle, La Grande Roue de Montréal lets you ride the sky and see Montréal from an entirely new vantage point.

→ 6-minute walk from
the Convention Centre

www.lagranderouedemontreal.com



Parc Jean-Drapeau

This green oasis is a haven for sports, recreation, nature and culture. Come summer, Parc Jean-Drapeau offers a beach, heated outdoor pools, the La Ronde amusement park, two museums and a casino.

→ 30-minute bus and/or subway ride
from the Convention Centre

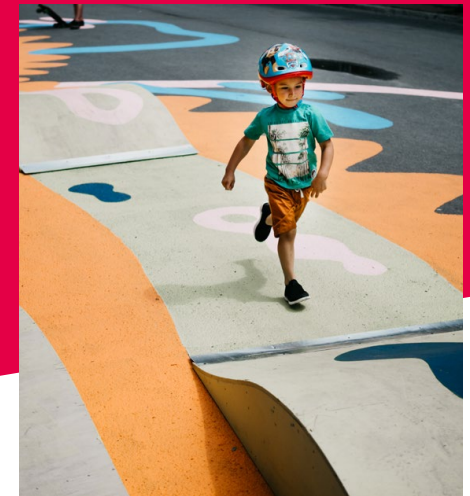
www.parcjeandrapeau.com

...and much more!

4.10 → Quality of Life

Montréal's *joie de vivre*

Friendly, open to the world and creative... It's also very safe. All in all, Montréal stands out as a fun city. It's a great city to visit and an exceptional city to live in.



ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES IN AMERICA

Ranked 2018 safest city ahead of the largest metropolitan areas in Canada and the U.S. (by Statistics Canada and the FBI), Montréal just received another significant vote of confidence from the travel industry. Travel insurance experts Berkshire Hathaway Travel Protection recently ranked Montréal as the world's safest city to travel to in 2022. In addition to a low crime rate, Montréal is also a safe haven for vulnerable groups such as travellers of colour and LGBTQ+ travellers. To top it all off, the city has also just been designated the safest destination for women in 2022.

A CITY OF EFFERVESCENCE AND CREATIVITY

Montréal stands out as one of the most creative, attractive and promising metropolitan areas in North America. It is a city based on knowledge, where creativity and innovation meet to foster economic growth and international recognition. As the R&D capital of Canada, Montréal is home to 11 institutions of higher education and boasts a high concentration of skilled and creative talent. It is a hub of excellence in research, innovation and high technology.

Left → Quartier des spectacles | 21 Balançoires (21 swings). © Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles, Maxime Leduc. **Middle** → MURAL Festival. © Sylvie Li @ shoot Studio – Tourisme Montréal. **Right** → Avenue Mount-Royal © Laurène Tinél – Tourisme Montréal

Quality of Life



Cost of living index 2021

Ranking	City	Country
7	New York City	United States
9	Tokyo	Japan
11	Copenhagen	Denmark
15	London	United Kingdom
19	San Francisco	United States
31	Dubai	United Arab Emirates
43	Helsinki	Finland
48	Milan	Italy
125	Montréal	Canada

1 = Highest cost of living

209 = Lowest

A BIG CITY WITH A LOW COST OF LIVING

With competitive overall business operating costs, affordable housing, free medical care and very low university tuition fees, Montréal is a very accessible city of knowledge. In fact, Montréal has one of the lowest price levels of all major world cities. In a survey covering over 200 cities across five continents and measuring the comparative cost of over 200 items in each location, including housing, transport, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment, Montréal ranks in the lowest quarter. When ranking low is a good thing! (www.imercer.com)

LIFE IS GOOD IN CANADA

Canada is among the best places in the world to live, according to the Better Life Index (oecdbetterlifeindex.org) annually updated by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development that compares rich industrialized nations. Canada ranks among the leaders in most of the 24 indicators measured, everything from hard data dealing with jobs and income, to perceptions of something the OECD calls “life satisfaction”. Canada ranks first in the housing indicator with 2.6 rooms per person. According to the report, Canadians are more satisfied with their lives than the OECD average, in general.

Left → Hôtel William Gray – Rooftop restaurant.

© Tourisme Montréal – Madore, Daphné Caron.

Right → Les Quartiers du Canal.

© Tourisme Montréal – Madore, Daphné Caron.



Letters of
Support



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Montréal → May 15 to 21, 2026
ITA – AITES World Tunnel Congress 2026

SECTION 5

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Prime Minister of Canada



Previous page → Place des festivals, downtown Montréal. Above → Center Block and Peace Tower in Parliament Hill, Ottawa



[View all the letters of support](#)



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,

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





Premier of Québec



View the English version



Québec, le 4 mai 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balxert 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.



→ François Legault
Premier of Québec

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Page 2

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.

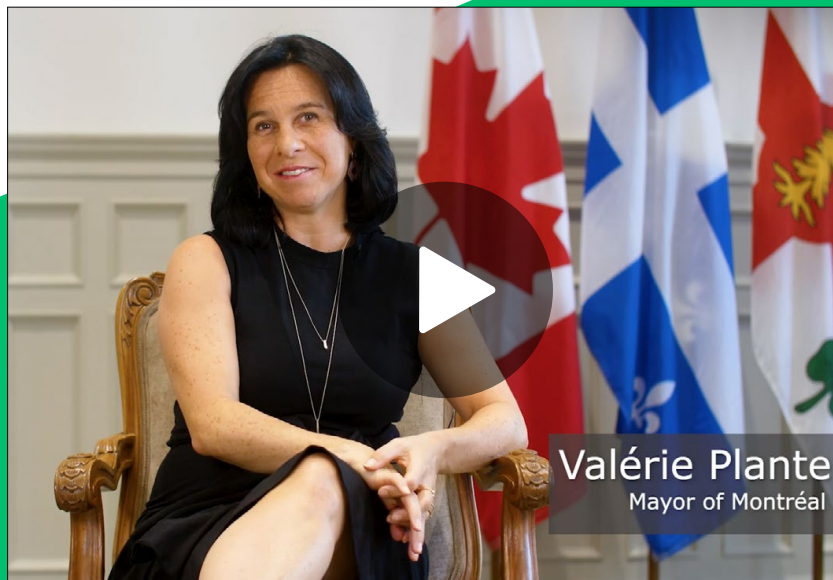
Veuillez accepter, Messieurs, l'expression de toute ma considération.

Le premier ministre du Québec,

François Legault



Mayor of Montréal



Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montréal

A word from the Mayor of Montréal



**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,

Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montréal



Canadian Dam Association



Markham, December 1, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association – ITA
Chemin de Balexert 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

Canadian Institute of Mining, Minerals, Metallurgy and Petroleum

The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum



Institut canadien des mines, de la métallurgie et du pétrole

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



Engineering Institute of Canada



View all of the letters



Ottawa, 8 November 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives
International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA
Chemin de Balexert 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.

- Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs
- Québec Research Funds
- Palais des congrès de Montréal
- Tourisme Montréal
- Destination Canada

April 11th, 2022

ITA-AITES Member Nations Representatives

October 3rd, 2022

Palais des congrès de Montréal
Montréal, October 3, 2022

Québec

Gouvernement du Québec
Le ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques,
de la Faune et des Parcs

Québec, le 15 décembre 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 vous remercie de votre courriel du 3 novembre dernier m'informant de l'intérêt pour le Palais des congrès de Montréal de tenir l'Assemblée générale de l'International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association en 2026. La candidature de la ville de Montréal me 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.

Cabinet de Québec
Génie Marie-Guyot
675, rue Saint-Jacques, 30^e étage
Québec (Québec) G2B 0A7
Téléphone : 418 325-3011
Télécopieur : 418 845-4145
Courriel : marie.guyot@gouv.qc.ca
Internet : www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca

Cabinet de Montréal
141, avenue du Président Kennedy, 9^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H2B 1K6
Téléphone : 514 864-8020
Télécopieur : 514 864-8023

situation named the
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on discovery and
wealth of arts and
centre, the Palais
give track record of
ing local talent and

ring more valuable
veritable hub of
their event, the Lab
rtrial businesses.
use the Events Lab

inside the Palais,
and experiences,
the general public,
other events.

passionate event
certification we've
ding is home to
environmentally
more. The Palais
ttrel!

ss) 2026. We are
heights and would
quely unforgettable

→ We can also count on the support of our our world-renowned universities from across the country, *d'un océan à l'autre*:





Overview of Tunnel and Underground Projects in Canada

6.1 → In Construction & In Design

Québec – In Construction

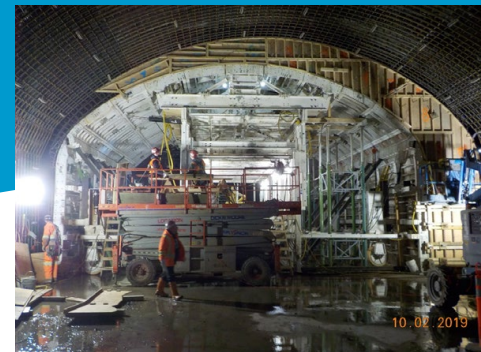
- **REM Transit Electrical Train Line** – The “Alice” TBM finished excavation of the 2.5 km long 7.4 m diameter single track tunnel that runs underneath airport runway and taxiway with very negligible settlement on July 7, 2022. TBM cutterhead and shield will remain in place waiting for the Airport Station excavation to be completed for their removal. TBM is being dismantled from Technoparc Station to allow trackwork and equipping to commence.
- **Lafontaine Tunnel Rehabilitation** – Preparatory work is ongoing at both approach and lane closure has started in south direction to allow repair of screed and installation of Saccardo fans at the tunnel entrance. Rest of tunnel systems is being implemented in the two tunnel towers and central corridor.
- **Cote-Vertu Metro Storage and Maintenance Facility** – Opening for the Garage Cote Vertu Project was on June 17 with local, provincial, and federal officials. The project will house 10 additional trains and provide a repair shop within three parallel tunnels and a connecting tunnel the existing tunnel for a total of 2.5 km long. This will allow trains to be inserted during rush hours and increase train frequency on the Orange Line.



REM Transit Electrical Train Line



Lafontaine Tunnel Rehabilitation



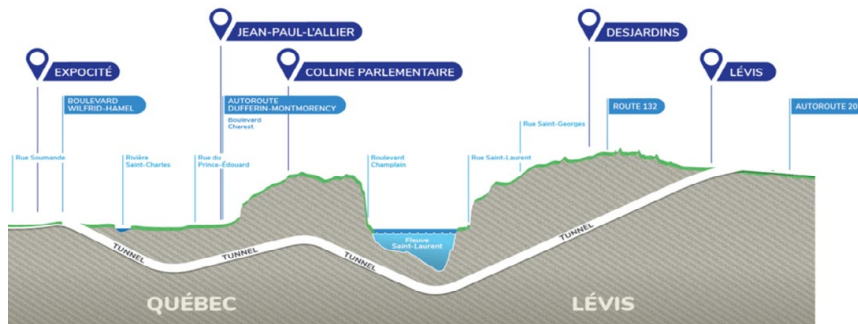
Cote-Vertu Metro Storage and Maintenance Facility

Projects In Construction & In Design

Québec – In Design

- **Blue Line Extension** – ±6 km Metro line extension, with 5 stations. Conventional BB contract.
- **REM East Extension** – \$10 billion project / 7 km of underground tunnel.
- **Québec City-Lévis Road Tunnel** – The provincial government has selected a twin tunnel configuration with two lanes in each direction as opposed to previously announced one bore with three lanes in each direction. Preliminary Design is expected to end in 2025.

- **Québec City Tramway Tunnel** – 1.8 km Tunnel with 2 tracks and 2 UG Stations. Tender Design is progressing for the Québec Tramway with two packages: the rolling stock and the infrastructure packages that are being tendered in sequence. Each package has received two proponents team. Bids are due in fall 2022 for rolling stock and in spring 2023 for the infrastructure package.



Québec City-Lévis Road Tunnel



Québec City Tramway Tunnel



Québec City Tramway Tunnel

Projects In Construction & In Design

Ontario – In Construction

- **Eglinton Crosstown West Extension** – 9.2 km extension to Eglinton Crosstown LRT of which 6.4 km involves 5.75 m (ID) twin bored tunnels.
- **Scarborough Subway Extension** – Feature the largest transit tunnel in Canada, 11.9 m ID. The project consists of 7.8 km of single bore tunnel, 500 m cut & cover box structure between Kennedy Station and end of tunnel and 3 stations. The TBM arrived at the job site in Toronto.
- **Ashbridges Bay Outfall Tunnel** – The ABTP Outfall project has reached an important milestone: tunnel completing and TBM removal. To final completion there are a couple of raisers to be installed followed by tunnel connection and the rest of the marine work including riser connection and diffusers installation.



Scarborough Subway Extension



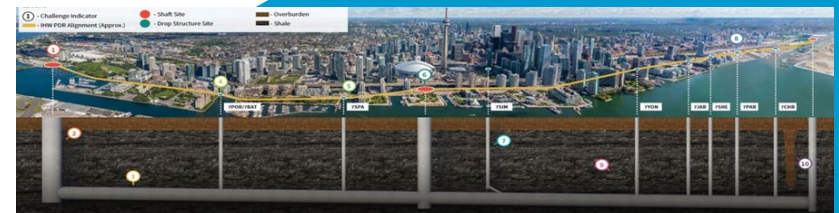
Eglinton Crosstown West Extension



Ashbridges Bay Outfall Tunnel

Ontario – In Design

- **Ontario Line** – The Project will be the largest transit project in Canada including 15.6 km of subway line with 15-stops running from Exhibition Place, through the heart of downtown, and all the way to the Ontario Science Centre. The D/B project is expected to be awarded by the end of 2022.
- **Yonge Extension** – The Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE) will extend the TTC's Line 1 subway service ± 8 km from the existing terminus at Finch Station into the City of Richmond Hill. It will include a 6.1 km underground tunnel segment. The RFP is expected in 2023.
- **Inner Harbour West** – The project is stormwater storage for Wet Weather Flows (WWF) and water quality improvement. The project includes: 5.5 km of tunnels (6.3 m ID), 3 shafts (up to 30 m dia.), 9 connections and 8 drop structures.



Inner Harbour West

Projects In Construction & In Design

Manitoba/Prairies – Near Term – Investment in BFR and CSO Management Programs

- **Cockburn and Calrossie Contract 7**– Approximately 540 m of 1,350 mm diameter and approximately 235 m of 1,200 mm diameter sewer.



Cockburn and Calrossie Sewer Relief

Manitoba/Prairies – In Design

- **Cockburn and Calrossie Contracts 9 and 13** – Estimated to be prepared for tendering sometime during 2023, with the potential for up to 2 km of trunk sewer ranging in diameter from 900 mm to 1,800 mm.



Cockburn and Calrossie Contracts 9 and 13

Alberta– In Construction

- **99 Avenue Tunnel Bypass** – Sanitary sewer conveys wastewater from a large part of west Edmonton to the Gold Bar WTP: 1615 m of 1800 mm ID reinforced concrete pipes.
- **Valley Line West LRT Drainage Relocation** – Approximately 4km of underground sewer constructed using open cut and/or microtunnelling construction methods.
- **Kinnaird Opportunistic Sewer Separation** – Connect existing 1,200mm storm sewer at the intersection of 89 Street and 119 Avenue to an existing 1,800mm storm sewer at the intersection of 88 Street and 117 Avenue (project completed).



99 Avenue Tunnel Bypass

Projects In Construction & In Design

British Columbia – In Construction

- **Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel** – includes three critical water mains (1.5 m dia. and 2x2.4 m dia.) under the Burrard Inlet between North Vancouver and Burnaby.
- **Annacis Water Supply Tunnel** – Tunnel between Surrey and New Westminster is under construction. Includes a 4.5 m diameter EPBM to construct the 2.3 km long tunnel below the river.
- **Broadway Subway Rail Extension** – 5.7 km-long rail extension with six new underground stations.



Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel, Rick Radell, Taylor

British Columbia – In Design

- **Eagle Mountain Gas Pipeline Tunnel Project** – 9 km tunnel component to house a 24" gas pipeline.
- **Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel** – Metro Vancouver project will feature a 1.4 km tunnel under Stanley Park constructed by roadheader.
- **Cambie Richmond Water Supply Tunnel** – new water supply tunnel under the Fraser River between Vancouver and Richmond.
- **Haney Water Supply Tunnel – Pitt River Crossing** – 1.2 km long tunnel under the Pitt River between Port Coquitlam and Maple Ridge to house a 2.4 m diameter steel water main.
- **Lulu Island Delta Main Fraser River Crossing** – Replacement of an 800 mm steel pipe along the bottom of the Fraser River between the City of Richmond and the City of Delta.



Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel



Technical Tours

7 → Technical Tours



Underground city in numbers

9 hotels connected
33 km of tunnels
25 indoor parking
190 exterior access
2,000 commerces
500,000 people/day



Visit

Underground City

RÉSO, commonly referred to as the Underground City (*French: La ville souterraine*), is the name applied to a series of interconnected office towers, hotels, shopping centres, residential and commercial complexes, convention halls, universities and performing arts venues that form the heart of Montréal's central business district, colloquially referred to as Downtown Montréal. The name refers to the underground connections between the buildings that compose the network, in addition to the network's complete integration with the city's entirely underground rapid transit system, the Montréal Metro. Moreover, the first iteration of the Underground City was developed out of the open pit at the southern entrance to the Mount Royal Tunnel, where Place Ville Marie and Central Station stand today. Though most of the connecting tunnels pass underground, many of the key passageways and principal access points are located at ground level, and there is also one skybridge.



In this regard, the Underground City is more of an indoor city (*ville intérieure*) than a truly subterranean city, although there are vast commercial sectors located entirely underground.

The network is particularly useful during Montréal's long winters, during which time well over half a million people are estimated to use it every day. The network is largely climate controlled and well-lit, and is arranged in a U-shape with two principal north–south axes connected by an east–west axis. Combined, there are 32 kilometres (20 mi) of tunnels over 12 square kilometres (4.6 sq mi) of the most densely populated part of Montréal. In total, there are more than 120 exterior access points to the network, not including the sixty or so Metro station entrances located outside the official limits of the RÉSO, some of which have their own smaller tunnel networks. Some of the city's larger institutions, namely McGill University, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, Concordia University and the Université de Montréal, also have campus tunnel networks separate from the Underground City.



Visit

REM rapid transit system

The REM (*Réseau express métropolitain*) is a new rapid transit metro system that will span 26 stations, 67 km, and criss-cross the Greater Montréal Area. The first departures are slated for 2023, with the rest of the network expected to gradually become operational in 2023–2024.



Visit

REM de l'est (future project)

In addition to the REM, the proposed light metro system will have 32 km of track and serve 23 new stations, providing fast and comfortable transit options that link city residents with boroughs in the east end of Montréal.



Visit

New McGill station

In construction since fall 2018, the McGill station will provide a historic connection across the Mont-Royal Mountain and to the university poles. Ultimately, McGill Station will be one of the busiest stations in the REM.



Visit

Montréal's Metro Blue Line extension (future project)

- A major project with 5 new universally accessible subway stations;
- A tunnel of approximately 6 km in length; 2 bus terminals;
- 1 underground pedestrian tunnel linking with the future Pie-IX BRT;
- Several equipment and operational infrastructures;
- Seven auxiliary structures containing equipment required for operations; a district station; a service center for infrastructure maintenance; a metro garage.



8

Social Functions

Rooftop Terrace, Palais des congrès de Montréal

8 → Proposed venues

→ Montréal offers a variety of fabulous venues for social functions.

If restrictions require, everything to be held under one roof, beautiful reception rooms are also available at the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

Off-Site

President's Reception



Marché Bonsecours

An elegant heritage building in an exceptional location. Marché Bonsecours, with its superb view of the St. Lawrence River, the Old Port and some of Old Montréal's most striking historical treasures, is considered one of the ten finest heritage buildings in Canada. Its multipurpose reception halls with outstanding cachet can handle groups of 100 to 975 guests.

On-Site Palais



725

The Palais Terrace totals 11,727 sq. ft. (1,089 m²) and can host 360 people. It includes a Marquee and Reception area and gives a view of the illuminated Jacques-Cartier Bridge.

Welcome Reception



Windsor Station – *Salle des pas perdus*

Inaugurated in 1889, this iconic Montréal building has retained its beauty over the years. With more than 25,000 sq.ft. of open sky-lit interior and adjacent courtyard and terrace space outdoors, it is one of Montréal's few reception venues that can accommodate over 2,500 guests.



710

1,849 m² (19,975 sq. ft.) ballroom often used for banquets and can accommodate up to 1,200 persons. Room 710 has a Belvedere overlooking downtown Montréal.

Gala Dinner



Port of Montréal's Grand Quay

If you seek a unique reception venue located in the heart of Old Montréal and right on the majestic St. Lawrence River, the Port of Montréal's Grand Quay is at your disposal. It offers a range of spaces that combine multipurpose rooms, terraces, outdoor spaces, greenery and a promenade, suitable for all types of events.



710

1,849 m² (19,975 sq. ft.) ballroom often used for banquets and can accommodate up to 1,200 persons. Room 710 has a Belvedere overlooking downtown Montréal.



Accommodations

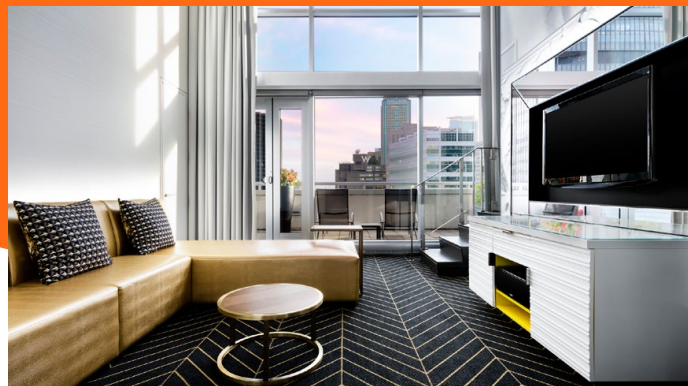
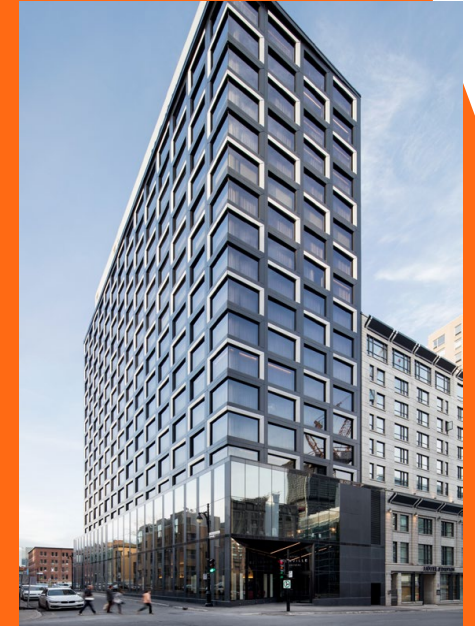
9 → Accommodations

A land of plenty

They come in all types and sizes. Luxury hotels, boutique hotels, inns, B&Bs, university residences...

All in all, Montréal offers a full variety of accommodations to suit the needs and tastes of delegates from the world over.

- 4,000 rooms linked to the Palais
- 16,000 rooms in downtown Montréal
- 25,000 rooms in the city



Top left → Hôtel William-Gray.

© Alexi Hobbs. **Top right** → Hôtel Monville.

Bottom right → Sofitel Montréal Golden Mile.

Bottom left → W Montréal.

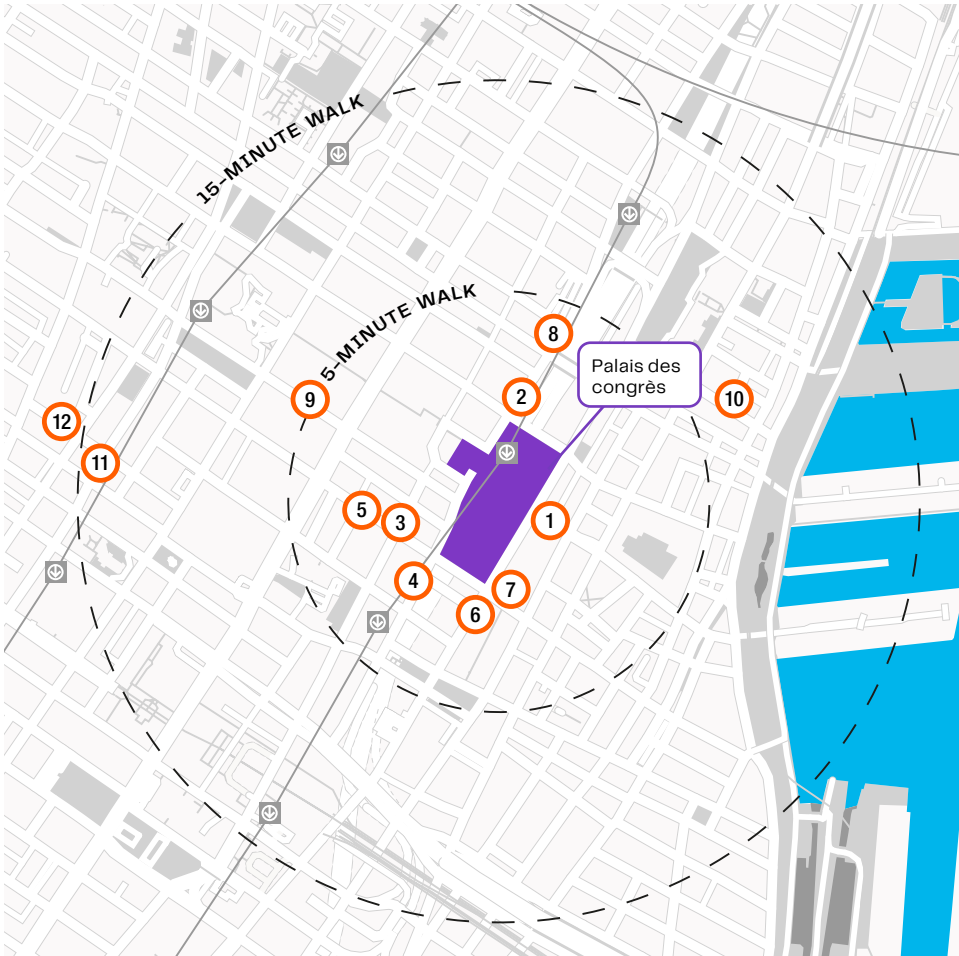
Accommodations

Over 16,000 rooms located downtown Montréal and 4,000 rooms linked via the Underground Pedestrian Network to the Palais des congrès.

MORE THAN 1,800 SECURED HOTEL ROOMS FOR A CONFIRMED 2026 RATE STARTING AT

→ Standard business hotels starting at €145* / Can\$196

*For information purposes only.



→ View the full summary chart

		Walking distance	Star Rating Equivalent**
Hotel Presently Reserved			
1	Embassy Suites par Hilton Montréal	1 min	4
2	Holiday Inn Montréal Centre-Ville	1 min	3
3	Hôtel Dauphin Montréal Centre-ville	1 min	3
4	Humaniti Montréal	1 min	4
5	Hôtel Monville	2 min	4
6	InterContinental Montréal***	1 min	4
7	Le Westin Montréal***	1 min	4
8	Hampton Inn by Hilton Montréal Downtown	4 min	3
9	DoubleTree by Hilton Montréal***	5 min	4
10	SpringHill Suites by Marriott Old Montréal	7 min	3
11	Delta Hotels by Marriott Montréal***	13 min	4
	Hilton Garden Inn & Homewood Suites Montréal Midtown	-	4
University Residences		Walking distance	
12	La Citadelle Residence - McGill University	16 min	

**Since September 2022, the government classification of hotels by a star system has been abolished. To meet the modern standards of the hotel industry, the stars give way to the ratings given by the consumers. Customer satisfaction becomes the new benchmark!

***Linked directly to the Palais via the Underground Pedestrian Network.

→ The multi-dimensional underground space
Ottawa © Giuseppe M. Gaspari

10 TAC Hosting WTC in Canada

10.1 → Impact on the Markets and How it Fits with the ITA's Strategy

Canada is at a turning point; most of its infrastructure was built more than 50 years ago and is aging. There are major rehabilitation works needed and many are ongoing all across the country. Moreover, strong growth has brought the need for new sustainable infrastructure to connect communities, so the construction market is booming. In the context of workforce and general supply shortages, the local, national and regional markets will greatly benefit by meeting international owners, consultants, contractors and providers.

Dating back to the 1880's when the first Canadian tunnels were built, Canada has developed a very strong tradition in tunnelling, especially for the mining, transportation and hydroelectrical industries. The amount of information, knowledge and connections available provided by such a conference, would be very beneficial for the Canadian tunnelling community, but also for all ITA members and delegates.

Held in Montréal, the WTC would greatly benefit the young engineering and universities community by sharing and learning the tunnelling challenges around the world. Also, the WTC would enable engineers and researchers to increase their expertise by facilitating connections between industry players and encouraging good practice, sustainable tunnel design focusing on mobility and the general well-being of the population.

10.2 → Confirmation and Compliance with ITA Statutes and By-Laws

The Tunnelling Association of Canada hereby confirms that the application for the organization of WTC 2026 and the 52nd General Assembly has been prepared in line with the requirements of ITA-AITES Statutes and By-Laws including Appendix 1 of the By-Laws. Dr. André Rancourt, chair of the National Organizing Committee gives formal acceptance of Chapter V of the By-Laws and confirms that WTC 2026 and the General Assembly will be organized in accordance with these same By-Laws and Statutes.

10.3 → Estimated local/national participation

The Tunnelling Association of Canada holds its annual meeting with more than 400 participants each year and if Canada is selected to host WTC2026, TAC would be honored to do a joint meeting that would then guarantee the presence of its members. We can also count on other Canadian societies who would be interested in offering some of their members access to a very high level program with WTC2026:

- The Canadian Geotechnical Society (1,400 members)
- The Canadian Dam Association (1,000 members)
- The Canadian Chapter of the North American Society for Trenchless Technology (500 members)
- The Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy and Petroleum (10,000 members)

TAC enjoys the strong support of numerous corporate sponsors, whom we can count on to attend, sponsor and exhibit:



10.4 → Index

Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

1. Requirements

- 1.1. Proposed City Location [See p.33 for details](#)
- 1.2. Congress Facilities [See p.22 for details](#)
- 1.3. Other information
 - 1.3.1. Theme of the Congress [See p.11 for details](#)
 - 1.3.2. Draft program with dates [See p.18 for details](#)
 - 1.3.3. Local WTC Participation [See p.73 for details](#)
 - 1.3.4. Tunnelling and underground space in Member Nation/Region [See p.4 & 57 for details](#)
 - 1.3.5. Confirm compliance with ITA Statutes and By-Laws [See p.72 for details](#)
 - 1.3.6. WTC impact and how it fits the ITA strategy [See p.72 for details](#)

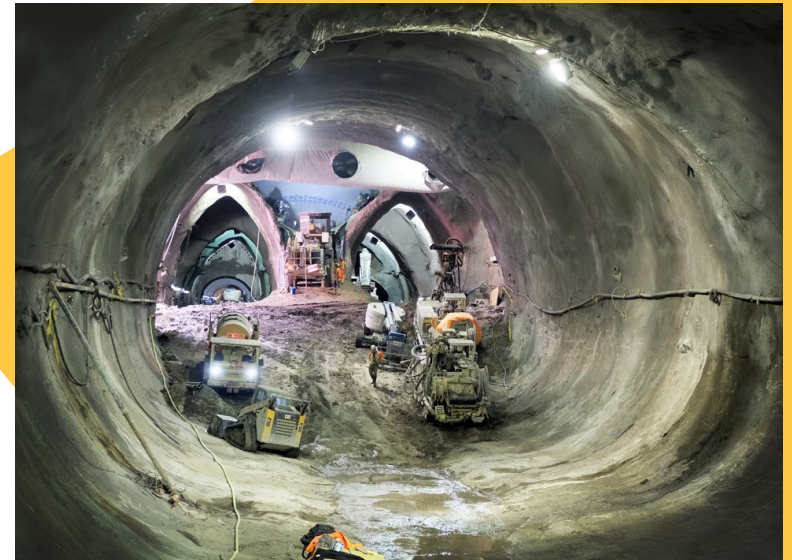
- 2.1.4. Consider providing shuttle service to and from the venue if the hotels are far away or if walking conditions are potentially unsafe. **Not needed, all the rooms reserved are within walking distance in a safe city.**
- 2.1.5. Provide written confirmation that the necessary hotel accommodation blocks are available. [See the hotel summary chart for the reserved blocks.](#)

2. Evaluation Criteria

- 2.1. Hotel Accommodations
 - 2.1.1. Hotels should be of sufficient size and proximity to the Congress venue to accommodate the total number of anticipated attendees. **A variety of hotel rooms has been reserved for WTC 2026. [See p. 70 for details.](#)**
 - 2.1.2. At least 75% of the required hotel rooms shall be located within 15 to 30 minutes' travel time from the venue. **Agreed**
 - 2.1.3. At least 50% of the required hotel rooms shall be located within 15 minutes' travel time from the venue. **Agreed**

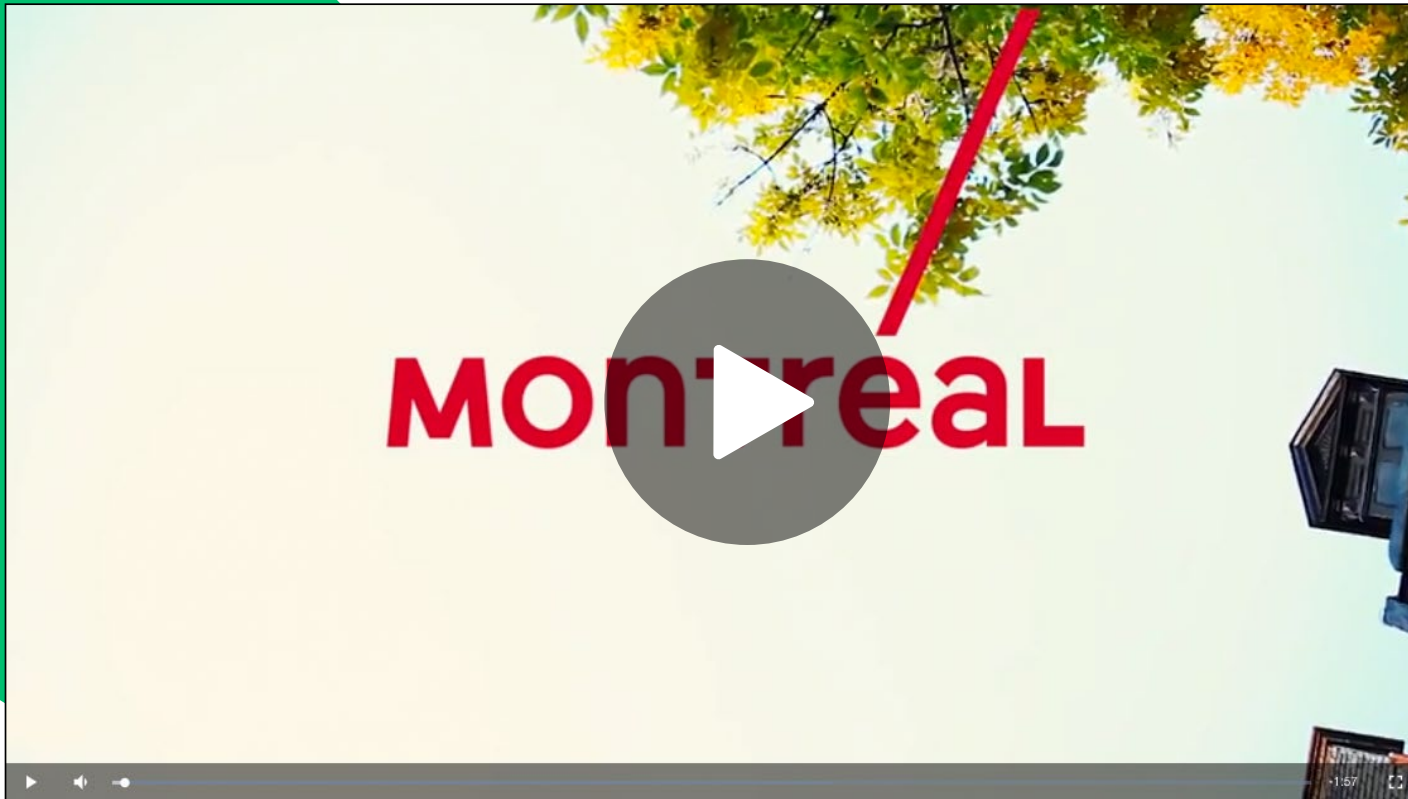
Index – Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

- 2.2. Host's Tunnelling Industry Attributes and Technical Program
 - 2.2.1. Opportunities for technical and cultural exchange
[See p.64 for details](#)
 - 2.2.2. Examples of outstanding tunnelling or underground projects or heritage accessible to Congress delegates.
[See p.58 for details](#)
 - 2.2.3. Examples of sustainable infrastructure, underground or otherwise. [See p.58 for details](#)
 - 2.2.4. Strength and attributes of the Technical Program.
[See p.64 for details](#)
 - 2.2.5. Unique benefits of the Host city will be reflected in the Congress activities (e.g. keynote addresses, panel discussions)
[See p.11 & 64 for details](#)
- 2.3. Quality of Host City Infrastructure
 - 2.3.1. Size/Quality of airport [See p.36 for details](#)
 - 2.3.2. Travel to/from the airport – **The Palais des congrès de Montréal (convention centre) is located 20 minutes away from the airport.**
 - 2.3.3. Ease of Access between hotels and Congress Venue – **All the rooms reserved are within walking distance in a safe city.**
 - 2.3.4. Transportation within the city – **In Montréal, we have the subway (metro), buses, trains, a bike-sharing system and an underground pedestrian network.**
- 2.4. Organizational [See p.12 & 13 for details](#)
- 2.5. Hosting History [See p.9 for details](#)



→ Laird Station SEM Excavation

Let's connect in Montréal!



Tunnelling Association
of Canada
Association canadienne
des tunnels



Palais des congrès
de Montréal