

SETTING THE GROUND FOR A BETTER TOMORROW, BROMONT IN 2030!

The City of Bromont is launching a major undertaking: a community-wide sustainable development plan that will be based on an extensive public consultation. Sustainable development in our community doesn't concern only municipal officials, but each and every one of us. All of the stakeholders in our community will be called upon to make their views known to define our future. It is time to give flight to your imagination!

There are expressions that are often used, but may be particularly difficult to explain with some degree of precision. "Sustainable Development" is one of these. The definition that is used most often, taken from the Brundtland Report published by the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development is: "development which responds to the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to respond to theirs".

The City of Bromont has decided to take its inspiration from a process that has been recognized world-wide as a guide toward the implementation of a community based sustainable development plan. The process was adopted by a number of municipalities in North America, notably by Whistler-Blackcomb in British Columbia. It is called "The Natural Step". You might wish to consult their web site: www.thenaturalstep.org/canada.

We have undertaken our own version of this plan with a view to establishing a community-wide sustainable development plan. Our objective is to improve our quality of life and ensure that this same quality of life will be available to all who will choose to live in Bromont now or in the future.

As proposed in "The Natural Step" process, the City of Bromont hopes to capture a common vision that will define the objectives and establish action steps which, in the short, medium and long term, will influence our future. To achieve this objective, citizens working in focus groups will examine a number of themes and will identify, with the help of experts, the action steps that are to be implemented. To measure our progress over time, and to revise our plan periodically as required, we will establish performance indicators in the environmental, social and economic areas. The action plan resulting from this citizen consultation will then serve as a framework for the city administration and will become the platform which will encourage residents, business people, entrepreneurs and even visitors to join into the sustainable development of our community.

The idea of a sustainable development programme is not new: the previous council had initiated such a plan and the new council took up the idea. With a grant of \$125,000.00 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Fund and council's undertaking to invest a similar amount in the project, Bromont is once again assuming a leadership role in this area. For this plan to produce the expected results, everyone must endorse the choices of investments that will be made, the changes that will occur and the balance that must be achieved between present and future needs.

This is an invitation to all Bromonters to take an active part in the process!



Pauline Quinlan
Mayor of Bromont