



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A turning point for high speed Internet access in Argenteuil

Lachute, June 27, 2019 – The MRC d'Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil are joining forces to announce that a turning point has been reached in the quest to bring high speed Internet access to the region's rural areas. May 15 saw the constitutive general meeting of Fibre Argenteuil Inc., a non-profit organization (NPO) whose mission is to facilitate, supply and maintain telecommunications services for as many households as possible. Fibre Argenteuil Inc., which was legally registered on February 8, 2018, was created out of the political will of the MRC d'Argenteuil. Its Board of Directors is composed of seven professionals with complementary expertise from the Argenteuil region and neighbouring areas, including two elected municipal officials appointed by the MRC council:

- Benoît St-Jacques, President (expertise in accounting and finance)
- Deny Ouellette, Vice President (expertise in human resources)
- Stéphane Jourdain, Secretary-Treasurer (expertise in wired telecommunications, software integration and customer service)
- Pascal Comeau (expertise in business law)
- Jacques Nantel (expertise in marketing and commercialization)
- Danielle Parent (elected municipal official, expertise in project management and software solutions implementation)
- Denis Fillion (elected municipal official, expertise in project management and business development)

It may be recalled that, after months of intensive work by the MRC d'Argenteuil's professional team to prepare and submit funding applications, the governments of Canada and Québec jointly announced, on November 27, 2017, a total of \$9.3 M in funding for the deployment of a Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project with the potential to reach 4,250 residences, mainly located in the northern section of the MRC. This funding, which comes from the Government of Canada's *Connect to Innovate* program and the Québec government's *Québec branché* program, will substantially contribute to the realization of this project estimated at \$16 M. The difference of \$6.7 M will be borne by the MRC and the local communities, an investment that will be used, among other things, to ensure the launch of Fibre Argenteuil and to offer telephone and television services to future subscribers.

Considered to be one of the key issues of its 2013-2017 Strategic Plan, the MRC is proud and extremely satisfied with the high quality of the administrators who make up Fibre Argenteuil Inc.: “The MRC is very enthusiastic about working closely with these highly competent individuals and is confident that they will be able to fulfil the mission and objectives and successfully administer the operation of the MRC’s fibre optics network,” affirmed Scott Pearce, warden of the MRC d’Argenteuil.

In addition to offering services that are competitive with other telecommunication providers, Fibre Argenteuil wishes to stand out through its close relationship with the community: “We want the public to develop a sense of belonging to the organization and, ultimately, for Fibre Argenteuil to be synonymous with pride and regional solidarity,” said Fibre Argenteuil President Benoît St-Jacques.

It goes without saying that Fibre Argenteuil will be based in Lachute and will create specialized jobs in addition to promoting economic and social development within Argenteuil. In the upcoming months, Fibre Argenteuil will hire a general manager, start building its website and choose premises to house its professional staff.

The MRC d’Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil will take up the challenge together by working in concert to make this structuring project into a great collective success and a source of pride for the people of Argenteuil.

Under the terms of the government funding programs, the MRC and Fibre Argenteuil have until March 31, 2021 to provide high-speed Internet to the 4,250 residences targeted by the deployment project.

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Source: MRC d’Argenteuil and Fibre Argenteuil

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