



newcities

# Roundtable Series 2018

Investing in Montréal's Future:  
The Impact of Startups, Advanced  
Technology, and Entrepreneurship on  
the City

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As investment and the presence and proliferation of both local and international startups and advanced research centers continue to grow in Montréal, local organizations and leaders across industries must be well prepared and actively involved in the changes to come. To kickstart this important conversation, NewCities will host a series of three roundtables on the ongoing impacts, future challenges and opportunities of Montréal's transformation into a startup hub and driver of new technology.

Through an interdisciplinary gathering of leading actors in the City, the collaborative discussions will engage with key questions facing Montréal and will aim to understand and develop strategies at the 'city scale' for what's to come.

**Who:** Smart city stakeholders, business community investors, accelerators/incubators, tech companies (startups as well as large companies), university research groups, real estate developers, designers, city planners, civil society leaders, and policymakers.

## Roundtable 1: The City as an Incubator

**When:** Tuesday, January 23

**Where:** MT Lab, 141, Président-Kennedy Avenue, 7th floor, Office SB-7250, Montréal (Québec) H2X 1Y4

**The event will be held in French**

Can Montréal become the global model for the incubation of innovations at the city scale? How can the City of Montréal promote productive relationships between entrepreneurs and the community? What are the steps for implementing a truly city-led network of support? What does Montréal have to gain?

*This discussion will explore how Montréal can best promote productive partnerships between startups, local communities, business, government and the tertiary in order to nurture more successful innovations. By taking a close look at the very definition of an incubator and its core concepts, these roundtables will help us collectively understand what resources need to be provided and shared, and how diverse actors across the city can mobilize the resources and investment needed for Montréal to become – in practice – a large-scale incubator.*

9:00 – 9:05am

## Welcome by NewCities

Sébastien Turbot, Executive Director, NewCities

9:05 – 9:15am

## Opening remarks

Benoît Bazoge, Dean, ESG UQAM

9:15 – 10:00am

## Panel – Defining the City as an Incubator

In the past years, Montréal has emerged as a startup and innovation hub. The establishment of a diverse set of incubators in the city is a testimony to Montréal's favorable climate of growth and experimentation. But to further promote innovation, can we conceive the city itself as a large-scale incubator? What are the characteristics of a 'city-scale incubator'? How would Montréal benefit from this undertaking? What major changes do we need to see in the mindset of the City and its citizens? What are the building blocks of this network of innovation?

10:00 – 10:45am

## Roundtable discussion: Incubation in Practice

Promoting the flow of information, the exchange of expertise, and encouraging collaboration between diverse actors are essential strategies of a successful incubator. This discussion will explore how this can be achieved in practice, at a city level. What do organizations require from one another? Is there a way for the City to foster these exchanges? What new physical, digital and intellectual infrastructures are required, and whose responsibility is it to create and integrate them across sectors?

10:45 – 11am

## Recap

*Exchange of views on the key recommendations that emerged from the roundtable discussion.*

11 – 11:15am

## Break

11:15 – 12pm

## Roundtable discussion: New Approaches to Funding

To deliver on recommended strategies for fostering innovation across the City, it is crucial to get the funding equation right. With no existing blueprint to finance such a project, how do we capture the risks and opportunities involved? What new actors, partnerships and financial tools are needed to make this project a reality? What are the risks involved? Who should take the lead, and how can investments in the city-wide incubator be sustainable in the long term? How do we measure the success of these investments?

12 – 12:15pm

## Recap

*Exchange of views on the key recommendations that emerged from the roundtable discussion.*

12:15 – 12:30pm

## Conclusion and next steps

*Summary of discussions and identification of actionable steps for helping Montréal become a 'city as an incubator'.*

## Roundtable 2: Artificial Intelligence and the City

How will Montréal's leadership in artificial intelligence, machine learning and urban tech create new opportunities, services and types of growth in the City?

*This roundtable will explore the potential effects of new technologies, services, and products developed and promoted by Montréal's burgeoning research and startup scene – especially as a world-leading hub for artificial intelligence and machine learning research. Together, participants will contribute to a broader understanding and develop key considerations for how this influx of research and entrepreneurship in Montréal can impact the City's plans moving forward, development and service provision in Montréal's neighborhoods, and how this can inform other industries and cities worldwide.*

## Roundtable 3: Defining the Future of Urban Mobility

What combination of leadership, technology, entrepreneurship and support will strengthen Montréal's lead on sustainable urban transportation?

*The third roundtable will examine the current ecosystem of actors that are developing innovative aspects of the urban mobility industry that will define the future for Montréal and cities worldwide. As Montréal seeks to lead the charge on the electrification of transportation, the deployment of shared and connected mobility, and embrace of sustainable and active transportation networks, how can entrepreneurs, businesses, civil society, and government alike ensure this momentum builds, and that Montréal's streets continue to test and embrace these new facets of urban living?*

