



## Opposition PSC party announces first six candidates

**Mayoral aspirant Bordeleau aims at Vaillancourt's environment record**

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**Photo: Martin C. Barry**

**From the left, the six candidates for the Parti au Service du Citoyen are Vladimir Létang, Sophie Hébert, André Dagenais, Daniela Caputo, Noémia Onofre de Lima and Jose Onofre**

The Parti au Service du Citoyen, a fledgling Laval municipal party which hopes to capitalize on potential voter discontent with the city's long-serving mayor, Gilles Vaillancourt, to win seats in next year's election, has announced its first six candidates. Vladimir Létang, a native of Port-au-Prince in Haiti and a resident of Laval since 1989, is running in St-François district. Sophie Hébert, a mother of two with a background in financial management, is running in Fabreville.

### Six candidates

André Dagenais, a St-Jerôme native with a background in computer technology, is running in Marc-Aurèle-Fortin. Daniela Caputo, the vice-president of the Laval chapter of the Quebec Businesswomen's Network, is running in Vimont. Noémia Onofre de Lima, a businesswoman with a background in warehousing, is running in Saint-Martin. And Jose Onofre, a businessman and well-known figure in Laval's Portuguese community, is running in Renaud. Robert Bordeleau, the party's leader who hopes to become Laval's next mayor, has been a consultant in international trade for the past 18 years. Prior to that, he served as vice-president for sales, marketing and public relations for the Montreal Marathon, which at the time was the 15th largest running event in the world. He says he created the PSC "to ensure a sane and transparent management and mostly to listen to the population's concerns ... The economy of a city is just as important as the welfare of its inhabitants.

### Environmental agenda

"Even if the economy of our city goes well, 80 per cent of its citizens are not happy and satisfied with their lifestyle quality, which means that only one citizen out of five has a feeling of belonging to the city he lives within. It is now time for a major clean-up. Today is the time for a deep reflection and the time to elect a new team at the head of the City of Laval." As the party's chosen colour, green, seems to imply, the PSC places strong emphasis on environmental concerns in its agenda. They have adopted "Green city, clean city" as their official slogan. Bordeleau is highly critical of the Vaillancourt administration for its alleged failure to safeguard the island of Laval's many ecologically-sensitive areas. Bordeleau claims that since 1989, Laval has lost about 30 per cent its wetlands to urban development. "Let's admit up front that Laval is an island that is being ransacked year after year by builders, developers and promoters of all kinds, who have only one purpose, only one goal: to make the most money possible to the detriment of our well-being, of our nature," he says.

### Islands' future questioned

"And what's worse is that they're doing it with the complicity of the current municipal administration." Bordeleau takes particular exception to the Vaillancourt administration's treatment of a series of islands in the Rivière-des-Mille-Îles just north of Laval — St-Joseph, Aux-Vaches and St-Pierre — whose future, as nature preserves or as residential developments, remains uncertain. "The current mayor says he is concerned more than ever by the big problems with which our planet is faced, notably climactic change, the increase in greenhouse gases, poverty and exclusion," Bordeleau says. He is pledging to raise the percentage of natural area Laval protects to 9 per cent, based on the Kyoto Protocol, compared to barely 0.5 per cent, which he claims is where it currently stands.