



NORTH & EAST

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The Suburban

VOTED BEST OVERALL NEWSPAPER BY QCNA FOR 2011 & 2012



QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



1ST PLACE WINNER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SNA'S NORTH AMERICAN AWARDS.

SUBURBAN EXCLUSIVE

Abdallah reveals that 2004 executive committee was fully briefed

Former Director General wants record set straight

By Beryl Wajzman, Editor
The Suburban

Any public commission like Charbonneau will, by its very nature, be a two-edged sword. On the one hand it will bring out some important information that exposes wrongdoing. On the other, it can become a stage for hearsay and sensationalism that produces guilt by association and assassination by insinuation. Robert Abdallah Director General of Montreal from 2003-2006 concedes that the original intentions of the Charbonneau Commission were good but "shudders" at the amount of hearsay upon hearsay testimony and how witnesses contradict each other without restraint of legal

See ABDALLAH, page 3



Robert Abdallah



St. François councillor Jacques St. Jean



St. Martin councillor Alexandre Duplessis

Councillors vie to succeed Laval mayor

By Robert Frank
The Suburban

Laval city council is expected to vote this week to choose an interim mayor to replace Gilles Vaillancourt, who resigned two weeks ago, after serving more than 39 years in a succession of public offices.

In the meantime, all elected councillors resigned this week from the mayor's political party, which will likely be dissolved.

Two members have thrown their hat in the ring to become mayor: St. Martin councillor Alexandre Duplessis and St. François councillor Jacques St. Jean.

St. Jean chairs the city's urban planning and agricultural advisory committees, and is a member of its accessibility

joint advisory committee.

Duplessis is associate councillor on Laval's executive committee, responsible for the city's youth, immigration, cultural communities, sports and recreation and public service files.

Whichever contender wins the contest to become interim mayor will serve until just under a year from now, when Laval citizens next go to the polls to elect a new municipal administration in November 2013.

This week's council election will take place under a cloud, whilst the city remains under siege on several fronts at once, hobbling its ability to conduct day-to-day municipal business.

The municipal administration has been granted participant status at the

Charbonneau commission looking into accusations of construction-industry corruption; the Quebec government has appointed two special auditors to "accompany" city officials during the coming year; and, as this week's edition of *The Suburban* went to press, the Sûreté du Québec's anti-corruption unit was executing yet another in its series of search warrants that have seen it swoop down on a long string of Laval homes, offices, financial institutions and city hall.

Executive committee vice-chairman Basile Angelopoulos told reporters at a news conference that the special auditors' presence could pose a problem, because the province has not clearly defined their powers. ■

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