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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST TRASH YALE REPORT AS QUEBEC DID WITH THE PAYETTE PLAN...A12

CITY EDITION

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

The Suburban

QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



NOBERTO JR. MANDIN PHOTO

From left, Alain Babineau of the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR); Abdelaziz Rzik, vice president and founding member of the Muslim Association of Montreal North; and Abdelhaq Sari, vice-chair of Montreal's public safety commission.

Opposition and community groups demand implementation of body cams at SPVM

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

The Ensemble Montréal, city hall's official opposition, and local community groups are calling for the "rapid deployment" of body cams on SPVM police officers, as part of the groups' efforts to combat police racial profiling.

The motion will be debated at the Feb. 24 Montreal council meeting.

A year ago, the Plante administration rejected the idea of body cams. The Mayor said at the time that they would be too costly.

"With regard to racial profiling, in the past

year, there's been no improvement — on the contrary, things have gotten worse," said Abdelhaq Sari, Ensemble Montréal's spokesperson for public safety. "Last October, a report on police stop-and-checks revealed that indigenous and black people are between four and five times more likely than whites to be stopped by SPVM officers. As for people of Arab origin, they are on average twice as likely to be stopped as a white person."

Marvin Rotrand, the independent councillor for Snowdon and dean of city council, said that "for years, the SPVM has been insisting that it takes racial profiling issues seriously

with its action plans, policies and employee training.

"There's been lots of lip service, but very little concrete action," he added. "Last year, it had an opportunity to act by recommending the adoption of body-worn cameras after completing the pilot project. But it refused, claiming the costs were too high. That's truly regrettable."

Rotrand also said a new report indicates that the SPVM "improperly assessed the costs

See BODY CAMS, page A8

Westmount adopts IHRA anti-Semitism definition on Holocaust Remembrance day

By P.A. Sevigny
The Suburban

During last week's regular city council meeting, Westmount's city council voted to accept Councillor Mary Gallery's motion that the city adopt the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of anti-Semitism. As opposed to last week's surprising and painful moment when City Opposition leader Lionel Perez chose to withdraw a similar motion after Montreal's Mayor Plante said that she believes the issue required "more examination in committee," the Westmount motion said that the city is "dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism and discrimination in all of its forms."

As opposed to the fact that Plante's hesitation may have cost her hundreds, if not thousands of votes during next year's civic

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