



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

---

1st SESSION • 42nd PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 150 • NUMBER 142

---

## **CITY OF MONTREAL**

### **THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**

Statement by:

The Honourable Diane Bellemare

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

## THE SENATE

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

[Translation]

### CITY OF MONTREAL

#### THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

**Hon. Diane Bellemare (Legislative Deputy to the Government Representative in the Senate):** Honourable senators, in the spring of 1642, explorers came ashore at a place that for many years throughout its history would be the largest city in Canada, the largest community of francophones in the America and, I firmly believe, one of the most magnificent cities in the world.

[English]

You will know by now that I'm talking about the three hundred and seventy fifth anniversary of the city that makes me so proud: Montreal, my hometown where I still live, the city where I've seen such tremendous change over the years.

[Translation]

Montreal has its own unique culture, a vibrant and lively culture, initially shaped by France and later enriched by some elements of our British heritage. These days, however, its culture is above all open and inclusive to all communities. Just think of Montreal's Jewish community, its Italians, Latin-Americans, and those who immigrated from China, Vietnam and Eastern Europe. There is also the Haitian community and people from the Maghreb, along with everyone else from all four corners of the globe who have decided to settle on the Island of Montreal. Together they have shaped a city that is open to the world, dynamic and innovative. This diversity is showcased every day in school yards, arenas and soccer fields, just to name a few places where I have spent time with my boys.

Montreal is also synonymous with Mount Royal, the Port, Expo 67, the 1976 Summer Olympics and its famous stadium, the Canadian Grand Prix, the Montreal International Jazz Festival, Cirque du Soleil, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, its major universities, St. Joseph's Oratory, its museums, its restaurants and world-renowned chefs, and last but certainly not least, the Montreal Canadiens!

The city boasts a diversified and creative economy that is known for its vitality in such industries as aerospace, information technology, pharmaceuticals, film, arts and culture, to name a few.

This year, Montrealers have a lot to celebrate, and those who are fortunate enough to know this city and its people know that Montrealers like to party. The city's 375th anniversary celebrations include more than 175 events large and small that have been held since January throughout the entire city. Events for every taste, age, and interest are, for the most part, free of charge.

Marking three hundred and seventy-five years of history deserves to be celebrated, especially since for many Quebecers like me, it is also an opportunity to celebrate the arrival of our first ancestors. In my case, we can trace the settlement of one Étienne Gélinas to Pointe-aux-Trembles, geographically located at the eastern tip of Montreal, in my senatorial district. Étienne Gélinas was born in Saintes, France, in 1624, and his descendants would bear the name Bellemare in the early 18th century.

I invite you to come celebrate with us in Montreal. The festivities will continue all fall until the end of December. Thank you.