**De:** Royal Victoria Hospital Adaptive Reuse Project <royalvictoria@sqi.gouv.qc.ca>
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**Objet:** Former Royal Victoria Hospital site : Archaeological investigation underway

Société québécoise des infrastructures Québec

**Royal Victoria Hospital Adaptive Reuse Project**

This newsletter from Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) shares information with the Montréal community and stakeholders on our progress in repurposing the former Royal Victoria Hospital site.

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## Archaeological investigation underway

Further to the cooperation agreement with the Kanien'kehá:ka kahnistensera, hereinafter the Mohawk Mothers (see April 25 newsletter), SQI is continuing its archaeological investigation on the former Royal Victoria Hospital site. These digs using investigative techniques recommended by a panel of three independent archaeologists aim to shed light on potential unmarked burials on the site prior to the start of construction.

In the first stage of the investigation, launched in June, detection dogs identified an area of interest. Archaeologists then began manual searches in that area. To date, no burials have been found.

The second stage of the investigation involved ground scans using ground-penetrating radar (GPR), a form of electromagnetic remote sensing, to study soil composition and structure. No high-probability areas were identified in the GPR search. However, nine (9) moderate-probability areas were identified in the soil. Archaeologists will manually check these areas.

Indigenous cultural monitors designated by the Mohawk Mothers are on hand for all work to ensure that appropriate ceremonial protocols are followed.

In accordance with the agreement, the Mohawk Mothers are regularly informed of the archaeological techniques used and may observe if they wish.

Security measures have been put in place to protect the site, with special emphasis on areas of interest. If human remains are found, the SPVM, the coroner, and Ministère de la Culture et des Communications will determine the protocols and next steps to be followed, depending on the circumstances.

SQI reiterates its desire to cooperate in shedding light on potential burial sites and will inform Indigenous communities of any discoveries.

### About the project

The site of the former Royal Victoria Hospital is very special to the city of Montréal. Clinging to the slopes of Mount Royal, the complex reflects the evolution of thought through its built environment, interiors, and general organization. Today, it is a key heritage asset that bears witness to Québec's influence through the ages.

The Government of Québec tasked Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) with revitalizing the site following the relocation of its hospital functions. SQI's vision for the site draws on the values that have driven the Royal Victoria Hospital from its inception: to advance and expand knowledge for the well-being of all citizens, whatever their origins or background, in a welcoming and inspiring public place that is respectful of its heritage and natural environment.

>> For more information, please visit the project web page (in French).

## Contact us

If you have any comments or questions about the project, please contact us at, please contact us at : royalvictoria@sqi.gouv.qc.ca

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