Objet: Latest news and upcoming steps in the former Royal Victoria Hospital adaptive reuse project.

Société québécoise des infrastructures Québec

Royal Victoria Hospital Adaptive Reuse Project.

Hello,

With this newsletter, the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI) wishes to share the latest news and upcoming steps in the former Royal Victoria Hospital adaptive reuse project.

Archaeological excavations at the Royal Victoria site

The SQI and McGill University are planning to conduct archaeological surveys to investigate the possible presence of archaeological artifacts and burials on the property.

As the project moves along, excavation work tied to the adaptive reuse will only begin once the identification and preservation of artifacts and burials have been completed and the necessary authorizations have been issued by the appropriate authorities for each area of the site.

Section 1: Hersey Pavilion Courtyard
An initial archaeological survey will be conducted in front of the Hersey Pavilion (1) starting in mid-October 2022.

The work will be carried out by the firm Arkeos, which has over 40 years of experience in the fields of archaeology and heritage. Observers designated by the Indigenous

communities concerned have been invited to be present at all times during the survey. A bioarchaeologist will also be available to provide expertise.

Preventive and protective measures will be implemented to preserve any artifact or burials that the surveys may reveal.

All of this research is coordinated with the Band Councils of the concerned communities and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC).

Section 2: Area behind the Allan Memorial Institute
A second archaeological survey will be conducted near the former hospital's swimming pool (2).

No date has been set for the start of this survey. No construction work that could affect the soil is expected to take place in this sector in the near future.

The realization of this archaeological inventory follows concerns expressed by members of the Mohawk community during consultations conducted by the Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM) in 2021.

The work will also be carried out by Arkeos. The survey methods will be specified in cooperation with the MCC and the concerned First Nations communities as part of the authorization request. No mechanical means will be used during this inventory to preserve any artifacts or burials that the excavations may reveal.

Information sessions

McGill University and SQI have invited members of the concerned Indigenous communities to information sessions on the methods used to identify and preserve any burials or artifacts that may be present at the former hospital site.

To learn more about these archaeological surveys or if your organization would like to host an information session, please contact us at: royalvictoria@sqi.gouv.qc.ca

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