

Preventing and countering the phenomenon of

s **t** **r** **e** **e** **t** **g** **a** **n** **g** **s**

The approach taken by the
Service de police
de la Ville de Montréal

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Montréal 



Presentation Outline

- ① Montréal Context
- ② SPVM Structure
- ③ A Few Statistics
- ④ Master Plan on Street Gangs
- ⑤ Integrated Approach
- ⑥ Trends
- ⑦ Main Issues
- ⑧ Criteria for Success

1 Montréal Context



■ Island of Montréal:

- Area: 496 km²
- Population: 1,850,000
- Rich multiethnic diversity (120 different communities)

■ Number of festive and cultural events: 40

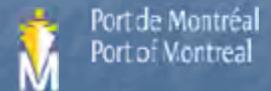
- Examples: Grand Prix, Festival international de Jazz de Montréal, Gay Pride parade

■ Visitors: more than 14,000,000 each year

■ International airport (12 million/year)



■ International port (20 million tonnes of goods/year)



■ Subway system (65 stations)



SPVM:

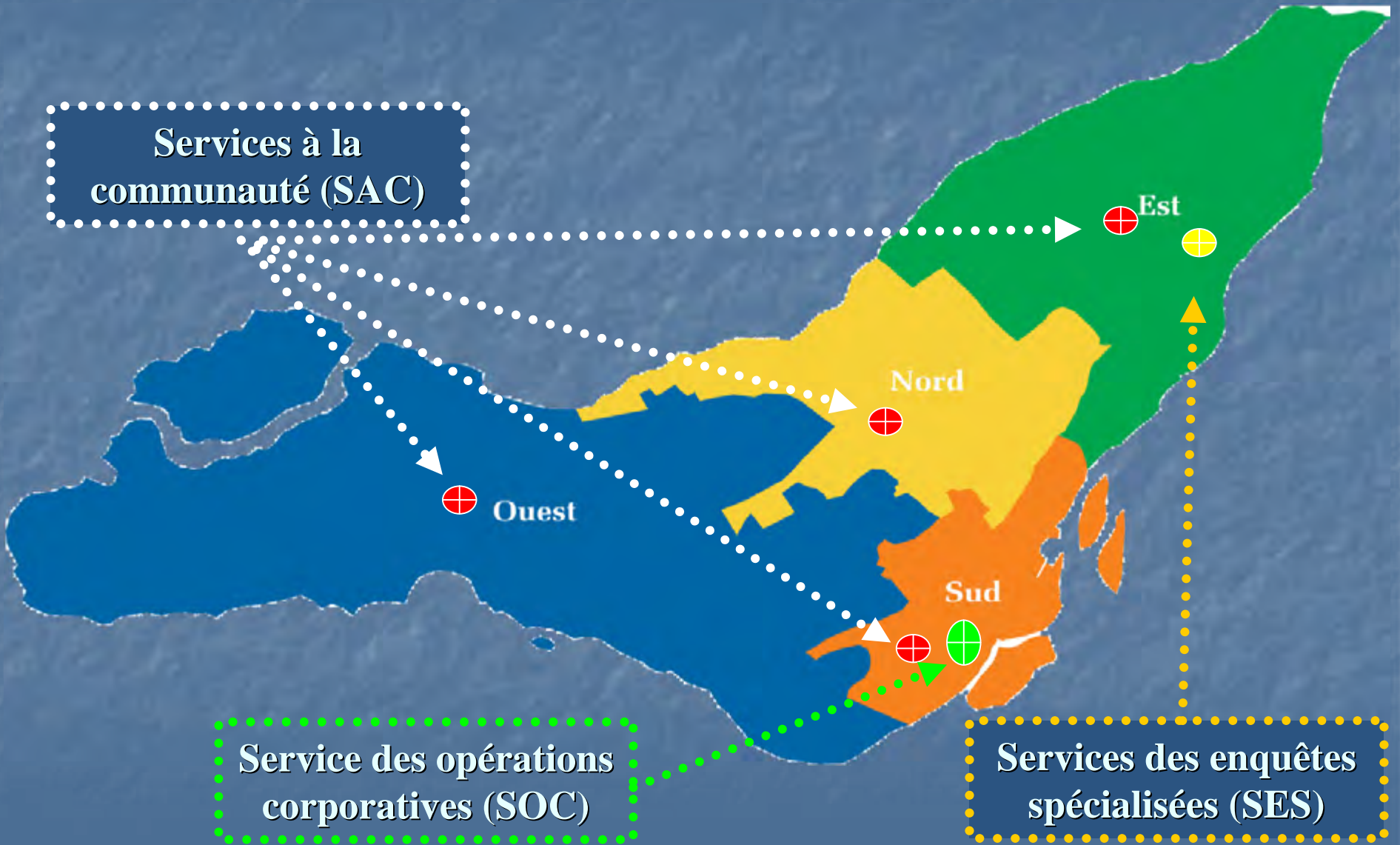
- Workforce: 4,485 police officers and 2,641 civilians
- Neighbourhood police stations: 33
- Number of crowd control events: 1,850/year



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SPVM Structure

Services à la communauté (SAC)



Service des opérations corporatives (SOC)

Services des enquêtes spécialisées (SES)

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A Few Statistics



- Montréal's crime rate is on the decline:



1997–2009

- Overall crime rate: 23%
- Crime against persons: 3%
- Crime against property: 33%

2008–2009

- Overall crime rate: 2%
- Crime against persons: 6%
- Crime against property: 0%

4 Master Plan on Street Gangs

- One vision
- Challenges
- Strategic directions
- Strategic objectives



Master Plan on Street Gangs

Vision

Be committed to preventing and fighting street gang crime

Work together with partners

Challenges

- Actual and evolving profile
- Effective and adapted intervention strategies
- Getting involved early with youth
- Gathering and sharing information

Strategic directions

1. Efficient and coherent initiatives

2. Knowledge and understanding

3. Cohesion and mobilization

Strategic objectives

1.1 Enforcement operations and interventions

1.2 Strategies for prevention

1.3 Strategies for communication

2.1 Best practices

2.2 Criminal and social information and knowledge

2.3 Assessment of initiatives

3.1 Partnerships and networks

3.2 Concerted approach

3.3 Accountability and appropriation

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SPVM's Integrated Approach

What does it look like?

Basing itself on four areas of intervention, the SPVM works to maintain a sense of security for the citizen's of the island of Montréal

Shared Responsibility

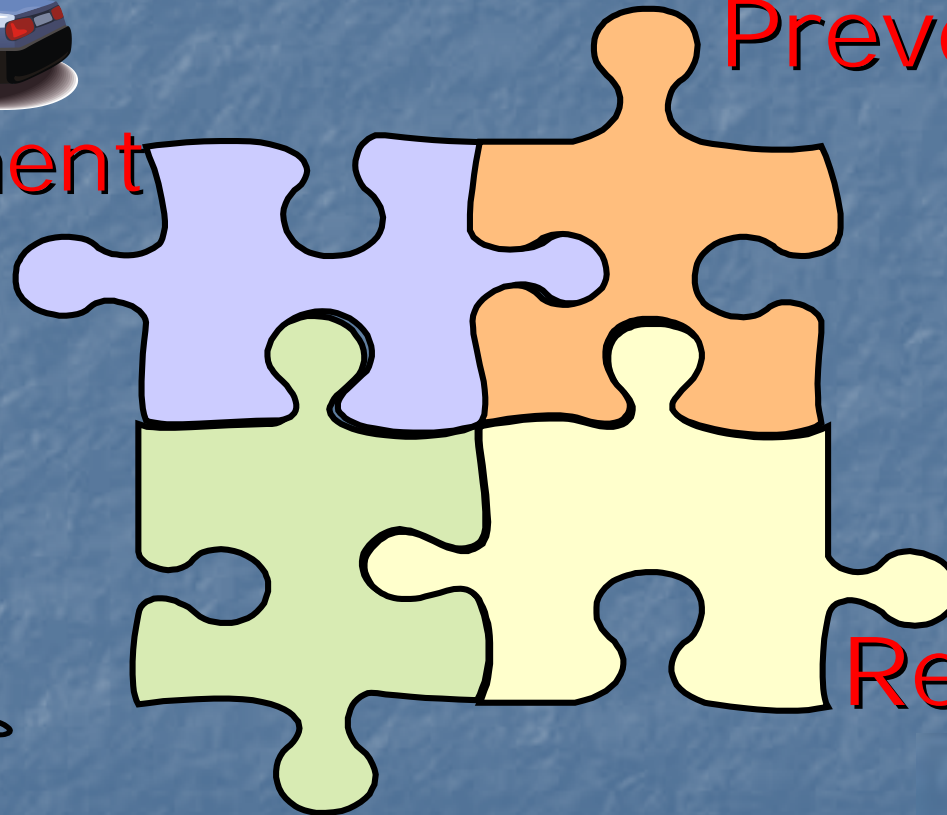
A collective approach seeking vital collaboration and vigilance of parents, family, educators and stakeholders in community and school settings; surveillance group

Four Areas of Intervention



Enforcement

Prevention



Research



Communication



Prevention

- Definition:
 - Anticipatory measure to prevent an undesirable situation or event from occurring
- Three main strategies:
 - Education
 - Development
 - Environmental design
- Targeted clientele:
 - Youth: in general and those at risk
 - Parents
 - Stakeholders: school, community, etc.
 - Local partners: school, community, etc.

Prevention

- Primary units involved:
 - Local: neighbourhood police stations
 - Regional: Section intervention jeunesse et prévention (SIJP)
 - Corporate: Section des stratégies d'action avec la communauté
- Review:
 - In 2007, more than 100,000 young people, parents and stakeholders were met.

Enforcement

- Definition:
 - Influencing individuals through restrictive measures and legal framework that calls for deterrent force.
- Main strategies:
 - Reinforcing the target
 - Visibility
 - Investigation
 - Information
- Creation of a coordination committee:
 - Ensure cohesion between various units involved and application of strategies

Communication

- Definition:
 - Increase knowledge
 - Bolster sense of security
 - Change attitudes

- Guidelines:
 - Information
 - Partnership
 - Accountability

- Two parts:
 - Information
 - Awareness



Communication

Main strategies

- Internal:
 - Keep personnel informed of the development of the phenomenon and intervention plans
 - Make best practices known

- External:
 - Raise awareness of the phenomenon and actions taken by the SPVM
 - Raise awareness of the role that everyone can play
 - Avoid sensationalizing in the media

Research

- Description:
 - This strategy includes all activities and scientific work that create better understanding and intervention in the street gang phenomenon.
- Two parts:
 - Assessment by local, regional or corporate project
 - Development of knowledge

Research

- Three time points of assessment for each project:
 - Pre-project diagnosis/reading the environment
 - Assessment of the operation
 - Assessment of the impact
- Development of knowledge:
 - Knowledge of networks
 - Knowledge of criminal careers
 - Victimization study

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Trends



1. The UN gang (hybrid gangs)

- United Nations gang
- Multiethnicity of gangs



2. Increased use of Internet to promote messages of violence or recruitment

- Murder in 2007
- Intimidation among themselves
- Recruitment: youth and sexual exploitation
- Winning practice in Toronto



Trends



3. Length of membership in street gangs

- Ongoing career



4. Intimidation

- Combat plan

(Police/Prosecutors/Corrections officers)



5. Conquest for territory

- Confrontation



Trends

6. Emergence of Latino gangs

- - MS13 + Mara 18
- - CLICA



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Main Issues



- Getting involved early with youth to prevent them from joining street gangs
- Ensuring that Montréal remains a safe city
- Mobilizing all stakeholders

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Criteria for Success



- Appropriation
- Commitment
- Knowledge
- Decompartmentalization

Everyone can make a difference.



THANK YOU