# Quebec okays EMSB Ward 3 election for December 19-20

By Martin C. Barry

While they may not concur on who's best qualified to fill the Ward 3 seat in the EMSB elections on December 19 and 20, the two candidates vying for the position do agree that the Legault government is probably trying to undermine the value of the vote by holding it in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the provincial government announced last month that school board elections, originally scheduled for November 1, were postponed because of concerns



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over the spread of COVID-19, Quebec said November 13 that the elections will now take place on December 19 and 20.

The vote is taking place as the province's English language school boards continue to legally challenge the CAQ government's Bill 40, which seeks to replace English school boards with service centres, as has already been done with French-language school commissions.

The government suffered several legal setbacks over the past year when court decisions upheld the English boards' right to maintain their own elected governance as guaranteed under section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In the meantime, Julien Feldman, the incumbent Ward 3 commissioner, and Irwin Rapoport, who is running against him, agree the government has something to gain from scheduling the elections next

"The government is engaged in a facile exercise, which in all likelihood is designed to bolster their weak case in court concerning Bill 40," said Feldman. "But I would say that a lot of it is in vain, because the government already has a weak case, and creating evidence on the ground is not really going to help their case."

Rapoport said the government is purposely holding a vote in the middle of a pandemic "to ensure there are so few votes, that when they argue for the legality of Bill 40, then can say the English community doesn't care about its schools, school boards or controlling and managing its own educational system."

Advanced polls will be held on December 12 and 13 at Westmount High School, and the main voting will be on December 19 and 20 at Roslyn Elementary School and Westmount High.

To get your name placed on the electoral list for the Ward 3 election, you must apply between November 21 and December 1 to the Board of Revisors at EMSB headquarters, 6000 Fielding Ave. in NDG.

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Since some may prefer mail-in voting during the pandemic, it is also possible to vote by mail if you meet certain criteria (e.g. residence in a seniors' home, expo-

sure to COVID), although registration must take place before December 10.

> See the EMSB's advertisement on p. 9 for details.

### BUILDING PERMITS 🧰 What's permitted

#### City council approves 14 building permits at Nov. 2 session

The following 14 requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the November 2 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

#### Approved

4840 Sherbrooke: to modify the sign for

375 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to add an addition on the rear facade, replace windows, replace the slate roof, and repoint the brick facades;

16 Willow: to replace the existing metal roofing material of the front porch with standing-seam metal roofing;

34 Sunnyside: to replace windows on condition they are the same as the existing ones of SDL type;

589 Côte St. Antoine: to do exterior and interior modifications, including relocating the main entrance from the east façade to the west façade, replacing windows and doors and modifying window and door openings;

635 Lansdowne: to replace windows;

- 24 Forden: to do landscaping in the front yard including minor modifications to the height of one part of the retaining
- 8 de Casson: to replace windows provided their divisions match those of the original windows of SDL type including spacer bars in between the muntins within the thermal glass and that the existing color be maintained in order to match the existing windows on the

building and on the attached building part of the ensemble.

4859 Sherbrooke: to install a commercial sign at La Cookery;

337 Kensington: to replace a garage door provided it is of wood;

3641 The Boulevard: to replace the garage door provided the number of wood panels is increased to reduce the exaggerated horizontal proportions of the proposed three wide panels on the submitted garage door design to better integrate with the traditional architecture style of the building;

773 Upper Lansdowne: to replace a door and windows with conditions;

635 Lansdowne: to modify the window and door openings on the rear façade provided the patio door has wider rails and stiles:

3492 Holton: to replace windows and doors provided the windows match the original ones and have muntins with simulated divided lites, including spacer bars between the muntins within the thermal glass, and that the single large-scale fixed kitchen window adjacent to the door be composed of two casement windows.



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