



# **futur montréal**



**PROJECT  
SENTINEL**  
MONTREAL'S ANTI-HATE  
ACTION PLAN

A City of Opportunity,  
A Future for Everyone.





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# Project Sentinel: Montreal's Anti-Hate Action Plan

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## About Project Sentinel

Montreal is a diverse, vibrant city, but in recent years, hate crimes and hate incidents have been on the rise, targeting people because of who they are, what they believe, or the language they speak. Too often, responses are slow, evidence is weak, and offenders face no immediate consequences.

Project Sentinel is Futur Montréal's bold, practical plan to change that.

Built on the official SPVM definitions of *hate crime* and *hate incident*, it combines rapid municipal enforcement, location-smart AI monitoring, and a zero-tolerance by-law to deliver real-time detection, instant action, and court-ready proof.

This is not a report, a study, or a promise for years down the road, it's a proactive system that can launch within 90 days in the hardest-hit areas of our city, expanding city-wide once proven.

## Our commitment is simple:

- Detect credible threats early.
- Respond immediately to both hate crimes and hate incidents.
- Hold offenders accountable on the spot while supporting criminal investigations.

With Project Sentinel, Montreal will send a clear message: Hate has no safe space here.

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## Clear Definitions (SPVM Standard)

### Hate Crime

A criminal offense motivated by prejudice toward a protected characteristic (race, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, etc.).

Examples:

- Physical assault
- Death threats
- Vandalism (e.g., swastika spray-painted on a synagogue)

### Hate Incident

A non-criminal act motivated by the same prejudices but without meeting the criminal threshold.

Examples:

- Verbal slurs in public
- Offensive or harassing flyers
- Social exclusion or intimidation targeting a specific group

## Futur Montréal's Policy Pillars

### Hate Crime Rapid Response Officers

**Purpose:** Respond within minutes to both hate crimes and hate incidents.

**Tools:**

- City-issued secure smartphones with a locked evidence app (photo/video/audio capture, automatic GPS & timestamp).
- Scene kits to collect physical evidence (flyers, hate symbols, vandalized items).  
Method:
  - Evidence uploaded instantly to a secure municipal evidence vault (SaaS-based, encrypted).
  - Witness statements recorded digitally on-scene.
  - Chain-of-custody compliance for court admissibility.

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## Zero-Tolerance Hate By-Law

### What it Covers:

- Public display of hate symbols
- Hate graffiti on public or private property visible from public space
- Public intimidation using recognized hate slurs toward protected groups

### Proof Requirement:

- At least one officer-captured photo/video plus a corroborating witness, officer, or open-source media feed.

### Enforcement:

- Immediate municipal fines issued on-site.
- Ticket includes QR code linking to the evidence bundle.
- Criminal charges continue in parallel where applicable.

## **3** Hate-Signal Watch (Location-Smart AI Monitoring)

### What it Does:

- Monitors public online spaces (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Reddit, open forums) for Montreal-specific hate speech or threats in strict compliance with Canadian privacy laws and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Only content that is already public is reviewed, no private messages, closed groups, or account access of any kind.

The system operates within the framework of municipal by-laws and existing federal Criminal Code provisions on hate propaganda (Sections 318–320), and any actionable intelligence is passed to law enforcement through established, lawful channels.

An independent oversight mechanism will ensure the process remains transparent, lawful, and focused solely on protecting Montrealer's from credible, local threats.

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- AI flags only:
  - Posts with public geotags in Montreal
  - Posts referencing borough names, landmarks, local political or cultural events
  - Public IP/metadata (where available) placing author in Montreal

This targeted filtering ensures that Project Sentinel focuses exclusively on content with a strong likelihood of originating in or directly targeting Montreal. Public geotags identify posts tagged at specific locations within the city, while local references, such as borough names, well-known landmarks, or ongoing cultural and political events, serve as contextual indicators of relevance. Where technically possible and publicly available, IP address or metadata checks provide an additional layer of location verification, helping distinguish between a Montreal-based individual and someone posting from outside the region. This multi-point verification approach dramatically reduces false positives, ensures efficient use of enforcement resources, and reinforces the program's commitment to only acting on credible, locally relevant threats.

#### **Safeguards:**

- No private messages, closed groups, or account hacking.
- Human reviewers check all flagged posts before action.

These safeguards are designed to protect the privacy and rights of Montrealer's while ensuring the system remains focused solely on genuine threats. No private communications are accessed, Project Sentinel only reviews content that is already visible to the public, just as a journalist, community watchdog, or concerned citizen could see online. The platform will never breach closed groups or hack accounts, and all data handling will comply with federal and provincial privacy laws, including Quebec's Law 25. In addition, every AI flag is reviewed by a trained human analyst to assess context, tone, and intent before any enforcement action is taken. This dual layer of AI detection plus human judgment prevents overreach, minimizes false positives, and ensures that resources are directed only toward credible, locally relevant incidents.

#### **Benefit:**

- Rapid intervention before threats escalate into physical acts.
- Focuses exclusively on protecting Montrealer's from local, credible threats.

By identifying threats early, Project Sentinel enables rapid intervention that can stop harmful acts before they move from words to violence. This proactive approach means police and municipal enforcement can respond while a threat is still developing, whether it's a planned hate rally, a targeted act of vandalism, or an online campaign aimed at intimidating a specific community. Because the system is location-focused and credibility-filtered, every resource is directed toward protecting

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Montrealers from threats that are both local and real. This precision reduces wasted effort, ensures that enforcement teams are where they're most needed, and builds public trust by showing clear, measurable action against hate in our city.

## Smart, Phased Roll-Out

### Phase 1 – 90 Days:

- Pilot launch in the three boroughs with the highest recorded hate incident and hate crime rates, based on SPVM data. These areas will serve as real-world testing grounds to fine-tune deployment protocols, evidence collection procedures, and AI monitoring filters.
- Leverage existing resources by reassigning trained SPVM personnel and utilizing the city's current IT infrastructure, avoiding costly start-up expenses while still achieving rapid operational readiness.
- Immediate public communication in these boroughs to build awareness of the program, encourage reporting, and deter potential offenders through visible enforcement presence.
  - Pilot in the 3 boroughs with highest hate incident/crime rates.
  - Use reassigned SPVM personnel + existing city IT resources.

### Phase 2 – Year 1:

- Comprehensive evaluation after the first 9–12 months, measuring clear performance indicators: number of municipal fines issued, number of criminal cases supported by evidence from Project Sentinel, reductions in repeat incidents, and public satisfaction levels.
- Policy and operational adjustments made based on lessons learned in the pilot phase, ensuring the model is optimized for broader application.
- Citywide scaling once data proves the program's effectiveness, extending rapid response coverage and AI monitoring to all Montreal boroughs.
  - Evaluate results: number of fines issued, criminal cases supported, reduction in repeat incidents.
  - Scale to all boroughs with proven model.

### Phase 3 – Long-Term:

- Continuous AI model refinement to keep up with evolving Montreal-specific slang, coded hate language, and emerging online platforms where hate speech may appear.
- Full integration with 311 reporting so residents can directly flag potential hate crimes or incidents through the city's main reporting system, allowing for seamless coordination between citizen tips, AI monitoring, and rapid response enforcement.
- Annual public report outlining achievements, challenges, and updates to the program to maintain transparency and accountability over the long term.

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- Continuous AI model refinement with Montreal-specific language and slang updates.
- Integrate with city's 311 reporting for seamless citizen tip-offs.

## Why This is Unique

- No other political party in Montreal has put forward a plan that unites official SPVM definitions of hate crime and hate incident with a mobile rapid enforcement team and AI-powered, location-specific threat detection. This alignment ensures our approach is legally sound, operationally clear, and laser-focused on Montreal's realities.
- Operates effectively without bodycams or a citywide CCTV network. While other parties delay action waiting for expensive equipment or controversial surveillance expansion, Project Sentinel is designed to deploy immediately using secure city-issued devices and existing infrastructure.
- Proactive detection combined with instant municipal penalties means offenders face visible consequences on the spot, not months or years later. This creates an immediate deterrent effect and signals to the public that hate will be confronted decisively, not debated endlessly.
- Scales intelligently: We start with a tightly managed pilot in the highest-incident boroughs, evaluate hard data on its success, then expand citywide once proven. This avoids waste, keeps costs under control, and ensures Montrealer's see real results before the program grows.

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