



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

**An enthusiastic show of community support  
for the innovative community school planned at Technopôle Angus**

**Montreal, April 11, 2018** – At a public meeting last night that attracted 160 community members from Rosemont and Hochelaga, Société de développement Angus (SDA) shared its proposal for an innovative new elementary school. The independent neighborhood community school would have free tuition and no admission exam, and espouse student-centred education in a state-of-the art, attractive learning environment. The meeting drew large numbers of local parents and teachers who greeted the SDA proposal with heartfelt enthusiasm.

"I'm thrilled to see so many neighbourhood residents getting involved and showing their support for the proposed school," said President and CEO Christian Yaccarini. "Everyone agrees that there's a critical need for new schools in the neighbourhood. But what really has people excited is our educational philosophy: a forward-thinking approach that meets the needs of today's children and prepares them for the future. We're planning a school whose doors are open to the community, one that thinks globally and acts locally to help students develop pride, perseverance, and a passion for excellence while discovering the joy in learning."

***Angus Education Centre: A school for the 21st century***

Dubbed the *Angus Education Centre*, the proposed school would welcome 350 to 400 local children for their entire elementary education in an environment designed to foster creativity and resourcefulness with project-based learning and smart technology. The new school will feature modern architecture with flexible, modular spaces suited to the full range of learning methods—such as collaborative, cooperative, productive learning—in a safe and stimulating environment at the heart of the Technopôle Angus green neighbourhood.

In the community school approach, the school is conceived as a place of both education and socialization for all, including students, parents, teachers, and community members. The proposed school would be open not only during school hours but also in evenings, weekends, and summer, for school-related and community-building activities of all kinds.

"It's really the school of my dreams! A school that brings everyone together, in a wonderful environment, right nearby!" said an enthusiastic Christelle Rey, mother and neighbourhood resident. "Holding public consultations of this kind is a very positive step. We sincerely hope that this dream school will become a reality in the next few years."

SDA set up a committee of education experts to lead the pedagogical planning and consultation process, which examined the latest developments in innovative schools in Quebec and around the world. Committee members also attended multiple meetings with specialists in the field, and submitted their vision for feedback to doctoral candidates and university professors in education. Focus groups with neighborhood parents were held to get a sense of neighbourhood parents' wish list for a school that would truly meet the needs of today's children. The resulting educational approach was presented at yesterday's public meeting.

At the end of the public meeting, two committees were created to spearhead community participation in the school planning process. The School Environment Committee will work with architects on the school design, while the School and Community Committee will forge the partnerships needed to create a genuine community school.

With yesterday's strong show of community support, SDA will begin reaching out to government decision-makers to amend the *Education Act* to allow this pilot project to move forward. Plans call for the community school to open in September 2021.

### **About Technopôle Angus**

[Technopôle Angus](#) is a vibrant neighborhood in the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie in the heart of Montreal. An urban renewal success story and state-of-the art sustainable development on a massive scale, Technopôle Angus manages a portfolio of 70,000 square metres of top-quality real estate, with 50% of the area still awaiting development. The new green neighbourhood will add an additional 85,000 square metres conceived as a fully fledged mixed-used neighbourhood. **Technopôle Angus** is today home to 62 organizations employing 2,700 workers in 13 buildings; once completed, the Technopôle will be a community of close to 5,000 workers and residents.

### **About Société de développement Angus**

[Société de développement Angus \(SDA\)](#) is a social economy enterprise behind urban renewal projects that deliver significant spinoffs for the local community and embrace sustainable development. Through the successful development of Technopôle Angus, SDA honed the expertise it is now putting to work on a wealth of projects. In Montreal's Quartier des Spectacles SDA developed Le 2-22, the entertainment district's flagship building, next to Carré Saint-Laurent. SDA also acts as primary contractor on exciting projects such as Théâtre La Licorne and Maison d'Haïti in Montreal, and the Native Friendship Centre in Val-d'Or.

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### **Information and interview requests:**

Elisa Baldet  
Société de développement Angus  
Cell. 514-467-2445  
[ebaldet@sda-angus.com](mailto:ebaldet@sda-angus.com)