When Montreal blows out its birthday candles, will heritage be invited to the party?
Martin Drouin

Montreal will celebrate the 375th anniversary of its founding in 2017. A committee tasked to prepare the upcoming grandiose activities was struck last year. One of its first duties was to organize a comprehensive grassroots consultation enabling nearly 700 Montrealers to express their views regarding the celebration itself. This represents a unique source of information for anyone attempting to understand how heritage fits into the mental landscape of city residents. As Montreal's mayor, Gérald Tremblay, pointed out at the conclusion of this significant expression of the *vox populi*, "The celebration of an anniversary is an important moment, an opportunity not only to remember where we come from and who we have become, but also to open a window onto the future." Which heritage will be invited to the table in 2017? As a land of welcome for immigrants arriving in Quebec, can Montreal draw upon its history to find an inclusive expression of its identity? Based on the results of the public consultation, the proposed paper will attempt to highlight the challenges and pitfalls of such an approach in order to understand the role heritage will play in the days ahead.

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