



**Ville de Saint-Lazare**



**Mayor's office**



*Saint-Lazare (Québec)  
January 12, 2010*

### *A word from the Mayor*

---

## *The 3<sup>rd</sup> condominium*

Dear fellow citizens,

As Mayor of Saint-Lazare, I was given the mandate to act for the well-being of the community and ensure decisions concerning municipal affairs are made consistently with the Town's long-term vision. Good governance requires that a global perspective be maintained and that decisions be made in the best interest of our taxpayers, not only in the interest of pressure groups.

As you know, at the budget adoption meeting of Tuesday, January 5, 2010, four (4) of the six (6) councillors chose to oppose the construction of a 3<sup>rd</sup> condominium attached to Saint-Lazare's community centre which was meant to provide community organisations with permanent storage facilities, though that meant renegeing on a promise made by the previous council prior to the elections. Even though we do not want to add 3 million dollars (\$3M) to the tax burden, we have, above all, taken into consideration the fact that our community centre, which was built 8 years ago, is only used at 60% of its capacity according to statistics provided by the Recreational Department! So how can we justify such an expense when our town has so many other priorities?

Indeed, other important issues have been left pending for many years. Public capital investments and infrastructure upgrades have not kept up with our town's growth rate. I'm referring mostly to the upgrade of the water treatment plant and the quality and efficiency of municipal public infrastructures which include the fire station and the Town Hall. For lack of space at the Town Hall, several employees have been working out of trailers for more than 5 years, providing an inadequate working environment and our fire department is housed in the municipal garage. All these issues, as well as the indoor pool project currently under study, must be integrated in an overall plan and budgetized. Once completed, the plan will enable us to offer alternative solutions which will also benefit the town's various organizations. For example, building an extension for the Town Hall would enable the Recreational Department staff to move back in which would free up space in the community centre for those organizations. In addition, building a real fire station would mean more space for Public Works employees, etc. What's more, a new structure built to house an indoor pool could be designed to meet the space needs of all age groups.

For all these reasons, I support the decision of Council members not to proceed with the loan of an additional \$3M dollars for this 3<sup>rd</sup> condominium. Once the plan materializes, we will be able to see a global picture of all capital projects and make responsible decisions. I congratulate the members of council for what I consider to be a wise decision, for having the courage of their convictions and for not having given in to pressure over the ratification of decisions made by the previous council. They have acted in the interest of the community. Well done!

The Mayor,  
Pierre Kary