

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4  
**PICHETTE REPORT**

the aim of proposing a vision for the future and recommending means of action liable to promote an integrated development of the region.

The GMTR produced a 147-page report containing 105 recommendations that could totally change municipal operating habits by proposing new structures inspired by the notion of "Montreal — A City, A Region." The two main recommendations are:

- the creation of a metropolitan council made up of 21 elected municipal delegates whose mission will be to propose and coordinate projects within the territory: urban planning, transportation, environment, public safety, economic development, and arts and culture;
- the creation of five "Organismes Intermunicipaux de Services" (OIS), one for the Island of Montreal (replacing the CUM), one for Laval, one for the north shore and two for the south shore. Their mission: the joint administration of certain municipal services.

**Gaps and Deficiencies**

While we can't complain about greater cohesion on the municipal scene, we have to wonder what kind of structures these recommendations will create, and how much room they will make for citizens. The report does not propose any form of public participation or consultation in the decision-making process.

What will be the role of municipal councilors in this new monster? How can we ensure that citizens will have any power at all in making decisions? Won't this superstructure intensify citizens' lack of interest in municipal life? Will it not lead to the birth of a new technocracy and a bureaucracy unaccountable to anyone, where bureaucrats will be masters? Just think about the mess already surrounding taxation roles in the CUM.

The case of the incinerator in East End Montreal is the best example of a decision taken by a group of delegated mayors not accountable to their electorate. If it weren't for the cries of alarm from citizens' groups, this select group would have committed our bio-region to a societal choice founded on the squandering of resources and a rash expenditure of public funds for partisan purposes. Will the council of the region of metropolitan Montreal lead to the same kind of phenomenon? These are fundamental questions about the citizen's place in a democratic society. ♦

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HISTOIRE  
D'AMOUR  
EN PAGE 11!**

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18 AVRIL  
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25 AVRIL  
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2 MAI  
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**Hysteria and Debt**  
Rediscovering full employment as an alternative for Canada  
In English, with guest Harold Chorney

APRIL 18  
**The Debt Kit**  
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Bilingual, with guests Roger Saucier and Ernie Schibilli

APRIL 25  
**Government Debt Reduction**  
Tax reform & alternatives to cuts in social programs  
Bilingual, with guests Duncan Cameron and Tom Naylor

MAY 2  
**Round Table**  
Alternatives to Impoverishment  
Bilingual, with guests Peter Bakvis, Guy Lafleur and Catherine O'Brien

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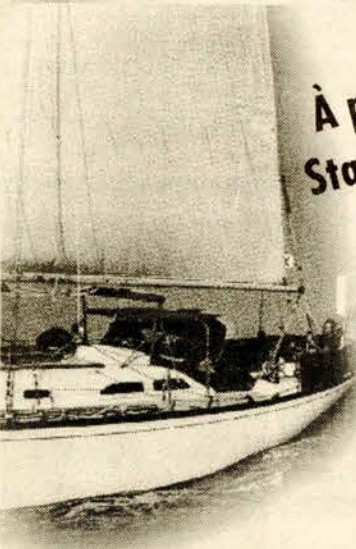
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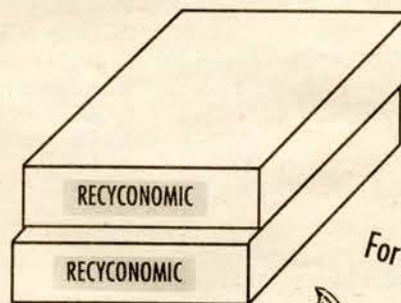
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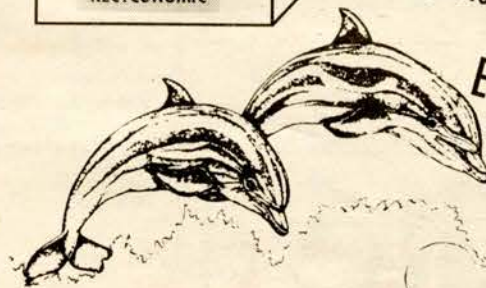
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