DROPPING OUT: SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THEM—AND FOR YOU!

Dropping out of school is a complex process that does not happen overnight. It is the result of various personal, familial, social, and educational factors that influence a young person’s development.

When risk factors culminate in someone dropping out, there are serious economic and social repercussions for both the individual and for society as a whole.

A WEAKER ECONOMY

Higher numbers of unemployed
30% of dropouts do not join the workforce.

Increased social assistance costs
Over 2/3 of social assistance program recipients are dropouts. Social assistance payments in 2018–2019 totaled approximately $3 billion.

Significant tax losses
Government tax shortfall: $72 million.

Lower economic growth
The dropout problem costs the Montreal economy $593 million.

INCREASED HEALTHCARE COSTS

Dropouts...
• Are more likely to suffer from health problems.
• Have a lower life expectancy.

62% of people who pass through the prison system are dropouts. Each inmate costs $251 per day.

HIGHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIME

GREATER INEQUALITY

BETWEEN THE BETTER AND LESS WELL-OFF

A dropout’s average employment income is 31% lower than that of a high school graduate.

The costs of not graduating are even higher for Montreal dropouts.

Average employment income

Montreal
Québec as a whole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No diploma</th>
<th>High school diploma (DES)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>$34,485</td>
<td>$45,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Québec as a whole</td>
<td>$37,619</td>
<td>$46,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference of</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earning a high school diploma leads to increased income totalling:

• $492,500 for women
• $432,300 for men

(increase over one’s entire working life)

BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

Female dropouts are more severely affected by insecurity and poverty:

• Fewer have jobs than male dropouts (difference of 21.8%).
• Their salaries are lower than those of male dropouts (difference of 21.3%).

For more details — Persévérance scolaire et conciliation études-travail : une piste de solution à la pénurie de main-d’œuvre (French only)

*Costs calculated for the entire working lives of dropouts projected for 2019–2020 in the 5 school boards on the Island of Montreal.

Sources: Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur, Direction des statistiques et de l’information, Information système, November 2018; Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal and Réseau réussite Montréal, in partnership with the Regroupement des cégeps de Montréal, Persévérance scolaire et conciliation études-travail : une piste de solution à la pénurie de main-d’œuvre, August 2019.