



## **The Société du Parc Jean-Drapeau Announces Changes to circuit Gilles-Villeneuve for the 2017 Summer Season**

**Montréal, May 12, 2017** – The Société du parc Jean-Drapeau (SPJD) announced today it is making some changes to its plan for accessing Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve during the period of the track's closure, from May 15 to September 4, 2017. Initially, when the partial closure of the Circuit was announced on April 21, the SPJD, with all the technical information it had received from its suppliers and partners, had deemed it was wise and responsible to close the track, considering all of the work that had to be done, the holding of many events, the set-up and dismantling operations on Île Notre-Dame, and the changes to the STM's shuttle route for Jean-Doré Beach.

But the SPJD has announced Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve will now be accessible to users for an additional 41 days this summer, during the previously announced closure time frame. This change to the closure schedule has been made possible through the collaboration of the SPJD and its partners, and it occurs in the wake of a first meeting of the Parity Advisory Committee on the practice of cycling at Parc Jean-Drapeau. The committee is an initiative of Ville de Montréal and the SPJD, and is comprised of Vélo Québec, the Fédération Québécoise des Sports Cyclistes, Triathlon Québec, Parasport Québec, the STM and the City of Montréal.

Lanes for cyclists, pedestrians and in-line skaters will be available throughout almost the entirety of Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve during 41 non-consecutive days over the course of the summer, depending on the work being conducted and the programming schedule. The Route verte will be opened almost all summer, notably with an exception of a few days for the Grand Prix du Canada. The STM shuttle for the Beach will also be modified, based on the days the Circuit is open to users. Full details about the schedule of the track's opening are available at [www.parcjeandrapeau.com](http://www.parcjeandrapeau.com).

This year, for the first time, the SPJD, while continuing to fulfill its commitments, has to deal with an unusual co-existence on Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve between the work being done, vehicles of all types operating in the area, and users and activities occurring on the

site. Ensuring everyone's safety, which is the main priority, is a major logistic challenge. It should be noted that the major summer events have been shifted to Île Notre-Dame because of work being conducted in conjunction with the Enhancement and Development Plan, which will begin on Île Sainte-Hélène in June.

The collaboration will be ongoing between the SPJD, the City of Montréal, the STM and the sports federations in conjunction with the Parity Advisory Committee, which will continue to meet over the next few months to promote safe use of the track and to work on improving the experience of all users.

The SPJD wishes to remind everyone of the importance for all Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve users to exercise great caution on the track, especially this year with the narrowing of some of the lanes and having to co-exist with vehicles.