



Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Communauté maritime



Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Municipalité

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Press release

Sustainable Land Management Fund The Archipelago is counting on the honour and attachment of visitors by 2024

Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the 14 of May 2024 — Far from backing down in front of the decision from the municipal council to bring the 60 000 visitors to contribute to the maintenance of the infrastructures of the archipelago and its future. The Maritime Community and the Municipality of the Islands, still in negotiation with Transport Canada on the operational aspect of this project, is stepping a side and inviting people to contribute the \$30 for the Archipelago Pass.

«Let's be clear: we are not backing down on the notion of the contribution. We have been talking for years about this project to protect the archipelago and upgrade its infrastructures. Since we are pioneers in this subject, it is normal for the first year to need adjustment. Just like a pilot-project, we will pursue the discussions with Transport Canada, we will keep the Madelinots informed on the situation and observe the actions of our tourist during this season in the objective to improve this project. », specified the mayor Antonin Valiquette this morning during a press conference on the matter.

We should remember that the Archipelago Pass, introduced by the Maritime Community and the Municipality of the Islands on May 1st, represent a key initiative for the sustainable management of the territory. Even though its acquisition is mandatory now, it shows an engagement from the visitors towards the preservation of this unique ecosystem. The residents, just like the businesses, through their taxes, are significantly contributing to the maintenance of the recreational and touristic infrastructure and to the protection of the naturel environment of the archipelago.

The regulation will be adjusted so that the \$30 contribution is done, for now, on an optional basis, via online application. Seeing the ease shown by many tourists, the Municipality is calling to the honour of the visitors who recognise the particular character of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and wishes to contribute to its sustainability. This support is an engagement towards the 13 000 islanders in the maintenance of their infrastructures that are available to them and the travelers.

« We have even received a \$60 cheque from two visitors that came here last year », says the mayor, encouraged by the many acts of support from the past few weeks.

Zero tolerance

If the positive messages are pouring in at the City hall, the ones who do get attention are the ones with inappropriate remarks, sometime heinous, and the inappropriate non-verified information that have diverged the debate and degraded the social climate of the archipelago.

« The disrespectful comments that the members of council, the municipal team and I have received in recent weeks are unacceptable and will continue to be denounced as they should be. We must collectively oppose this kind of behaviour that aims to undermine democracy by creating a climate of fear », insists Mayor Valiquette, who calls on citizens, partners, municipal employees and all elected officials in Quebec to fiercely oppose the malicious effect that these comments can have on people's lives.

Briefing of Thursday

The Maritime Community and the Municipality of the Islands will go ahead with the information evening session for its citizens scheduled for this Thursday, at 7pm. In the meantime, the regular council meeting will take place this evening, where the other municipal topics of interest will be dealt with.

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