

DEFINITIONS

The *Strategic Plan 2009-2014* contains a glossary with a few brief definitions of concepts that are integrated into its content. Readers may find the following more detailed explanations of some of these concepts useful.

URBAN VILLAGE

Gatineau has 16 urban villages within its urban boundary. Every village is first and foremost a unique living environment with its own heritage and other characteristics. This is an area that encloses one or more neighbourhoods and a solid community. Delimited by waterways, roadways or social units, it is the place with which the community identifies.

The size of an urban village allows for the development of a dynamic neighbourhood life and the emergence of close social ties. The socio-community network, solidarity and residents' involvement constitute a "social capital" for an urban village, which can generate local solutions to issues such as safety and the immediate natural environment. In this regard, residents can truly take charge of their quality of life and develop a sense of belonging within their urban village.

The physical layout of the urban village helps strengthen the social ties among its residents. An urban village is often a place where people live, shop, and engage in recreational pursuits and sometimes even work. The diversity of dwellings, the intensity of urban activity, the presence of nearby services, and the preference given to public transit or non-motorized transportation are all features of the urban village. These features give residents the opportunity to meet and keep in touch more often, and to get to know one another better. When residents are closer, they are also more likely to become involved in running their community and working closely with the municipal administration on their neighbourhood's development. This enables residents and organizations to truly take part in shaping their living environment.

RURAL LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Gatineau has four areas that are designated as *rural living environments*. These include rural—agricultural or not—areas within city limits, but outside the urban perimeter. These areas are characterized by sparse construction. They have their own features, namely the absence—in some parts—of water supply and sewer systems and of regular or frequent public transit.

In most cases, residents of rural living environments shop in nearby urban villages, which is where the main municipal community and recreational structures are found. It will be necessary to fully understand each of these rural living environments before deciding on appropriate levels of municipal service or intervention.

VIABLE COMMUNITY

The development objective of a community that wants to ally socio-economic vitality, quality of life, local democracy and respect for the environment while striving for a more coherent territorial structure. Ensuring the viability and improvement of living environments leads to development based on:

- social equity and resident involvement;
- a mix and the proximity of services and activities;
- access to viable modes of transportation;
- diversification and access to quality environments;
- reduced stress in urban environments;

- improved safety and quality of public and green spaces;
- the preservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage;
- resource conservation (water, air, soil, energy sources);
- optimization of public investments and tax incentives; and
- sensible land management for coherent and forward-looking development.

(Adapted from *Vivre en ville*)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The definition of sustainable development proposed in 1987 by the *World Commission on Environment and Development* (Brundtland Commission) is as follows:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Two concepts are inherent to this notion: the concept of needs—more particularly the essential needs of the poorest, which should be given priority—and the idea of the limitations that our current technology and social organization impose on the environment's capacity to respond to current and future needs.

ECONOMY

Support for the economic sectors (successful and innovative)

Social economy and fair trade

Private sector commitment to SD

Tourism and cultural activity (respect for the community, the environment)

STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENT

Consultation with residents

Transparency

ENVIRONMENT

Building management (e.g. LEED certification)

Responsible consumption

Water management

(salubrity, saving)

Less air pollution

4Rs – rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle

Taking climatic factors into consideration

(Adapted from *Government of Quebec, Optim*)

SOUND MANAGEMENT

Responsible procurement

Eco-fiscality (fiscal management that discourages harmful activity and rewards positive behaviour)

Eco-conditionality (subjecting the granting of a right, a permit or assistance to social or ecological protection)

Equitable distribution of public services
Control of urban sprawl

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Gatineau as an employer

Employment equity

Inclusion, solidarity: young, older and disabled people

Public health: pollution, sports, nutrition

Safety (risk management)

Education (access to information, awareness)

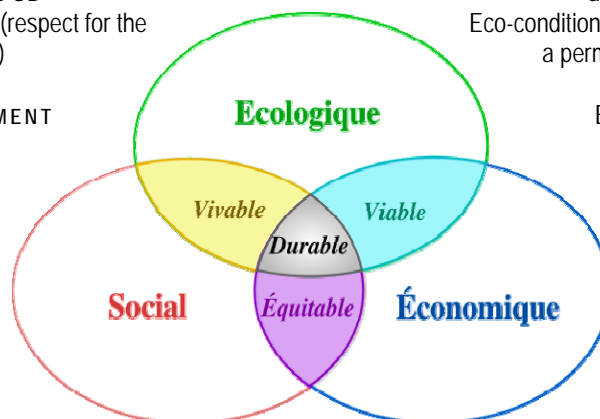
Cultural heritage (identification)

Set of values

Cultural identification factors

Multiple affiliations and ethnic origins

Local identification



Sustainable Development Principles

R.S.Q.,

Sustainable Development Act

Chapter D-8.1.1

GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. "Health and quality of life": People, human health and improved quality of life are at the centre of sustainable development concerns. People are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;
2. "Social equity and solidarity": Development must be undertaken in a spirit of intra- and inter-generational equity and social ethics and solidarity;

3. **“Environmental protection”**: To achieve sustainable development, environmental protection must constitute an integral part of the development process;
4. **“Economic efficiency”**: The economy of Quebec and its regions must be effective, geared toward innovation and economic prosperity that is conducive to social progress and respectful of the environment;
5. **“Participation and commitment”**: The participation and commitment of citizens and citizens’ groups are needed to define a concerted vision of development and to ensure its environmental, social and economic sustainability;
6. **“Access to knowledge”**: Measures favourable to education, access to information and research must be encouraged in order to stimulate innovation, raise awareness and ensure effective participation of the public in the implementation of sustainable development;
7. **“Subsidiarity”**: Powers and responsibilities must be delegated to the appropriate level of authority. Decision-making centres should be adequately distributed and as close as possible to the citizens and communities concerned;
8. **“Inter-governmental partnership and cooperation”**: Governments must collaborate to ensure that development is sustainable from an environmental, social and economic standpoint. The external impact of actions in a given territory must be taken into consideration;
9. **“Prevention”**: In the presence of a known risk, preventive, mitigating and corrective actions must be taken, with priority given to actions at the source;
10. **“Precaution”**: When there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty must not be used as a reason for postponing the adoption of effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;
11. **“Protection of cultural heritage”**: The cultural heritage, made up of property, sites, landscapes, traditions and knowledge, reflects the identity of a society. It passes on the values of a society from generation to generation, and the preservation of this heritage fosters the sustainability of development. Cultural heritage components must be identified, protected and enhanced, taking their intrinsic rarity and fragility into account;
12. **“Biodiversity preservation”**: Biological diversity offers incalculable advantages and must be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations. The protection of species, ecosystems and the natural processes that maintain life is essential if quality of human life is to be maintained;
13. **“Respect for ecosystem support capacity”**: Human activities must be respectful of the support capacity of ecosystems and ensure the perenniality of ecosystems;
14. **“Responsible production and consumption”**: Production and consumption patterns must be changed in order to make production and consumption more viable and more socially and environmentally responsible, in particular through an ecoefficient approach that avoids waste and optimizes the use of resources;
15. **“Polluter pays”**: Those who generate pollution or whose actions otherwise degrade the environment must bear their share of the cost of measures to prevent, reduce, control and mitigate environmental damage;
16. **“Internalization of costs”**: The value of goods and services must reflect all the costs they generate for society during their whole life cycle, from their design to their final consumption and their disposal.