

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

**THE BLUE METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL  
TAKES TO THE STREETS**  
of Montreal, Contrecoeur, the Eastern Townships, the Saguenay and elsewhere in  
Quebec



**Montreal, May 20, 2021** – Starting May 20, Blue Metropolis will launch 6 literary walking tours to get Montrealers, Quebecers and visitors out into the spring weather. Each self-guided walking tour comes with a podcast made up of original texts, some read by the author, others narrated by professional actors. With these genial companions at your side, you'll (re)discover nooks and crannies of Montreal and Quebec. An invitation to roam, listen, read, daydream, to catch enticing smells on the wind, view the St. Lawrence and the sky, and to give yourself a breather. Outdoors.

**Four literary walking tours in Montreal -**

**Montreal Shopping & Books** takes a novel look at the city with original contributions from its authors. There will be stops along Saint Catherine Street West, at the Jean-Talon market, the Hochelaga district, the South-West, and in other Montreal boroughs. The tour focuses on books and bookstores that offer a personal touch, on stylish dresses and designers. The itinerary was put together by Marzia Pellissier and Christian Robert, co-founders of *Marcheurs de Montréal*. Among the participating authors and bloggers: **Monique Polak, Samuel Larochelle, Gabrielle Delamer** and others.

**Yiddish Montreal** will introduce you to the generation of Jewish authors who came before Mordecai Richler and Leonard Cohen. They wrote in Yiddish, a language often heard in the streets of Montreal back then, and sometimes even today. Your guide will be journalist **Shelley Pomerance**. Authors **Goldie Morgentaler**, **Norman Ravvin** and **Sherry Simon** invite you to explore the Jewish literary heritage of Montreal.

**Montreal en todo sentido** reminds us that several Spanish-speaking communities have been part of Montreal's DNA for decades. This literary circuit tracks Latino Montreal's history through its culinary flavours, its music, and – why not? – tango. Devised by **Ingrid Bejerman**, the tour draws on original material from authors **Flavia Garcia**, **Angel Mota** and **Rafael Osio Cabrices**.

**Tensions + Intersections** asks us to look anew at Montreal's Gay Village. With author and editor **Nicholas Dawson** in the lead, this walking tour draws on the poetry and non-fiction of **Marie-Claude Garneau**, **Jean-Paul Daoust**, **Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch** and **Kama La Mackerel**. It's all about the creative tension and intersectionalities that make up the Gay Village's uniqueness.

### **Walking tours in Quebec**

Need some space? A view that runs to the horizon? How about streaming that has nothing to do with screens? You'll love Contrecoeur, the little city that grew on the banks of the St. Lawrence. Three authors, native-born or transplants, representing different generations, will take you around their favourite haunts. This walking tour, **Contrecoeur, dans mes yeux, dans mon cœur**, features new material by **Myriam Vincent**, **Philippe Mollé** and **Bernadette Renaud**. They'll make you want to visit year-round.

**Les routes littéraires des alcools du terroir** is sure to entice. This tour covers most of Quebec! From Shefford to Baie-Comeau, with stops in Montreal, Bécancour, Saint-David-de-Falardeau and the Saguenay, you'll sample handcrafted vodkas, whisky, and other spirits by artisan distillers. The podcast's guides are **Louise Portal** and **Sylvain Massé**. The series features original material by local authors **Marie-Ève Bourassa**, **Martine Dorval**, **Mathieu Fortin**, **Gérard Pourcel** and **Louise Portal**, writers who not only live in these areas, but know them intimately. Too good to pass up.

**Discover our walking tours here:**

[bluemetropolis.org/walkingtours](http://bluemetropolis.org/walkingtours)

[metropolisbleu.org/circuits](http://metropolisbleu.org/circuits)

## Blue Metropolis at a glance

Blue Metropolis Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 that brings together people from different cultures to share the pleasures of reading and writing and encourage creativity and intercultural understanding. The Foundation produces an annual literary festival of international calibre and offers, year-round, a wide range of activities as part of the TD-Blue Metropolis Children's Festival as well as educational and social programs in the classroom, in libraries and online. These programs use reading and writing as therapeutic tools, to encourage academic perseverance and fight against poverty and social isolation.

**Source:** Céline Fernandes, Associate Director, Programming and Communications  
514 932-1112 or [programmation@metropolisbleu.org](mailto:programmation@metropolisbleu.org)

**Media Relations:** Janis Kirshner  
514 287-8912 or [jkirshner@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkirshner@sympatico.ca)

### THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS MERCI AUX PARTNAIRES DU PROJET

Canada



Conseil des arts  
du Canada Canada Council  
for the Arts

Québec



Librairie **DRAWN & QUARTERLY** Bookstore

PORT **M** MONTRÉAL

LOGISTEC

Filaction  
Tout le développement

GINNY STIKEMAN



PROSE  
VODKA



DISTILLERIE  
DU QUAI

Distillerie  
VENT  
DU NORD



LEDEVOIR