



June 1, 2013

Dear Grads,

Cegeps will soon be making their final (round 3) admission decisions for the fall term. After a long wait, some of you will receive the welcome news that you have been accepted to a college or trade program that will begin in August. Please be sure to READ EVERYTHING you receive from the college or vocational centre. There will be meetings and orientation sessions that you must attend and payments to be made by specific dates. The cegeps and vocational centres are open throughout the summer, but on reduced hours, so call the admissions office if you have question about anything you need to do to prepare to start your program in the fall.

If the door to college did not open for you at this time or you find yourself on a waiting list for a college or vocational program this letter contains some avenues to explore to help you make the most of the upcoming "free time". It is important to keep busy as employers, vocational schools and colleges look favourably on candidates who continue to work toward their goals, despite the setback that arise. It is important to find constructive activities to occupy your time while you are trying to decide what to do or how to find ways to access the training that will lead you to the career you have chosen.

Priority #1 is GRADUATION



One of the main reasons students are refused by the colleges is due to failing or weak grades in a course that is required for graduation. Once you can prove that you have graduated, with significant improvement to the grades that the colleges were basing their admissions decisions upon, you should contact the college admissions office. Admissions will help direct you toward the steps to take to get into the program you are interested in. If you have already received a conditional acceptance to college, it is ESSENTIAL that you graduate before classes begin at the end of August; otherwise your acceptance can be revoked.

If you are failing a core subject, it is highly recommended that you register to complete the course in Summer School (youth or adult sector) in order to be able to attend convocation in the fall and to facilitate access to post-secondary programs. Registration information for the summer programs is on the LBPSB website.

Consider UPGRADING or ENRICHING your educational portfolio:

- 1) **Upgrade** results in courses that were difficult for you through Adult Education courses at centres such as Place Cartier in Beaconsfield <http://placecartier.lbpsb.qc.ca> or other Adult Education Centres across the island of Montreal. You can make up specific science and math pre-requisites for different college programs or generally upgrade your academic dossier by doing a variety of other courses.
- 2) **Enrich** your dossier by enrolling in a Vocational Program. When you complete a Vocational program you will receive another diploma (DVS) to add to your High School leaving diploma (DSS). Becoming qualified in a trade can not only enrich your academic dossier, but can open doors to well-paid jobs. There are more and more people who end up registering in a Vocational program after finishing Cegep or University. Some of the programs are very popular and have long waiting lists, but if you are flexible,

there is sure to be something available for September. It is worth it to put your name on the waiting list for a program you are interested in as they often start several groups throughout the fall and winter semester. Pre-requisites vary from one program to another, but the majority require credits in Secondary 4 English, French, and Math. For information you can call the WAAVE office at 514-732-7766 or email Ashley Foot, transitions consultant, afoot@lbpsb.qc.ca

Consider CONTINUING EDUCATION (Night School) at the Cegeps:

All colleges allow anyone with a high school diploma to register for evening classes. The classes can be credit or non-credit, and are offered in a wide variety of subject areas through the Continuing Education Department. It is important that you take only as many courses as you are sure you will be able pass (1 or 2), as a failing grade in night school will adversely affect your chance of being accepted as a regular (day) student later on.

John Abbott College has a very interesting Continuing Education program called **College Integration** www.johnabbott.qc.ca/continuing-education/programs/college-integration . This program is open to students who applied to John Abbott on SRAM and who were refused in all three rounds. You must graduate from high school to be eligible for this full-time evening program. Credits earned are transferable to a DEC later on.



CEGEP Winter 2014 Admissions:

Apply online at www.sram.qc.ca or www.commonapplication.qc.ca
by **NOVEMBER 1, 2013.**

Get Some WORK and/ or VOLUNTEER Experience:

Anything you can do to add depth to your resumé is helpful. Whether you help coach a sports team, tutor, mow lawns for seniors, volunteer at an animal shelter ...the nature of the activity is not that important, but the fact that you are able to demonstrate that you are making a contribution to the community shows potential employers who you are as a person.

Getting a part-time job while you are taking a few Adult Education or Continuing Education courses is also helpful in keeping your spirits up, starting to save money for the future, and gaining valuable experience into which areas you would like to either get more training in or avoid as you work your way along your career path!

Every bit of education and experience will be valuable in helping you learn something and may lead to opportunities that you never even considered before. Sometimes when one door closes, there are many interesting ones that are just waiting to be opened...don't be afraid to branch out and seize the opportunities that present themselves or better still, create innovative opportunities for yourself ...you never know where things are going to go until you take the first step!

Best wishes to all of you as you leave MAC and begin your lives in the world as young adults! I am available to meet with you throughout June in the guidance office and by email most of the summer....don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way!

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