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## NEWS & VIEWS

### 'It's time to come home'

*CSL councillor urges former Montrealers to return*

By Joel Goldenberg  
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc Councillor Mitchell Brownstein made a passionate plea at last week's city council meeting for former Montrealers to return, especially in light of last week's Quebec Liberal majority, and for current Montrealers to stay.

Many have interpreted the election results as a return to long-term stability and a wholesale rejection of the separation option.

Brownstein pointed out that Côte St. Luc has taken stands in favour of Canadian unity, including the Staying Canadian resolutions in the 1990s; and against the PQ's proposed strengthened language law Bill 14 and the Charter of Values that would have prohibited very visible religious symbols and head-gear in provincially-controlled institutions.

"If we look at the numbers, and the popular vote, of this election, I think we should feel comfortable now to talk to our children and grandchildren, and let them realize how lucky they are to live in a city that's part of the island of Montreal, which has a European flavour in a beautiful province with two languages in a leading federal democracy that is respected throughout the world," Brownstein said. "There's no place like home, and that is Montreal.

"And the talk has to be, Montreal, the suburban municipalities, Côte St. Luc, it's time

to come home. You don't have to travel for an hour and a half, as in Toronto, to get to work. You can live in Montreal. The cost of housing — whether it's buying real estate, renting an apartment, doing business here — is cheaper. There's great opportunities here. We're one hour away from our lakes and mountains and our American neighbours."

The councillor said Montreal is an ideal place to live.

"As an immigration attorney, I've been saying this for years. When I fly back to Canada and I arrive in Toronto or Vancouver, when I'm coming from Asia, Africa or Europe, I still don't feel like it's home until I take that last flight to Montreal. This is our home and it's a great place."

Brownstein also pointed out that last week's poll results indicated that Quebec youth aged 18 to 24 voted two to one against the Parti Québécois.

"The youth are the people who feel connected to the global community, to Canada and to Quebec, and they're interested in jobs and the economy.

"They're the future, so you can stay here and be a part of a great future in one of the greatest places in the world to live, which is Quebec, the island of Montreal and Côte St. Luc."

Brownstein was applauded by his fellow council members. ■