



In the company of 3 candidates totalling 43 years of cumulative experience on the municipal scene

Stephane Plante announces that he will maintain the tax freeze for the next 4 years

Deux-Montagnes, September 14, 2005 - It was in the company of Pierre Laparé, councillor for the Olympia district, Gilles Beauchemin, councillor for the du Lac district and Gilles Saint-Marseille, candidate in the Golf district, that Stephane Plante, leader of the Citizens Party/Stephane Plante Team announced that they will maintain the tax freeze for the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

According to Stephane Plante, "It is not by coincidence that I chose to make this announcement surrounded by Mr. Laparé, Mr. Beauchemin and Mr. Saint-Marseille. In the case of Mr. Leparé and Mr. Beauchemin, both have worked at preparing the last 15 budgets while Mr. Saint-Marseille has been involved 12 times with this type of operation. So tonight's announcement represents a concrete gesture by the Citizens Party/Stephane Plante Team and falls within the framework of the tradition of tax freezes applied by our party since 1992."

"It must be understood that it is relatively easy to announce a tax freeze, but we must also support these assertions by a serious and well substantiated analysis of the municipality's finances. In our case, after consulting the financial statements, we came to the conclusion that it was quite realistic to maintain the tax freeze", declared the leader of the Citizens Party/Stephane Plante Team.

According to him, further to verification, the municipality's expenses increase by 2% each year, or \$260,000, on a real budget of \$13,000,000, excluding revenues and expenses attributable to other towns. In 2006, 10 million dollars worth of new construction will be added to the municipal assessment roll from projects such as the

Guzzo theatre or the Pom Canelle day-care centre. With the property tax rate at \$1.28 for each \$100 of assessment, \$128,000 will be released in order to counter some of the increase in expenses. The revenue shortfall of \$132,000 will come from the revenue of the excise tax on gas as announced in the last federal budget and redistributed to all municipalities. It will therefore be possible to present a balanced budget all the while maintaining the tax freeze. Nevertheless, it will be necessary to monitor and rigorously control expenses by searching with a fine toothcomb the asset investments. For the subsequent years, the 2% calculable cumulative increase in expenses will be countered by the uphold of a close monitoring of our financing throughout each department's budget.

The allotment of our excess liquidity of approximately 1 million dollars will have to be performed with caution since this amount comes from all of the taxpayers and is to be used solely on projects related to the overall population. With the real estate expansion experienced by the surrounding municipalities with territory still to be developed, we will see our financial share diminished with regards to the inter-municipal agreements on police, fire, sewage, drinking water and other departments since our population and our assessment have almost reached their limits and that the financial contributions are based, among others, on these factors. An in-depth analysis of this data and an accurate assessment of our additional and recurring expenses allow us to make such a commitment with a certain assurance in a well-thought-out context.

“We are proud of this announcement, all the more since this exercise is based on the last 12 tax freezes resulting from our political party's financial policy. In the following weeks, the Citizens Party/Stephane Plante Team will proceed with the unveiling of its program. It will be reassuring for the citizens of Deux-Montagnes to know that all the elements of this program will not lead to any tax increases for the next 4 years. The measures announced will be practical, will have been the subject of an in-depth analysis and will be intended for all citizens”, said Stephane Plante.

After the introduction of 3 members of his team last week, Stephane Plante concluded this presentation by talking about the other 3 candidates, those who are part, in his opinion, of the builders of our community. “Besides their experience in municipal politics, Pierre Laparé, Gilles Beauchemin and Gilles Saint-Marseille are worthy representatives of the citizens and are involved in their community. Prior to sitting on the municipal council, Pierre Laparé worked within numerous social and community organizations. Since 1989, the year he entered into municipal politics, he has maintained his involvement, especially with the Red Cross. On the municipal scene, Pierre Laparé held various positions with community services, the police department as well as the administration, where he acquired vast experience. In the case of Gilles Beauchemin, he followed a similar journey by being involved in the community prior and during his 4 mandates as councillor. With his municipal experience, he was responsible for various departments. Over those years, he also maintained his involvement with the Maison des jeunes, of which he is one of the founders. Gilles Saint-Marseille was also involved in the social and cultural circle for a long time. After his 12 years on the municipal council, he held many positions with the Association culturelle de Deux-

Montagnes where he was able, along with many other volunteers, to make this organization a success.

For Stephane Plante, the presence of these 3 veteran candidates, involved and dedicated to their community, represent a major asset for his team. He is convinced that the citizens of Deux-Montagnes will recognize in them a guarantee of continuity and stability.

In conclusion, the leader of the Citizens Party/Stephane Plante Team invited the population to visit the team's Internet site at www.2monts.com to find out more about the candidates.