



NEW FEDERATION
HOUSE



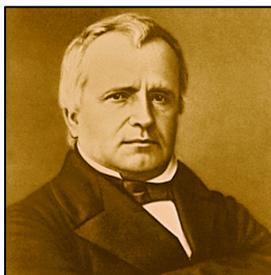
FONDATION
LAFONTAINE-CORMIER

Musée LaFontaine Museum
History, Education, Heritage, Governance

Legal Heritage – Quebec-Canada
The Prime Ministers Gallery – Quebec-Canada



Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine
Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal (1853 – 1864)
and Prime Minister (1848 – 1851)



Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine is one of the great historical figures of Quebec and Canada. With Robert Baldwin, he was the first Prime Minister of a responsible government at a time when Montreal was the capital of United Canada; a first in the history of the colonial world and an essential step towards parliamentary democracy. Dominating the political and legal scene, L-H LaFontaine is the standard-bearer of a new museum focused on justice and leadership. The following exhibitions will take place as a tribute to him:

Legal Heritage

From the time of New France to today, Quebec and Canada have shared an impressive legal heritage. Their unique history testifies to a richness that is remarkable. This exhibition will highlight civil law and common law, outstanding characters, famous cases, and key moments (*habeas corpus*, the American Bill of Rights, the Napoleonic Code, the abolition of the death penalty, charters of rights, etc.). It will also feature the judiciary and the Quebec Bar.

The Prime Ministers Gallery

Modeled on the “Gallery of American Presidents” at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, this exhibition on the Premiers of Quebec and Prime Ministers of Canada will trace the history of the province and the country through the personalities who shaped it. Their achievements, which have

marked Quebec and Canada since Confederation, will make this exhibition one of the country's leading attractions. Other Canadian leaders who have made history, such as provincial Premiers, Governors General and Aboriginal leaders, may also be included.

Temporary Exhibitions

Temporary exhibitions will also be presented, notably on Indigenous leaders who fought for the survival of their communities, and on world leaders (men and women) who built legacies for a better future. This Museum is intended to be a unique and universal heritage site devoted to the great achievements and legacy left by the Quebec, Canadian and international leaders who have influenced history and advanced civilization, both in Quebec and in politics generally.

Location

Le Musée LaFontaine Museum will be located on the grounds of the Old Montreal Courthouse where the eminent jurist once served. This heritage building, which is temporarily occupied by Montreal's City Council, will become vacant in 2022 after the Council returns to City Hall following renovations. The Annex to the old Courthouse could accommodate Le Musée LaFontaine Museum. Located at 85 Notre-Dame Street, this four-storey building is located in the heart of the tourist district and will contribute to the revitalization of the judicial district. Located in *le Vieux Montréal*, the old Courthouse is close to Champ-de-Mars, Château Ramezay, Place Jacques-Cartier and Maison Georges-Étienne Cartier. A commemorative monument in honour of L-H LaFontaine could be erected at the museum's entrance. A *café terrace* could be located on the lawns fronting the museum in the summer months.

Partnerships

New Federation House and la Fondation Lafontaine-Cormier (chaired by the Hon. Serge Joyal) are working in unison on this project. To date, the following organizations have given their support: Heritage Montreal, Fédération Histoire Québec and the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal. A "Friends of the Museum" corporation will be created to participate in the development and promotion of the museum as well as in its continuing funding.

Profile

Le Musée LaFontaine Museum will exist physically and virtually. Characterized by the originality of its design (both interior and exterior) it will include exhibition rooms, a boutique, a library, a conference room and a café bistro. Innovative technology and interactive media will be integrated throughout the museum. Museum exhibits and activities will be accessible both online and on mobile platforms. A video game on leadership could be developed. Meetings, symposia and conferences will be organized to allow students, educators and citizens to discuss legal and political issues with distinguished guests.

Financial Structure

Government agencies and corporations will be called on to make the le Musée LaFontaine Museum one of the major tourist attractions in the metropolis. A sum of \$5 million will be needed to develop this museum on leadership. This project forms part of the plans to revitalize the post-pandemic tourism sector, one of the priorities of the City of Montreal and mandated departments in Quebec City and Ottawa.

Mission

Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine was one of the great leaders of his time, both a reformer and a unifier. His memory serves as the inspiration for this museum as it becomes one of the major centers of history and commemoration for Quebecers, Canadians and international visitors.



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