

MONTÉRÉGIE CONNECTION PROJECT

What would the Montérégie region look like? Under the....

A WASTELAND LIFE

Scenario

In 2018, an economic crisis similar to the 2008 US crisis affects Quebec. After reaching a peak in development of high-class single-family homes the housing market crashes due to debts accumulated by home owners. Consequently, the region experiences difficulties as the population ages and does not augment sufficiently (0.5% annually). Most new families have limited income. In addition to this, a number of local industries suffer from a loss of business, which leads to their close, and consequently a loss of employment and a rise in people relying on employment insurance to live. A number of local commercial spaces are left vacant.



During this period urban expansion is limited. People no longer have the means to live in large spaces which leads to a number of old houses progressively being transformed into multi-family



housing. The portion of Montreal's population that no longer has the money to live in the centre of the island moves into these new condos and uses public and active transportation to get around. The crisis limits resources, which means that municipalities can no longer invest in public transportation systems and cannot put any funding into the improvement of roads over the course of multiple years.

In 2020, a major ecological crisis begins, adding to the troubles already being experienced by the region. The invasive Asian long-horned beetle extends its territory from the United-States through Ontario and into Quebec. In only a few years, the preference these insects have for maple trees leads to the eradication of the maple forests of the region. Consequently, a number of people who worked in the maple industry find themselves out of work and on employment insurance or welfare. Maple forests are devastated and surrounding natural protected areas are left abandoned. As of 2025, regenerating forests which are primarily composed of birch, poplars, alders and willows start to appear in place of the old maple forests.

Agriculture is suffering due to the economic crisis and the aging population of farmers, which are not being replaced by youth. Most food sources are imported due to their lower costs, although some farmers replant orchards and create micro businesses of niche products to obtain complementary income. The few farms that are able to



continue full-time are heavily exploiting their lands with meet and milk cows due to their low production costs.