

GAZETTE EXCLUSIVE

EMSBS ethics watchdog busy

IN 2 YEARS School board has spent 'around \$32,000' to deal with 13 complaints against commissioners

BRENDA BRANKWELL
GAZETTE EDUCATION REPORTER

When the English Montreal School Board appointed lawyer Madeline Lefrançois as its first ethics commissioner, it hired her on an as-needed basis to examine and rule on

complaints filed against the board's elected commissioners.

The politically turbulent school board sure has needed her services. Thirteen ethics complaints against EMSB commissioners have been filed since Le-

monax was named in May 2007, The Gazette has learned. Two complaints were lodged by parents; the rest were filed by commissioners.

The EMSB says it has spent "around \$32,000" to date for Lemieux to deal with the complaints. That amount con-

trasts sharply with what several area schools boards have spent during the same time frame — nothing.

Angèle Marzini, the EMSB chairperson, said she wasn't aware of all the complaints because they go directly to the ethics commissioner.

Many were lodged over a year ago and haven't been looked at yet, Marzini said, and "a high number" have to do with one commissioner.

Several commissioners contacted by The Gazette declined to explain why they filed complaints against an-

other commissioner or why they were the object of them.

"I think I worry more about the costs associated with this," said Marzini, rather than how the situation looks for her board.

Photo on EMSB, Page A5

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF A MONTREAL ICON



PHOTO: GAZETTE FILES



COURTESY OF SVS



MARCUS FOWLER/ THE GAZETTE

47 STOREYS Place Ville Marie opens half-century celebrations three years early with a photo exhibit in the shopping concourse that traces its evolution. Top left, Queen Elizabeth examines a model of the project in 1959, and then the building rises to graceful heights. Story, Page A7

OPINION Bourque called for merger 10 years ago

Mayor Pierre Bourque announced his support for the merger of Montreal Island 10 years ago today, Henry Aubin (right) notes. Bourque's vision was a turning point in the debate over the island's future — and plunged it into a morass of inefficiency, Page A7



VILLANUEVA Inquest gets off to a rocky start

A coroner's inquest into the police shooting of Freddy Villanueva (right) is late getting under way yesterday after Dany Villanueva, the victim's brother, and two men who were injured in the August 2008 melee say they refuse to participate, Page A4



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My loathings are simple: stupidity, oppression, crime, cruelty, soft music."

— Voltaire

WEATHER

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