



Montréal, december 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **Merry Montreal 2022 edition cancelled – The event gratuity is at risk.**

What was intended to be a historic 10<sup>th</sup> edition under the sign of gatherings turns out to be an insoluble puzzle for the organizers of the festivities surrounding December 31.

Indeed, **this year's event will not take place**. The organizers have decided to make a pause to discuss with their partners in order to solidify the event's financing and rethink its economic model for the future. The heartbreaking decision to cancel the 2022 edition was not made easily.

"Free access to all citizens has always been central to our mission, but today we have to completely review our model and our financing if we want the event to survive and stay free... I hope that we will be able to convince our partners to update their financial support according to today's costs of production" declares Dimitri Soudas, president of the board.

"Gallopig inflation, labor shortages and public underfunding mean that the organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition is impossible" adds Mr. Soudas.

Presented every year since 2013 in Old Montreal and the Old Port, Merry Montreal reaches nearly **200,000 festival-goers** each year who take advantage of its **free activities**. Whether it is to gather in the various landscaped and atmospheric public squares Merry Montreal's transforms or to attend the famous New Year's Eve Party with its amazing show followed by fireworks, citizens have responded present in large numbers since 2013.

Now a true tradition in the city, the Merry Montreal **New Year's Eve Party** has been the largest event of its kind in Canada since 2017, generating significant economic and tourist benefits for the city and its merchants.

"Montreal and its citizens need more than ever a major event that offers free activities during the holiday season. We are confident that our private and public partners will be committed to supporting the mission of the event so that we come back stronger, and always free to access, in 2023" mentions Martin Durocher, co-founder and vice-chairman of the board of administration of Merry Montreal.

### **ABOUT MERRY MONTREAL**

Founded in 2013, Merry Montreal is an NPO dedicated to the production of free activities, shows and events accessible to all during the holiday season in Montreal. The organization was entrusted with the finale of Montreal's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and its New Year's Eve Party is the largest of its kind in Canada since 2017.

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Details on [www.merrymontreal.com](http://www.merrymontreal.com)