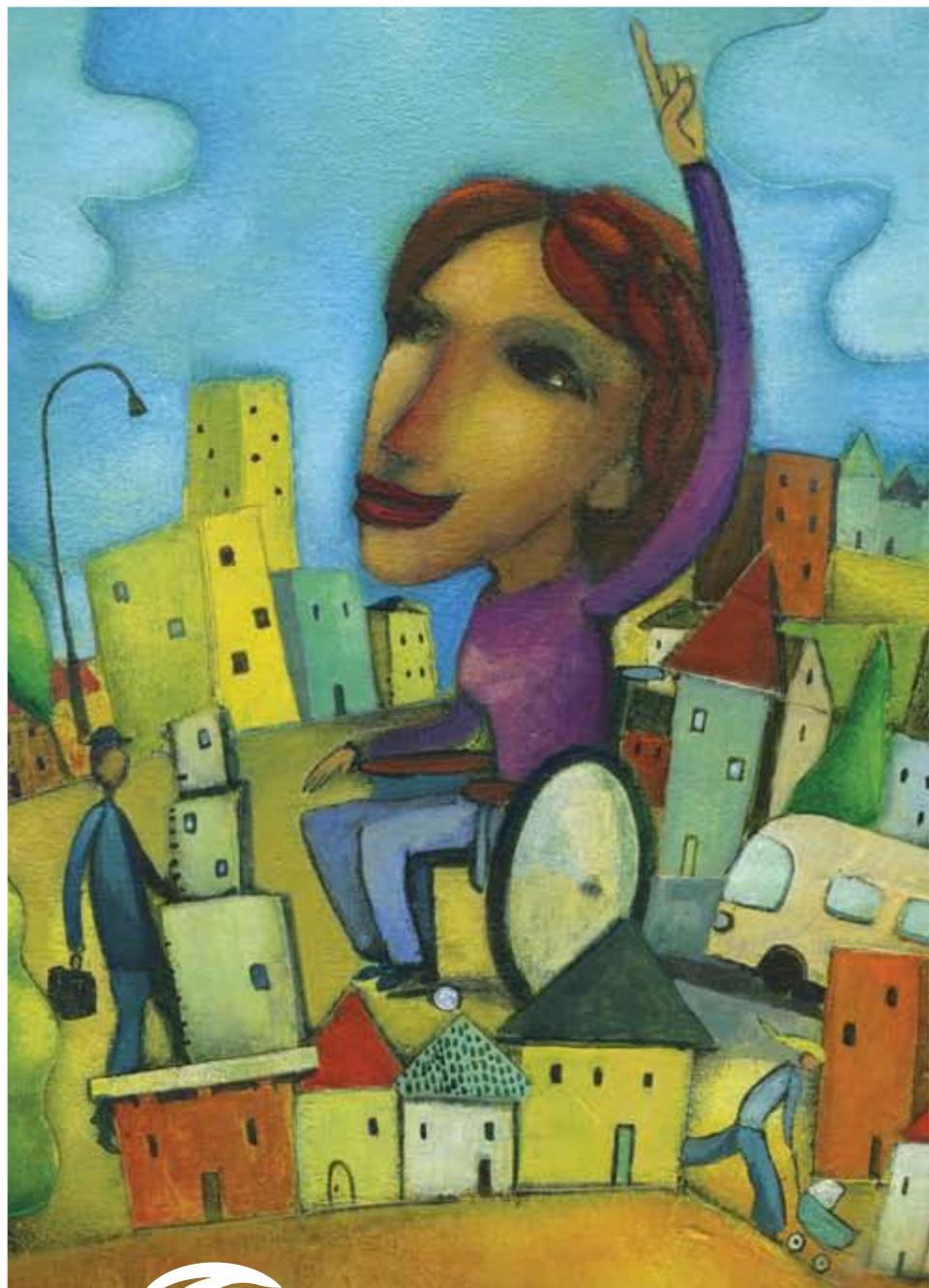


Gatineau, an inclusive city.




Ville de
Gatineau



An inclusive city for each and every one of us is what Gatineau hopes to achieve through its action plan for the integration of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility.

Keenly aware of the fact that already one quarter of its population is 50 or over and that 20% of Outaouais residents have a disability, Gatineau wants to ensure that people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility are integrated, and to go even farther, by fostering the integration of every individual, regardless of his or her differences.

In cooperation with its partners in developing the action plan, Gatineau has identified several steps that have to be taken over the next few years as it moves towards universal access. In order to target and focus these steps, eight intervention axes have been defined, each with specific objectives.

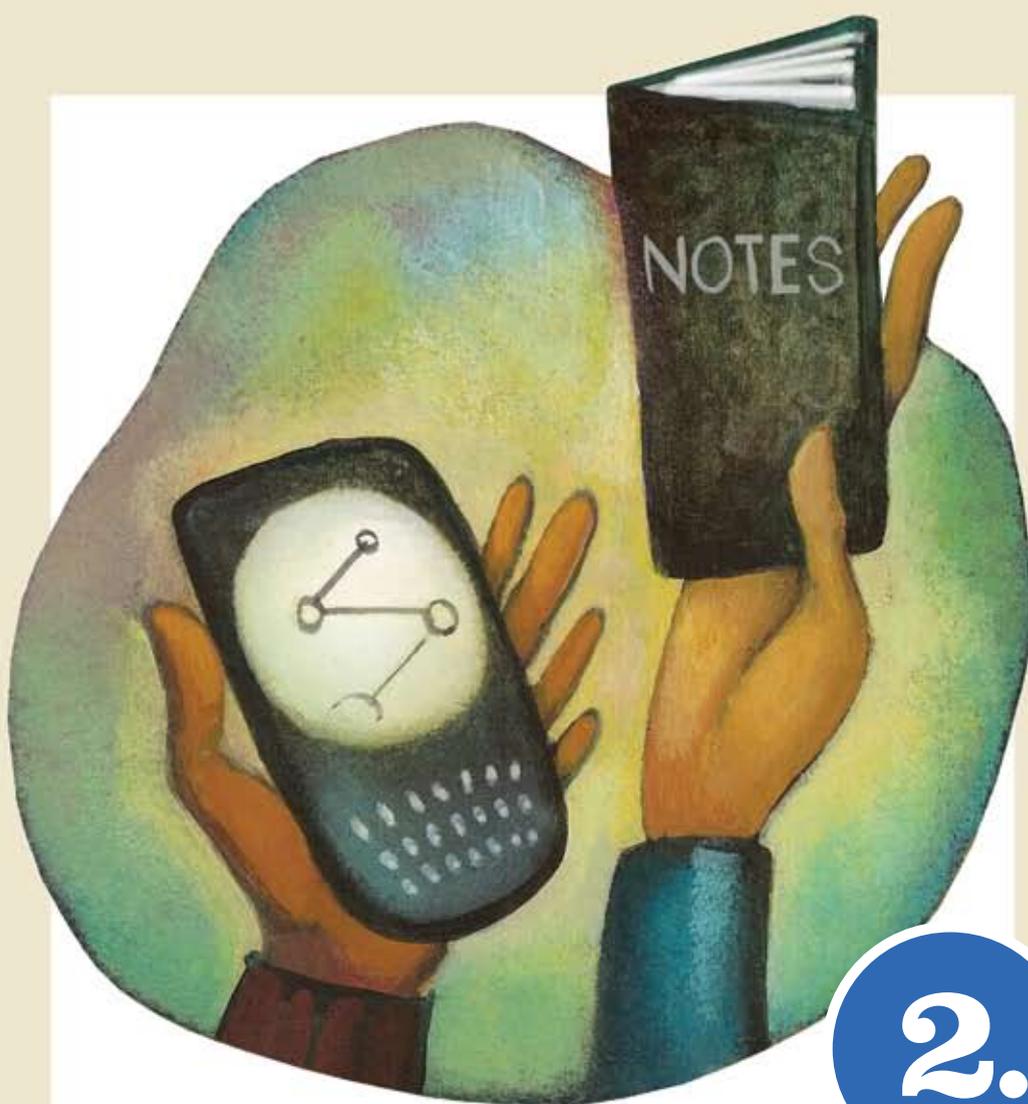


1.

The municipal administration

Gatineau is opening its doors to people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility in the municipal administration.

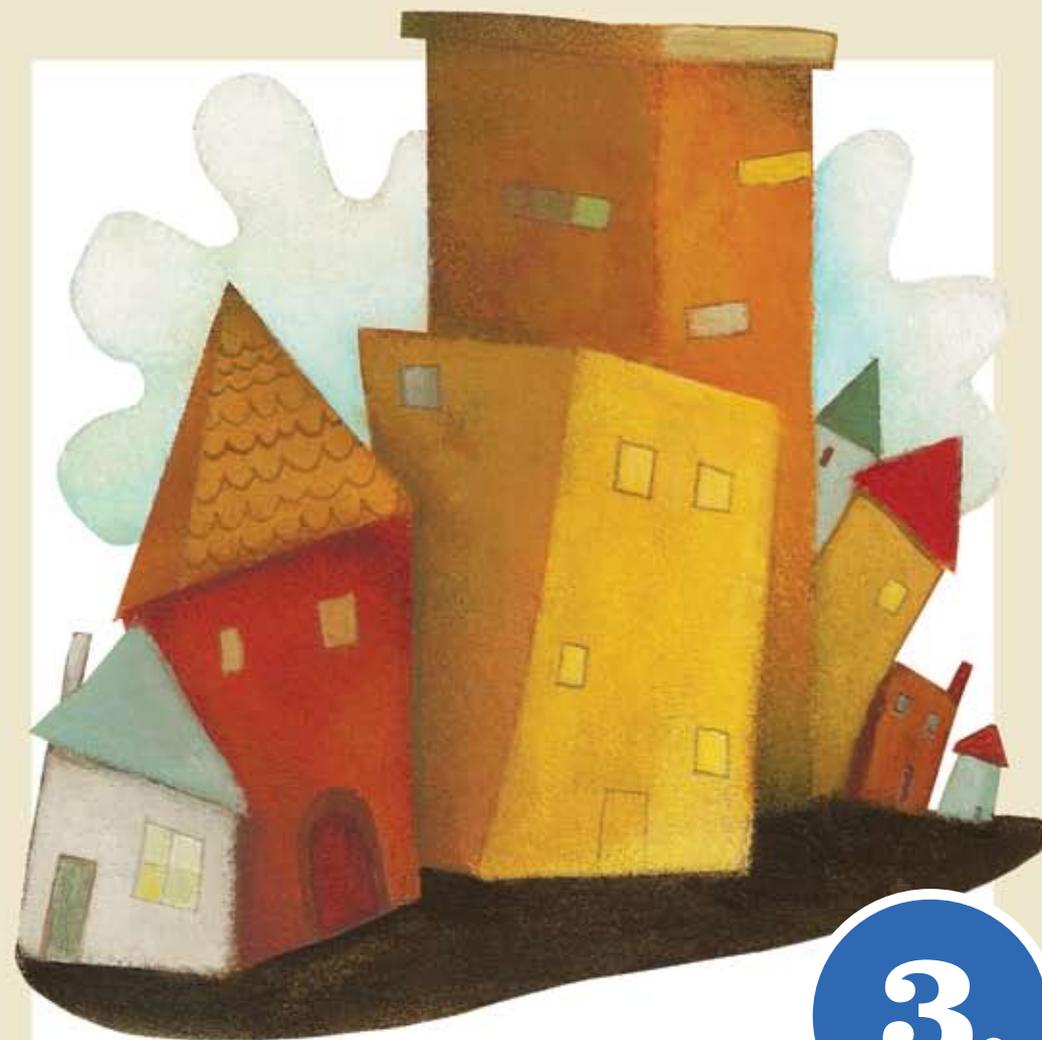
It wants every individual within the municipal administration to be able to fulfil themselves through work, the symbol of autonomy and validation.



2.

Communication

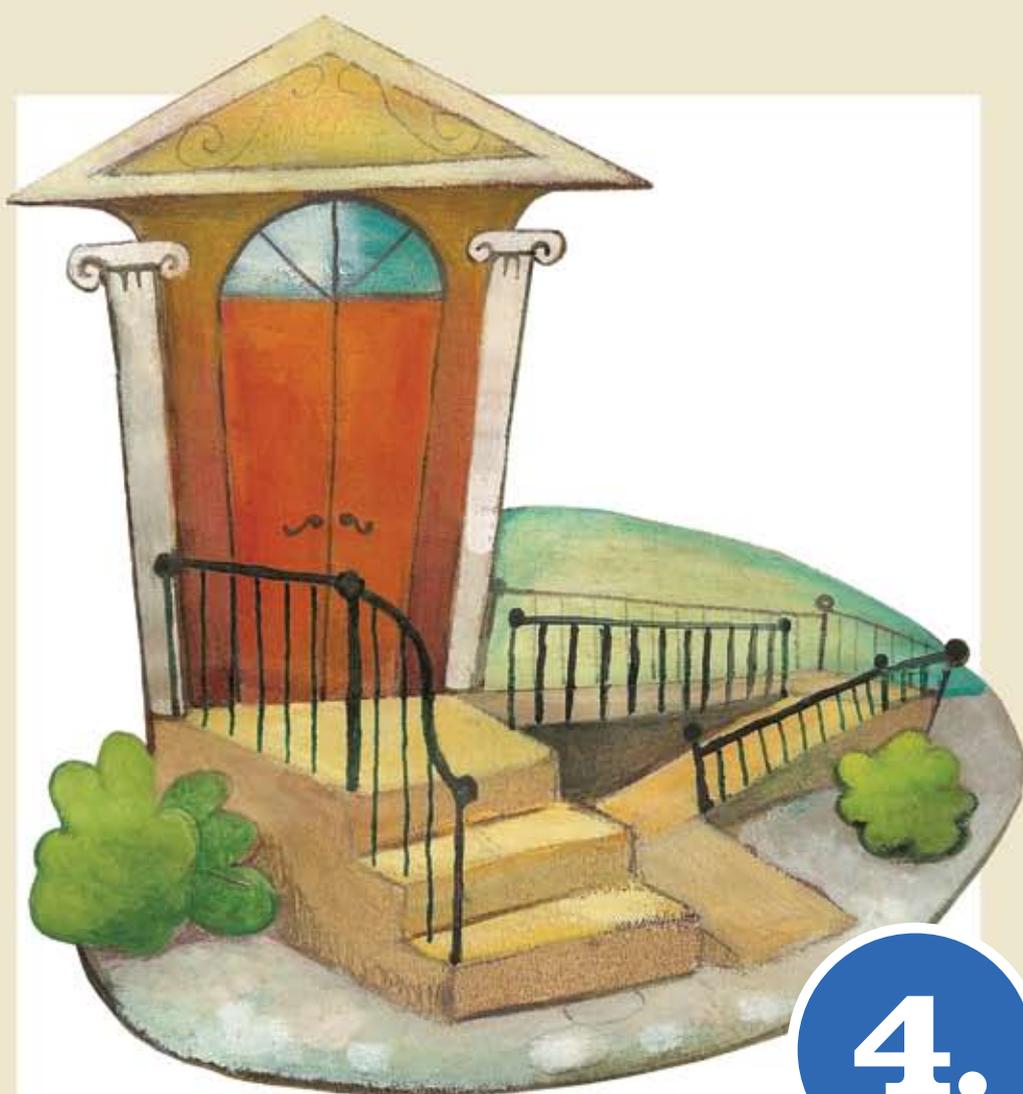
Gatineau is committed to using different means of communication to ensure that all residents can have access to municipal information.



3.

Buildings

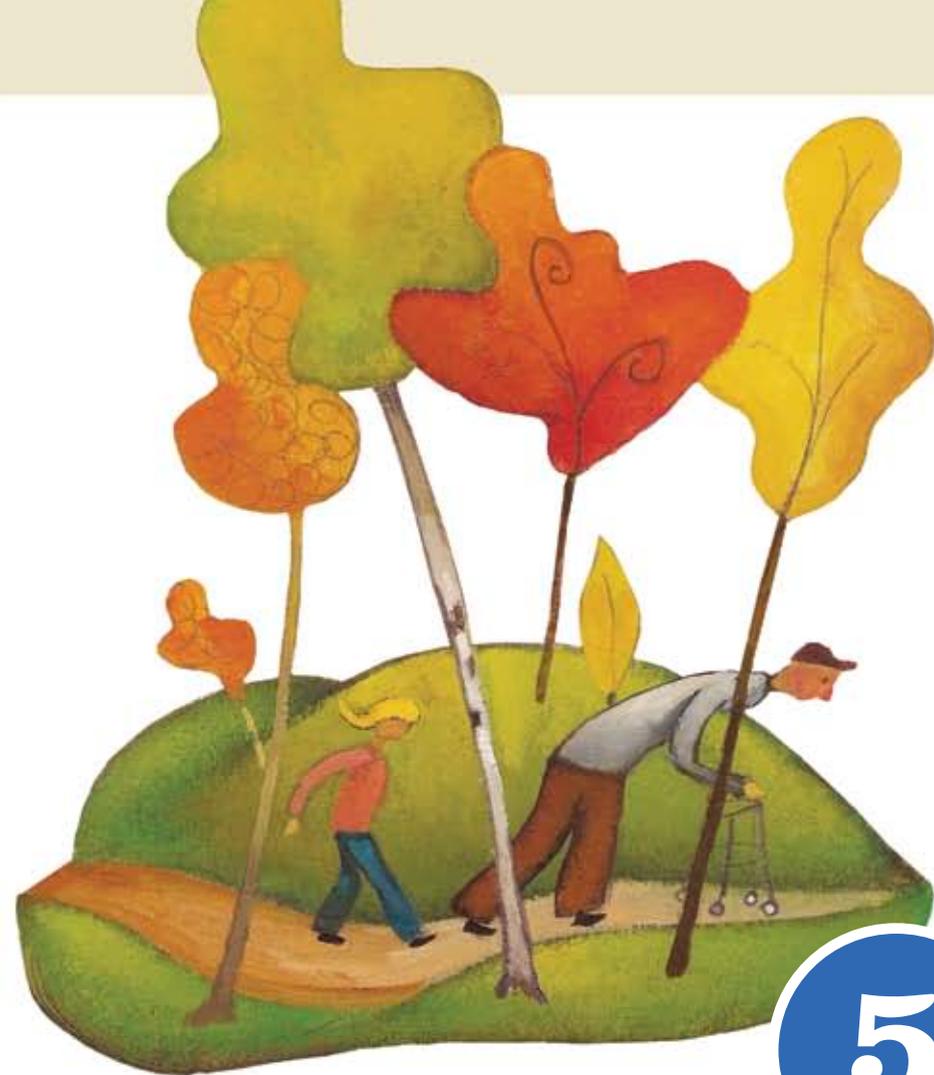
Recognizing the scope of the work that lies ahead in terms of refitting all buildings to ensure access to people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility so that they can move around in them and take advantage of all of the services offered, Gatineau is committed to start by reducing the obstacles to access in municipal, public and commercial buildings.



4.

Housing

To meet the housing needs of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility, Gatineau is promoting access to housing while ensuring that every one of them will get adapted housing or housing that will be able to meet their needs.

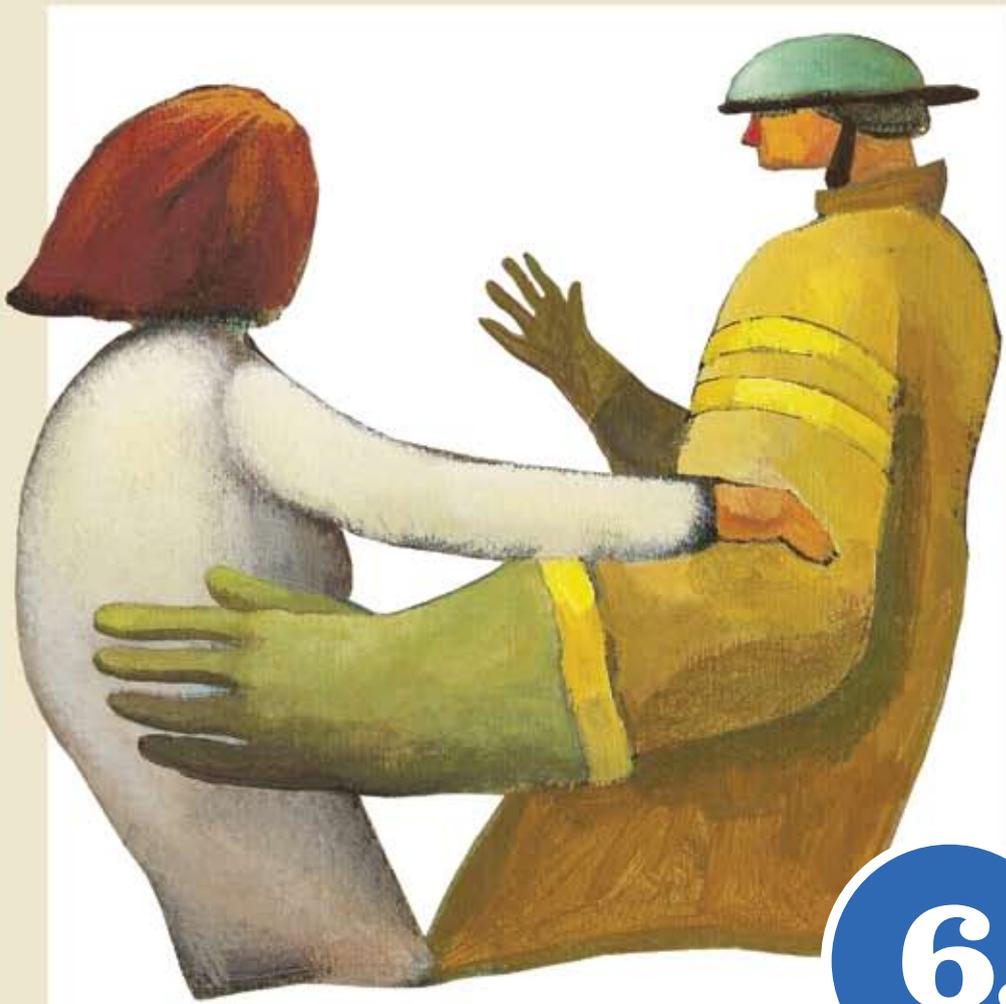


5.

Recreation, culture & tourism

Development measures and strategies will be introduced to encourage participation and facilitate integration by people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility into recreational activities and cultural, festive and tourism events.

In addition, Gatineau will adapt its offer of municipal services to promote their integration.



6.

Safety

In order to increase the sense of safety of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility, Gatineau is continuing its efforts to ensure their safety in emergency situations, as well as in the urban environment.



7.

Urban environment

After taking into consideration the special needs of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility, a number of parking measures and signs have been introduced to increase their safety.

For instance, Gatineau is improving access to reserved parking, the use of sidewalks and street furniture, and signage in different places around the city.



8.

Public transit

Given the ageing population, Gatineau, in collaboration with the Société de transport de l'Outaouais, is taking the necessary steps to facilitate and encourage the use of public transit for people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility.

Conclusion

Over the next few years, through steps connected to eight intervention axes, Gatineau will start moving ahead with the integration of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility. Nonetheless, it is aware that there will still be axes requiring action in the near future.

By adopting the action plan on the integration of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility, Gatineau is acquiring an important asset for becoming an inclusive city, one that will rely extensively on everyone's openness to and involvement in the integration of people with disabilities and those with reduced mobility. There is no doubt that by combining these elements, each and every one of us, together, will progress towards universal access.

This is what we mean by...

People with disabilities

Anyone with a disability that creates a significant and persistent incapacity who is likely to encounter obstacles in the performance of everyday activities.

Source: Office des personnes handicapées du Québec, *Guide à l'intention des ministères, des organismes publics et des municipalités en vue de la production de leur plan d'action annuel à l'égard des personnes handicapées*, Drummondville, Direction de l'évaluation, de la recherche et de l'intervention nationale, September 2005, 56 p.

Universal access

A concept of accommodation and integration that fosters everyone's use of the opportunities provided by a building, public place or service to a similar degree. Universal access gives everyone, including people with disabilities, access to a building or public place, and the ability to move around in it, to use the services and to enjoy the same experiences.

Source: AlterGo Web site - *Les quatre volets de l'accessibilité universelle*, 2007.

Information

For additional information about universal access in Gatineau:

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E-mail: info@gatineau.ca

Web site: www.gatineau.ca