



Meet the Westmount–  
Saint-Louis candidates /5

## Description

# Candidate Mikey Colangelo Lauzon of the Conservative Party of Québec

Dear WestmountMag.ca reader,

In view of informing our readers on the various parties' platforms for the upcoming **Quebec Provincial Election 2018**, WestmountMag.ca has invited all the candidates for the district of **Westmount–Saint-Louis** to submit an article about themselves and their program.

Articles are published unedited and on a first submitted, first published basis.

Here is the fourth article of the series, submitted by **Mikey Colangelo Lauzon** of the **Conservative Party of Québec**.

Moving forward with Mikey in Westmount–Saint-Louis!

I was born into a middle-class family in Sherbrooke in 1992. My mother, Susie Colangelo, comes from the Montréal Italian-English community and my father, Mario Lauzon, was a French-Canadian tinsmith whose family has been based in the Eastern Townships for generations.



An

entrepreneur at heart, I completed a Certificate in Governance from the Institute for Governance of Private and Public Organizations (IGOPP) and a Certificate in Human Relations from the Institut de Culture personnelle du Québec Inc. Previously, I had obtained my High School Diploma at École secondaire des Rives in Lachenaie.

I studied Business Management at CÉGEP de Joliette where I was a director on the Conseil d'établissement, an administrator of the Regroupement étudiant, and director of the Club Entrepreneur. I received a scholarship in 2012.

A proud Westmount resident and bilingual by training, just like my father I started as a factory tinsmith on the north shore of Montréal and later as a luthier in the Eastern Townships.

I discovered my entrepreneurial spirit on the cusp of my twenties thanks to my friend and colleague, Peter G. White, with whom I participated in a commercial development operation in central Africa, specifically the DRC. I primarily undertake financial development and project management for various local and international companies. I have had the opportunity to make several trips to central Africa, South America, the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and Asia.

I am also very involved in the Montréal community, in many private and public organizations. Among others, as a council member of the University Club of Montreal, a member of the McGill Faculty Club, and a member of the International Wine and Food Society. A gourmet, I write gastronomic reviews as a hobby.

My interest in politics asserted itself at an early age, first with the ADQ under Mario Dumont and Gérard Deltell. I campaigned with the group Restons ADQ with Adrien Pouliot and Claude Garcia who strongly opposed the merger with the CAQ, a party advocating the "effective left."

I also proved myself with the Conservative Party of Canada. I was taken under the wing of former Mulroney administration officers where I became the Financial Officer of the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Westmount Conservative Association.

Today, I am the Chairman of the Constitution Committee and Secretary General of the Conservative Party of Québec, and I was a candidate in the riding of Joliette in the 2012 and 2014 general elections.



## **Reduce tax on gasoline**

Families do not always have the option of taking public transit, and electric vehicles can be financially out of reach. Therefore, the Conservative Party of Québec will abolish the carbon tax and repeal some other dispositions in the Law. Indeed, even before the creation of this 11th gasoline tax, Québécois already paid more for gasoline than all other Canadians, except for Vancouverites. Therefore, the Conservative Party of Québec believes that Québec should wait until the price of gasoline in the rest of Canada catches up with Québec's before asking Québécois to make yet more sacrifices. We must not delude ourselves: this tax is expensive for Québec families, as its creation wasn't accompanied by matching tax cuts to make it revenue neutral.

## **Abolish QST on second-hand goods**

The more one extends the useful life of a product, the more we decrease its ecological footprint. In other words, the longer a product is used, the more the environmental damage that the manufacture of that product has caused is amortized. Additionally, applying QST to used goods discourages second-hand purchases, which harms the environment because the production of new consumer goods is a polluting process.

Moreover, apart from some trendy upscale areas, most second-hand goods, such as clothing, are purchased by budget-conscious consumers. Therefore, the practice of applying QST on the sale of used products disproportionately affects the less fortunate in our society.

A CPQ government will cease taxing the resale of all used consumer goods, including automobiles.

## **Better management of the state**

The Conservative Party of Québec wants to tackle problems in the healthcare field, and here is a list of some critical points:

- Pay hospitals on an activity-based funding model to foster competition;
- Establish a ranking system of Québec hospitals;
- Encourage new forms of management and hospital ownership;
- Change the remuneration of physicians in hospitals;
- Unclog medical practices;
- Allow private insurance;
- Long-term care;
- Interdisciplinary;
- Empower individuals to donate organs and tissues;
- Cancer treatment drugs;
- Health Commissioner.

More broadly, what the Conservative Party of Québec wants to achieve in the healthcare system is to make more space for the private sector, as has been successful in many European countries, including Sweden. It is important to note that the population will still have the right to free health care, but the management of hospitals would occur in the private sector. This shift will improve the quality of care provided and reduce wait times in emergencies. This system will enhance the efficiency of our hospitals.

The private healthcare sector will also improve conditions for healthcare workers, who are currently burnt out after 15 years of Liberal rule. The Conservative Party of Québec wants to support our nurses and healthcare workers.



Better management of the state is also beneficial in another large government portfolio: education. Here is what the Conservative Party of Québec proposes at this level:

- Autonomous schools;
- A more focused mandate for the ministry;
- An independent evaluation commission;
- An understandable newsletter;
- School funding, a competitive approach;
- Teachers: self-employed professionals;
- Technical training at CÉGEP;
- Deregulation of university tuition fees;
- Students free to join a student union;
- Repeal of the Book Act;
- Competition with international music schools;
- Abolition of the Ethics and Religious Culture Courses (ECR).

Just like at the preschool level, where the Conservative Party of Québec does not want to force a choice upon parents but wants to give them the freedom to choose between CPEs, private daycares, or kindergarten four, the CPQ has the same philosophy for schooling. A Conservative Party of Québec government would help parents have the most freedom to choose between private and public schools.

At the CÉGEP level, the CPQ believes that the current pre-university training offered at the college level is not good enough to justify its existence. The Conservative Party of Québec would replace the current system with one that has been proven successful in the other Canadian provinces: adding a year of secondary school. This type of transition would ultimately save time and improve the dropout rate. The CPQ would, however, leave in place CÉGEP technical programs.

### **Lower taxes for all Québécois and SMBs.**

A Conservative Party of Québec government would increase the personal exemption from \$15,000 to \$20,000. A middle-class household will save \$1,500 in taxes per year, saving up to 36%. Among other things, we plan to “pay” these deductions with the abolition of Revenu Québec and the introduction of a single tax return.

A Conservative Party of Québec government will also lower the taxes of SMBs by 40% of the current rate to let them breathe. The abolition of Investissement Québec, amongst other things, will offset the cost of these deductions.

### **Québec Charter of Victims' Rights**

For some years now, the Conservative Party of Québec has been working with Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu on the rights of crime victims. It is inconceivable that in our society, more often than not, criminals have more rights than victims.

A Conservative Party of Québec government will pass legislation creating the Québec Charter for the Rights of Crime Victims, which includes the following:

1. the right to adequate legal support (legal aid for victims);
2. the right to fair and equitable compensation (regardless of where the crime occurred);
3. the right to be consulted on judicial decisions concerning them; and
4. the right to be protected before, during, and after the judicial process (cases of spousal abuse).



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1. Politics
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3. Westmount

### Tags

1. 2018 provincial elections
2. Conservative Party of Québec.
3. Mikey Colangelo Lauzon
4. Westmount–Saint-Louis

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