



Bienvenue & Welcome to **Montreal** **19th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research**

Montreal is a union of European charm and North American attitude as it gives home to the ancient and the new. Once home to the First Nations people and early western colonialists it has become 80 distinct ethnic communities represented in its population of 3.7 million people. The city lies at the junction of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers, atop the island of Montreal. While known for its cold winters, summer weather in Montreal is quite comfortable with average July temperatures ranging from lows of 60 °F/15.6 °C to highs of 79 °F /26 °C.

Montreal is the only French-speaking city in North America and the second-largest French speaking city in the Western world outside of Paris, but its culture extends beyond French influence alone. Millions of people who call Montreal home speak both French and English, making it essentially a bilingual city. All this and its international flavor provide the visitor with welcome and hospitality.



Another great aspect of Montreal is that it is easily accessible on foot and the rest can be reached via the Metro system, so getting around the city is hassle free. Its streets, vast parks,

unusual underground pedestrian network ("The Underground"), and metro system are safe and easy to navigate.

Look for more information on Montreal highlights on our website in the upcoming months.

GETTING TO MONTREAL - PLANES, TRAINS, & AUTOMOBILES

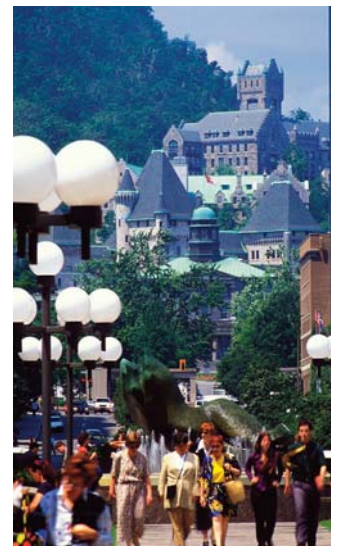
GETTING TO MONTREAL - PLANES, TRAINS, & AUTOMOBILES

Major airlines (both U.S. and International) have non-stop and direct flights into Montreal's airport. There are also daily trains from the U.S. and Canada. It is often quite common that visitors drive from New York and New Hampshire to Montreal. However, you choose to travel check for the best fares with your travel agent or favorite online provider.

VISAS & PASSPORTS

Canada does require visas for some countries and if you are not a U.S. citizen or residing in the U.S. please check the following website to see what your requirements are. Go to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/English/visit/visas.asp>

U.S. citizens are now required to have a passport for travel to and from Canada. If you need one or your passport has expired please visit this site: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html



**IF YOU ARE HOLDING A J-1 OR H-1B VISA RESIDING IN THE U.S.
Please Note the Following Information Provided By
The National Postdoc Association on Travel to Canada**

	J-1	H-1B
I plan to travel to Canada. My passport has an expired visa stamp but my other USCIS documents have been revalidated and will be current when traveling. Can I re-enter the United States without getting a new visa stamp in my passport?	<p>If you travel to Canada or other contiguous island territories for less than 30 days, it is not necessary to re-enter with a valid J-1 visa if the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) you re-enter with a valid I-94 card; 2) your passport is valid for at least six months from date of re-entry; 3) you possess your original DS-2019 that has been properly endorsed for travel and re-entry within the past ten months; and, 4) you do not apply for the visa at the U.S. consulate. <p>NOTE: If you are flying to Canada, make sure that the airline does <u>not</u> take your I-94 upon your departure. Provide the airline with a photocopy of your I-94.</p>	<p>If you travel to Canada or other contiguous island territories for less than 30 days, it is not necessary to re-enter with a valid H-1B visa if the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) you re-enter with a valid I-94 card; 2) your passport is valid for at least six months from date of re-entry; 3) you possess your Notice of Approval; and, 4) you do not apply for the visa at the U.S. consulate. <p>For appropriate travel documents and instructions, contact your employer's/institution's international office.</p> <p>NOTE: If you are flying to Canada, make sure that the airline does <u>not</u> take your I-94 upon your departure. Provide the airline with a photocopy of your I-94.</p>
How long can I stay in Canada with an expired visa stamp but revalidated USCIS documents?	Up to 30 days.	Up to 30 days.
What other documentation should I take to Canada so that there will be no problem when I re-enter the U.S.?	You are strongly advised to carry recent evidence of financial support for the total duration of your stay in the U.S.	You are strongly advised to carry a letter from your employer/institution confirming your employment, job title and salary as well as your original H-1B Notice of Approval.

THE CONFERENCE HOTELS & THEIR ENVIRONS

The Hyatt Regency Montreal, 1255 Jeanne-Mance Street – 514-982-1234 is the site for the conference sessions and is the headquarters hotel. It is located in the heart of Montreal's downtown and a quick walk to Vieux-Montreal (old Montreal) which is considered to be the center of cultural life for the city. Most of the summer activities revolve around the Place Jacques-Cartier, which is a pedestrian walk full of performers and outdoor cafes. The hotel itself sits atop of Montreal's underground city with cafes, shops, grocery stores and food courts for quick inexpensive eating.

Within a few blocks of the Hyatt you can enjoy the delights of Montreal's Chinatown for dining and shopping. Or if you want to explore you can board the metro or one of the local buses.

Our student and postdoc housing is one of McGill University's residence halls at 3625 avenue du Parc, but it is not your typical dorm room. Our student housing is located in the Latin Quarter which has been the home of young artists, performers and academics since the 1700's. It is known for its rows of restaurants, bistros, coffee shops, art galleries and a vibrant night life. Montreal, and especially this area, is home to many cafes and bistros that allow you to bring your own wine—there are over 3,000 such establishments in the city. This hotel is a 20 minute walk or a 5 minute bus ride to the conference site.

Housing will open with registration this February.

Keep posted for more information on the conference and Montreal in the upcoming months—for now *Au Revoir!*

For information, email: arabidopsis08@plantconferences.org