



Demolition of the church of Sainte-Cœur-de-Marie in fall 2019

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The converted churches of Quebec

Over the past several years, religious buildings in Quebec have been like the steeples of the old Saint-Joseph church abandoned on the sidewalk for the last 7 years: they are left behind and continue to deteriorate with the winters. The question arises as to the future of Quebec's religious heritage: what cultural heritage do we preserve? What are the impacts on the economy and tourism? Each demolished church carries with it a story to tell.

Since the 1950s, the amount destroyed churches per year has continued to increase. In addition, most of them are bought by real estate brokers who build condominiums. Apart from the Vieux-Québec district, which is protected by UNESCO, Quebec City might see towers erect to replace its churches unless citizens show some interest in these buildings that are part of the culture of Quebec. Some projects in the city have proven themselves in terms of citizen mobilization, such as the Quebec Circus School. This remains a challenge, because the circulating information is complex, there are plenty of figures and the municipal documents are not updated.

Several reasons, natural or not, threaten the survival of Quebec's churches. Excluded from the cultural heritage act in 2012, they are now in the hands of the dioceses of Quebec. What will happen to these ghost buildings? Several experts and activists have answered these questions.

Find the report here: <https://norailegrand.wixsite.com/churchesofqc>