

On Monday, February 13th, 1928, a group of Montreal citizens met to consider health conditions in Montreal.

The group agreed that conditions of health in Montreal are not satisfactory. It noted, with approval, the general interest displayed in matters pertaining to health.

It cannot be denied that Montreal's death rate of 14.12 per 1,000 is from 1 to 2 points higher than the average in cities of comparable size. With a population of 700,000, it means that from 700 to 1,400 more than the average number of lives are lost each year.

Of 2,000 total deaths from preventable causes under 20 years of age in 1926, at least 1,300 could have been prevented.

Diphtheria caused 139 deaths - all preventable;

Tuberculosis caused 954 deaths - at least 50% preventable;

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years, caused 877 deaths - at least 90% preventable;

Infant deaths, 2,521 - a rate of 119 per 1,000 infants born;

could be reduced by 50 points, meaning the saving of 1,000 infant lives each year.

It was also pointed out that the experience of a Typhoid Fever epidemic indicated a weakness in the health protective machinery of the community.

It was decided by the meeting, with a view to bettering such conditions and to assist those responsible for health policies, to take the following action:-

To make a health survey of Montreal in order to provide the citizens of Montreal with a comprehensive statement of health conditions