Research Aims:

The goal of this research was to compile a GIS database of physical and demographic information throughout the Montreal region. GIS is a software application used for the storage, manipulation, analysis, modeling, retrieval and graphic presentation of spatially referenced information. It can reveal hidden patterns as well as trends and relationships that are difficult – if not impossible – to ascertain through the use of spreadsheets or other techniques. It allows for the layering of spatially referenced information allowing the simultaneous analysis of – among other things – a given location’s demographic, topographic, land use, infrastructure, and accessibility details.

Key results to date:

The present database contains well over a hundred different layers of land use, transportation network, census boundaries and demographic information that can be overlaid to analyze, understand and present patterns, trends and correlations throughout the region. This database will continue to grow and become more “user friendly” in the coming months leading to a valuable shared resource for those in the McGill and affiliated communities. This data can be used for anything from calculating the effects of new road infrastructure, identifying areas of need, classifying neighbourhood types or simple demographic analysis. Its usefulness to researchers is immense.