Research Aims:
What is being made in Montreal today? Made in Montreal www.madeinmontreal.org (http://www.faitamontreal.org) is a research initiative from the McGill School of Urban Planning seeking to answer this question and exploring the implications of local urban manufacturers.

Montreal’s local manufacturers produce an amazingly diverse range of products and contribute to the world famous cultural texture of this city. As Montreal lacks a business directory devoted to its own producers, we decided to build our own. In the process we have had the opportunity to extensively research manufacturing in contemporary urban centres.

Our research has shown that many Montreal manufacturing businesses are small and often hidden. Moreover, even though they are collectively employing thousands of Montreal workers, they do not receive the same policy attention that larger firms receive. Many manufacturing businesses are located in the communities surrounding the MUHC, although people are making things everywhere in this city - from St-Henri warehouses to Westmount basements.

Why is urban manufacturing important?
• The products made in a city, how they are made, and how they are consumed are defining features of a city’s character and culture.
• Consumers are already aware of the importance of locally sourced food and we suspect that this trend will spread to everyday durable goods as well. Montreal is already well known for supporting local, independent businesses.
• A tight network of manufacturers and a knowledgeable population of consumers are important goals for cities seeking to reduce their carbon footprint and capitalize on their cultural diversity
• Manufacturing is important for local economic diversity and the resiliency of the local economy.
• Manufacturing provides jobs and career opportunities for many people, including the non-college educated, immigrants, and entrepreneurs.

Key results to date:
The business directory is still being piloted although an initial set of local businesses has been published. We are now in the process of expanding our network, and are actively searching out and contacting businesses. Response rates have been positive, with a 100% positive response from businesses we have contacted directly. Moreover, the creation of this Montreal manufacturing business directory is well-timed, as a number of other cities such as San Francisco have also recently launched similar initiatives.

The project has also resulted in a formal academic presentation of urban manufacturing as an integral component of the resilient North American city, as the team presented a paper in progress at this year’s Urban Affairs Association Conference in New Orleans. These same ideas were also shared at the American Planners Association Conference in Boston and will be presented in poster form at the Eco-City World Summit in Montreal, August 2011.

We invite you to go the site and look over the results of our work. We are very proud of the shape it has taken and are always interested in hearing from other engaged Montreal citizens.