

In the Face of Oligarchy, a Democracy of Multitudes

Oligarchy. A word that captures the essence of crises piling up, one on top of another. Oligarchy is the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of an increasingly small group of individuals: fascist politicians, tech moguls, and billionaires who create problems only to then profit from them. They isolate individuals, destroy our culture, splinter our communities, and no longer even bother to hide their intent to build an international reactionary movement.

The most troubling part? This oligarchy manages to present itself as the solution to the excesses of the global order of the past forty years, when in reality, it is merely its most extreme offspring. And Quebec is not immune to this authoritarian wave. We must propose something different, something that takes a radically opposite path: the path of democracy. We must defend the imperfect one we have inherited; more importantly, we must reinvigorate it from top to bottom so that it truly meets our collective needs and aspirations.

Beyond mere participation in elections, democracy is still very much alive in Quebec. Citizen groups, local representatives, territorial struggles, community organizations, social economy enterprises—many of us are already seizing the initiative across the province. But we must move beyond a case-by-case approach, pick up the pace, and create a real movement to transform our society democratically. To make this happen, a new initiative is taking shape: Multitudes. We are coming together to build this project, starting with two concrete priorities.

First, we need to bring democracy closer to the people. This means decentralizing power, Empowering local communities, and granting more autonomy to municipalities and regions while also democratizing them through strengthened citizen participation and civic engagement. We need more inclusive regional leadership in order to collectively develop viable solutions for local communities. Many municipalities around the world are already moving in this direction to accelerate social change.

Second, we need to bring the economy back under democratic control and have it serve people and communities, rather than profit and growth-at-all-costs. Quebec already has tools we can make better use of: the social economy, decommodification of essential services, local economic development, cooperative finance, the commons, and more. We can also leverage our legal and legislative tools to, for example, combat harmful advertising or rein in multinational corporations. And we can further leverage these concrete strategies as building blocks to implement a new socioeconomic model.

Other priorities will follow. It's through this foundational work, this passion, and this energy that we will regain our collective autonomy, break free from powerlessness, and overcome the challenges we face. Decent and affordable housing, local and healthy food, 21st-century transportation, a vibrant culture that fosters connection... all to ultimately turn the socio-ecological transition into the great shared project, the great collective vision that we so desperately need.

To achieve this, we need strength—a unifying political movement that steps outside the established frameworks, as well as a new way of organizing: autonomous, adaptable, and non-electoral. A space that brings together people from different backgrounds, all while collaborating with the organizations and social movements that have been upholding these ideals for decades. This is what Multitudes proposes to do.

This is how we can take risks, push for both concrete and profound change, and personify this change in the public sphere. We will identify the cracks in the current system and use them to reshape our institutions. We seek not to seize power at the ballot box, but to reclaim power wherever it exists today: in municipal councils, media, businesses, and elsewhere. This is the recipe to regain confidence in ourselves and the desire to work together, everywhere, on a larger scale.

And it starts now, because time is of the essence. In the coming months, we will be on the ground, hosting events across Quebec. Things are shifting, and a window of opportunity is opening in this moment of uncertainty; now is the time to come together, to rediscover our interdependence and strengthen our solidarity. Come join us—we are a multitude bringing forth the new world that already exists all around us.