

# Press release



## Press Conference: Gérald Iron Hands

For immediate release

**An artist highlights the inaction of the Tremblay's administration in the Berger Blanc case.**

**Ottawa - April 19, 2012.** During an event organized by SPA Canada to mark the first anniversary of the exposure of the horrors perpetrated at Berger Blanc broadcast by Radio-Canada on April 21, 2011, Tony Fortin, the artist from Mont-Tremblant, will graciously donate a piece entitled *Gérald aux mains de fer* ("Gerald, hands of iron") to the Tremblay administration during an event staged by the Society for the Protection of Animals (SPA) Canada. The unexpected delivery and unveiling of the piece, linked to a press conference, will be held at the **Montreal Municipal Court**, down the stairs outside, 775 rue Gosford, on **19th April at 1pm**.

The artist created and will donate this work, of an estimated value of \$5000, in protest against the indifference of municipal leaders towards deficient animal practices. According to Tony Fortin, his work represents the predicament of the voiceless of this world, those who are powerless before the cold mechanism of political decisions motivated by unsustainable economic interests. Through this symbolic gesture, the organization continues to demand that our public pounds reflect the values of an evolved, and not a barbaric, society; and it continues to believe that definitively shutting down Berger Blanc is a necessary starting point in that direction. "Gérald Tremblay's inaction shows that he implicitly condones a system of animal production and distribution that is inadequate and almost completely unsupervised by municipal and governmental authorities, a lack of supervision which is at the very origin of animal overpopulation" adds Gabriel Villeneuve, campaign coordinator for SPA Canada. "The announcement of the new animal centre coming to Montreal falls short of SPA Canada's expectations, since the Berger Blanc will stay active and only a small fraction of the animals that are picked up will see the inside of these establishments", he explains.

M. Villeneuve adds that this donation is nonetheless conditional on its being permanently exhibited in the spot where it was originally placed, until the arrival of genuine public management of animals on the island of Montreal. Only then will the city be released from the work of art, which will leave only by means of an auction, the proceeds of which must be given to a non-profit organization actively engaged in the fight against animal cruelty and approved by the artist. Obviously, the event must be open to the media.

A website dedicated to the artwork will be posted Thursday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m. at [www.geraldironhands.com](http://www.geraldironhands.com).

**Where:** At the Montreal municipal court at the 775, rue Gosford, outside the building, down the stairs, next to the main entrance.

**When:** Thursday, the 19th of April 2012 at 1pm.

SPA Canada will be happy to grant media interviews.

For further information, please contact:

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