

M. JEAN-YVES BOURDAGES :

505 ... sur la rue René-Lévesque. Puis je ne pense pas que les parents... Parce qu'il faut dire
une chose. Comme on n'a pas, on ne s'est pas vraiment occupé, il y a eu beaucoup de choses qui
ont été abandonnées sur le terrain, ça a besoin d'un bon ménage, et à une certaine époque aussi,
les Franciscains qui s'occupent des pauvres, qui ont le respect des pauvres puis des itinérants,
avaient demandé à leurs deux locataires de ne pas chasser les gens qui squattaient dans la partie la
plus basse. Ça, c'est tout à leur honneur, puis il y a des gens qui s'étaient fait un petit campement,
510 ils passaient l'hiver là, c'était bien. Mais là, ils ne sont plus là.

Alors je présume qu'on leur a demandé d'aller s'installer ailleurs parce que quand je suis
passé au printemps, il n'y avait plus aucun squatteur, il n'y avait plus personne, mais le terrain a été
négligé. Alors c'est sûr que monsieur Coderre quand il est allé voir, lui, tout ce qu'il a vu, c'est les
515 déchets, le paquet de bouteilles de plastique, de la ferraille qui a été abandonnée, etc. Alors ça ne
paie pas de mine là. Mais un bon nettoyage, c'était des jardins, il ne faut pas l'oublier.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

520 Alors il me reste à vous remercier.

M. JEAN-YVES BOURDAGES :

525 C'est moi qui vous remercie.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

J'inviterais maintenant madame Nancy Robinson.

530 **Mme NANCY ROBINSON :**

535 Good evening, Madame, Messieurs les commissaires. I will give my presentation in English. I thank you for this time. I made my submission regarding the buildings that Prével is suggesting to alert people to the possibility of bird collisions. This does not mean that I'm in favour of the buildings, I would much rather see it as a green space; but if the buildings do go ahead, I think it would be important that the developer and the architects pay attention to the danger that these kinds of buildings present to migrating birds and also birds that are staying here to breed.

540 This has not been well researched in Montreal, but we know from Toronto, where it has been well researched, that these buildings do present a problem. And I have done some more research since my first presentation, so I do have some more details. I talked actually to Dr. Bird today, who used to write for the Montreal Gazette on birds, he used to be the Montreal expert, and he says definitely they tried to do some research, they found, of course, that it is a problem, but they don't know the extent of it because there are so many factors that influence what happens to the birds when they fly over Montreal.

550 Often, they fly very high at night, they migrate at night and they are very very high up, and then they will go down to the mountain probably; but there may be a lot of birds killed that we don't know about because they land on roofs, you know, and then seagulls pick them up. So, you know, it would take a study to find out really what the extent of it is. However, it probably is very like most North American cities where, over a year, billions of birds are killed in cities. I think it's something that we should be more sensitive to.

555 So that's the reason for my submission, it's to sensitize people so that when they are building these buildings they think about this.

Also because in the information session I heard the architect say that they haven't finalized the type of architecture, the way the building will look in the end, and he was thinking of

560 something very modern made of glass. Now, obviously, we're going to have a lot of windows because it IS apartments, but the exterior finishing will also be important. The windows are important, how they are treated, how they are lighted, everything like that, but also how the exterior of the building which reflects the trees and the sky.

565 And also, this will be in the middle of a park and apparently the first 16 meters of the building from the ground up are very important because that is where the reflection will be of the trees and the foliage and everything which will encourage more birds to think, well, they see a tree there and fly into it and they are flying into glass.

570 So there are several elements. FLAP is the organization in Toronto, Fatal Light Awareness Program, they have excellent guidelines. I'm trying to get somebody to translate them so they will be also in French. The city of Markham, I think the city of Toronto, but also the city of Markham has done a wonderful job of looking at these and adapting them and they wrote a 100-page document of looking at windows and angles, the size of the building, the percentage of glass, all kinds of details
575 that would be very useful for anybody designing these buildings.

We're looking at things like, not just reflectivity, but sometimes apparently there are just holes in the building that mark a spot, like dryers, or things like that, that birds can see it as a, you know, they are used to going through small passages in forests, so they can think that that was a
580 passage through the building.

The green roofs might present a problem. And the lighting I think is important, that's the other aspect is, the lighting that if there are bright lights birds will be attracted, migrating birds at night will be attracted to the light and maybe get disoriented.

585 Those are the things I touched on. I think also if they don't build these buildings, as it happens to be a sports field, I know what the lighting is like down where I live, in Little Burgundy, they have these huge lights, it's like the daylight on their baseball field and nobody is on it, and

590 this kind of really bright light would not be advisable either. I have given the reference where you
can find out about putting low lighting in cities so that the birds will benefit as well as people.

Now, there is a summary in French on the website of the *Fédération Canadienne de la*
Faune, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and I have copied it out and I could give the secretary this
595 document, if you like. I'm ready for questions if you have any.

I'm not an expert at this, I'm a birdwatcher. I'm an amateur, I don't belong to any association
at the moment, although I did belong to Bird Protection Quebec, but I have a lot of context and, you
know, I'll probably do more at sensitizing people, organizations, the architects, the city planners to
600 this issue.

LA PRÉSIDENTE:

Thank you very much. Joshua ?

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M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire :

Yes, thank you. You told us you weren't an expert but perhaps as a birdwatcher you will be
610 able to answer this question. Is this site of particular importance to birds because it's at the top of
the falaise, of the cliff?

Mme NANCY ROBINSON:

That I don't know, I thought maybe it was. However, we are near the St. Lawrence river, it's
615 not a huge body of water like lake Ontario in Toronto where the birds will be tired coming over and
they have no place to go, whereas here they are coming over a smaller body of water, they might
even go around if they don't pass Montreal, and then they have the mountain, so they have a big
area that is not lit. They might be attracted by the light to land earlier, but it seems that they
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light go to the mountain, we just don't know really but, I don't think it's a particular, it's not outstanding, as a site, as being particularly more dangerous than any other place, no.

M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire :

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So your concern is for all high rises in front of the mountain, I guess between the river and the mountain.

Mme NANCY ROBINSON:

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Yes.

M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire :

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Yes, okay.

Mme NANCY ROBINSON:

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And it's true for smaller buildings too, it's not just high rises, yes.

M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire :

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And as a birdwatcher, have you watched birds on that site? Are you familiar with the birds on this site in particular?

Mme NANCY ROBINSON:

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I have gone down the other, because I went to some of the meetings for the *Falaise Saint-Jacques* that your former person did, I have been on the mountain, the migrating will be a

lot of warblers. I saw a dead warbler myself at 7:15 in the morning at René-Lévesque and Lucien-L'Allier, it was there on the sidewalk at 7:15. I wondered why we didn't see more but I'm told that birds of prey they pick them up fairly quickly. I don't know about the street cleaners, I didn't get a chance to call them, but that was my next call but I didn't get to make it.

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A lot of warblers, you know, the songbirds that we find are, you know, their populations are struggling a lot, quite a few of them are on, not exactly the endangered list, some of them are, but on the list of birds to watch because their populations have been decimated; so I would say a lot of songbirds are coming through. We see a lot in the summit, for example, and they are migrating, so that's where we go and watch them. But I haven't been around here, I guess maybe because it's the highway, you know, I live so close, I should try.

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M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire :

All right, thank you.

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M. VIATEUR CHÉNARD, commissaire :

These FLAP guidelines, did you mention that they're adopted by the city of Toronto or what sort of application do they have?

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Mme NANCY ROBINSON:

Yes, yes, the city of Toronto did and the city of Markham, and the Association of Architects of Ontario have put out a letter stating that these should be taken into consideration when they are building, among other things, and they put it out on the day of the, April the 12th, which was the day when we were supposed to reflect on bird collision, the reduction of bird collision. I think it's called Reduction of bird collision day, bird collision day, with buildings and – what is the other one... - Oh yes, quite a few developers, a list of developers have...

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M. VIATEUR CHÉNARD, commissaire :

Adopted those guidelines.

685 **Mme NANCY ROBINSON:**

Adopted it or at least endorsed it or said they were trying to follow it, or whatever.

690 **M. VIATEUR CHÉNARD, commissaire :**

Thank you.

Mme NANCY ROBINSON:

695 You can see that on the FLAP website.

M. VIATEUR CHÉNARD, commissaire :

Yes, that's where I'll look.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE:

Thank you very much, Mrs. Robinson.

705 **Mme NANCY ROBINSON:**

You're welcome.