

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Alors il me reste à vous remercier beaucoup.

2065 **M. MAXIME ARNOLDI :**

Merci à vous.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2070

J'inviterais maintenant monsieur Richardson. Bonjour, Monsieur!

M. GARETH RICHARDSON :

2075

Good evening. My name is Gareth Richardson. I'm making this presentation on behalf of the Green Coalition but I also have been a resident of Pierrefonds for the last 37 years. So, I do not something of the area.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2080

Could I ask you to speak a little louder, please?

M. GARETH RICHARDSON :

2085

I'll try. Just to talk about the Green Coalition. It's a non-profit organization, we are a group members, and a few of individual members as well, we have been working to preserve natural spaces that improve the environment generally in the Montreal region for the last 26 years now. And we have been involved with this Pierrefonds West situation for at least since 1990, when we were campaigning against the dezoning of this area from the permanent agricultural zone.

2090

2095 I myself wrote a brief in 2004 on the consultation that was done on the regional Pierrefonds-Senneville as it was then planned, which recommended no development of this particular area. That's I think when it first came part of the official plan of Pierrefonds. And we have a vision really for this area that it should be maintained as a natural habitat and be part of a more larger protected area. Some of the previous speakers suggested the idea of a larger park and I'll come to that in little more detail towards the end.

2100 Most of my points have really made by other speakers and I'll try to be very quick here. It's been a long evening. Sustainability has been mentioned, the definition came from the Bruntland Commission in 1987 and I think the key point here is meeting our needs thus without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their needs. And I think that's the point of this issue here. Developing this particular area definitely compromises the needs and ability of future generations to meet their needs. And just at the little part at the end, it's often said the landers have rights to develop their land, to do what they like with their land, yes, that's true to
2105 an extent, but there not, the landers rights, there not outweighed by our collective right and this has also been mentioned by a previous speakers. We have a right to a healthy and sustainable environment and that's, I think, now recognized quite internationally as a point of law and it's also actually in the Chart of Rights and Freedom of the City of Montreal.

2110 Just a first point on sustainability. Biodiversity is probably one of the most important elements of long-term stability for the world, and as been pointed out, the real importance of maintaining genetic biodiversity and species, within species and species diversity, every species has an element and a role to play in the ecology. We're, at the moment, in the middle of an extinction crisis, as we take each specie out of the work of life, we make it more fragile.
2115 Nobody knows where the breaking point will be.

2120 The study illustrated in this slide has already mentioned again by the... commissioned by the David Suzuki Foundation and it really shows how wonderfully diverse the biology in this area is... this habitat is probably relatively unique on the island of Montreal now. Some of the agricultural land has been overtaken by various other uses.

2125 The fact that it's not being actively found for something like 20 years and is begun to regenerate, it's becoming again a wild area, makes it a very valuable and unique area. And so, loss of this sort of habitat and fragmentation of this habitat, it also has been mentioned, breaking it up into small pieces has a really serious effect on the ability for a sustainable biodiversity.

2130 Natural infrastructure ecosystem services have been mentioned. The report illustrated here which was done for the Green Coalition made some estimates of the value of these ecosystem services and the figures are given there. But just to point out if we remove the ecosystem services that are naturally provided by this natural infrastructure, there is a significant cost in replacing them by artificial means, which in many cases, are not nearly as efficient and also have ongoing maintenance costs, not just initial capital costs.

2135 Just an illustration here of the importance of vegetated areas on maintaining, keeping temperatures lower – which will become more and more important as climate change progresses – you can see the blue areas are the cool ones, and you can see that they very, very much correlate with the vegetated and unbuilt areas and it becomes hotter and hotter as you get to more densely built areas downtown. And that's just one illustration of an ecosystem service.

2145 The access to natural environments is being shown by many studies now to be keen to human health, physical and psychological, and this area, if provided with adequate public transport, could become a resource for the whole island of Montreal. An area of sufficient size to present a real opportunity for people to experience the natural world.

2150 And on protection targets. The current protection target 10% of the land area which is being set for the agglomeration of Montreal already falls far short of the 17% target set by Aichi Biodiversity Target which Canada and Quebec are signatures. And even if we got to that 10%, we would still be up and need 2.6 percent per 1000 residents, and still low compared to other Canadian cities. And this map here illustrates – this is taken from the *Schema d'aménagement*

and it does illustrates how few natural areas, you can see them, just these fragments left, mainly concentrated at the far east and the far west of the island.

2155

We just don't have anything we can afford to lose and even to meet the 10% target is likely that we will have to imply regeneration of some degraded areas. And just for that, target 15 Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 which says by... aims to have 15% of regeneration of degraded areas by 2020. And the only instance that I know of in Montreal is the renaturalization of the Saint-Michel Park. We need a lot more of that to get to the target.

2160

Connectivity is a key part of maintaining biodiversity. The study here from the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science studies indicates that this area really is key to the connectivity of the whole surrounding natural area around it. And a severe loss of connectivity. And just to illustrate that a little more, the before and after developments scenarios shown here before and after, the black areas are the ones where they would be significant perturbation of the ability of various species to move around the area and meet their needs.

2165

Urban sprawl has been mentioned. I think this plot from the study cited there shows an exponential growth in urban sprawl for Montreal. It's really is out of control. It's largely that not so much the population is increasing, is that the same population is occupying more and more space. We need to densify, we need to reduce the amount of space we're using, not increase it. Which this development would do.

2170

Just on the local level of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, I was talking ... a consultation that the borough held on the sustainable development plan, and one of the things that was agreed to by many of the participants is that the borough of Pierrefonds already stretched out to far East/West making it very difficult to provide services adequately from a central location and the addition going even further west of developing this area is just going to make that problem even worse.

2175

2180

And also, as a right, as a tax payer in the area, we're gonna have to bear the cost of this mass infrastructure that this development will require from the city. And, as it has been

2185 pointed out by the CRE-Montreal study, there are more appropriate areas. In answer to a question you asked earlier, what do you think about having densification in some of these areas, I happen to live very close so the Sunnybrooke's train station, I would be directly affected by it, I would not object to it.

2190 And finally, I would just like to, this concept as well been mentioned of combining the whole area, the ecoterritories for Senneville Woods, L'Anse à l'Orme, the Ecoforest Corridors L'Anse à l'Orme, Ecoforest Corridors on Île Bizard here and the... so that takes in all the green area, and you can see what area that is proposed for development, what a great contribution that would make to making this whole thing a more viable situation.

2195 The area – I think it was mentioned that the agricultural zone here in the south west in Île Bizard is in the process of being designated a “paysage humanisé”. So that would protect that. And the whole ensemble wood bee – I apologize, there is a typo in my brief, I think I rather exaggerate this, I made it 20,000 ha, while it is 2,000 ha - that would be nice but a little ambitious – so 2,000 ha which would be a really good percentage of the protected area.

2200 With an adequate transportation, it becomes a resource for all Montrealers to access nature and natural areas without having to leave the island of Montreal. And that's all I had to say.

2205 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Thank you very much.

Mme NADJA RAPHAËL, commissaire:

2210 Can I ask my question in French?

M. GARETH RICHARDSON:

2215 I'll try.

M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire:

2220 I'll translate if necessary.

Mme NADJA RAPHAËL, commissaire:

À la page 3 du document, monsieur parle d'une étude de 2015...

2225 **M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire:**

Ecosystem services and natural capital Pierrefonds-West development.

Mme NADJA RAPHAËL, commissaire:

2230 Il dit que certains services peuvent être remplacés par des moyens artificiels. J'aimerais savoir : dans les 12 principes énoncés par la Ville de Montréal, est-ce que certains d'entre eux pourraient correspondre justement, jouer ce rôle-là, et lesquels?

2235 **M. GARETH RICHARDSON:**

2240 I think there would be a good... some ideas that go towards that, yes. But I don't think there is a large enough scale to make a really big contribution. I mean, yes, like putting in flood retention basins and so forth... yes, that has already been done, a quite large cost to facilitate the development in the top region and up here, and that was very controversial at the time. So, the things that tend to get done are not really to replace really customers services there just to try and manage water to prevent houses flooding.

M. JOSHUA WOLFE, commissaire:

2245

Mr. Richardson answered my question about how he thought people in the neighbourhoods where their developer's proposing more increased development would feel. And he gave his personal opinion. Alors j'ai pas... c'était ma seule question.

2250

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Thank you very much for your brief. Je crois que la Ville de Montréal souhaiterait avoir un droit de rectification sur un enjeu ou deux.

2255

M. PIERRE LEGENDRE :

Bonjour, Mesdames, Monsieur les commissaires! Mon nom c'est Pierre Legendre, je suis du Service des grands parcs de la Ville de Montréal. Ce n'est pas une rectification, c'est simplement une information qui pourrait être bénéfique pour tout le monde.

2260

À la demande de madame ici, on me demande si je ne peux pas éclaircir les propos. Monsieur Arnoldi tantôt a parlé de la question des pourcentages pour les aires protégées pour le Grand Montréal pour la CMM. Monsieur mentionnait avec exactitude qu'on parlait d'environ 9. quelque pourcent d'aires protégées à l'échelle de la CMM. Et monsieur Wolfe a posé la question, à savoir est-ce qu'il s'agit d'espaces aquatiques qui seraient des berges.

2265

Alors je peux juste vous informer de façon plus précise, les aires protégées au Québec peuvent être des aires en milieu terrestre ou en milieu aquatique effectivement. Et beaucoup des aires en milieu aquatique dans notre grande région de Montréal se retrouvent dans ce qui s'appelle des aires de concentration d'oiseaux migrateurs.

2270

Donc le ministère de l'Environnement du Québec, dans toutes les définitions qu'on fait des aires protégées, il prévoit qu'un espace aquatique qui sert à l'alimentation ou à la nidification