

MME KIM GRAVEL :

Hum, hum.

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LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE:

C'est plutôt à Madame Bilodeau.

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MME KIM GRAVEL :

C'est plutôt à madame Bilodeau en effet.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

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O.K. Ce n'est pas grave.

M. PIERRE LEGENDRE :

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Je pourrai vous donner de l'information là-dessus.

LE PRÉSIDENTE :

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Alors on vous remercie beaucoup. J'inviterais maintenant Madame Stéphanie Dimitrovas et Steve Leckman s'il vous plait.

MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS ET M. STEVE LECKMAN :

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Bonjour.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Bonjour.

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS ET M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Est-ce que vous nous entendez si on parle comme ça ou c'est-tu pour la salle.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Non, vous parlez assez fort comme ça. C'est pour l'enregistrement.

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS ET M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Ah, c'est pour l'enregistrement. O.K. So we'll be speaking in English today.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Fine.

MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS ET M. STEVE LECKMAN :

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So we'd love to thank you for allowing us to come and share our opinions. I'm really grateful for some of the precisions of the environmental arguments from our previous presenters so thank you.

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We're here to express that we do not support the development project in the L'Anse-à-l'Orme Park as outdoor educators who have used the space for the past four years.

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We work on a project it's called the Coyote Programs which are year around mentoring programs in the outdoors. Our mission is to empower people to achieve their greatest potential through connections to nature to community and themselves. And one of the ways we seek to do this is by fostering empathy. And doing this trough direct exposure in the building of relationship with the more than human world or another words the natural world but I like to say, yes, the plants and the animals that are not human, more than human.

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One activity that we run is called the tracking club and this is one of the ones that we've run in the L'Anse-à-l'Orme Park for the past four years where we bring people on walks to look for the tracks and signs of animals.

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Since most animals are afraid of humans when we walk through the forest it might be really easy for most people to think that there's not a lot in there but once you get to learn how to identify the signs, the diversity becomes really more clear to people and the presence and the homes of these animals become really more clear to people. And we've really seen things that have touched, we've estimated around over 200 people that we've brought into that space over the four years, ranging from: I didn't know we had beavers or deers or foxes on this island of Montreal. This place is amazing like it's rich you know.

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Wow deer just sleep on the ground even in the winter like they can see the impression of their bodies right there OH My Gosh! This is really their home. You know.

2525 And we've even seen signs of more rare animals that a lot of people don't even know like for example the fisher. Like this is an animal that lives on the Island of Montreal and we've seen sign of its feet, we've seen sign of its feeding. It's really touching for us and to people to be able to not just sort of see it like of course there's a fisher at the Econ Museum for example but to be able to have that direct experience of Wow, this animal moved right through here, you know.

2530 So it's a window into the complexity and life in presence in these woods and the presence of this park as enabled us and has made it more accessible for us to be able to provide this opportunity to not only people in the West Island but to more people in downtown Montreal to be able to come out with us into this larger scale dream space. So the fact that it's that size is really quite interesting for us and important and it's really just touched a lot of people.

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

2540 One thing that we try to cultivate in the participants of our programs is a care-taking attitude for life and for the environment. Yeah. And so, it's kind of along that spirit that we have to be here and to express our opinions on the subject because it's one of those situations, we work with youth and I can totally see them in 10, 20 years being like: what did you do for this green space, what did you do and so it's kind of, yeah, a kind of call to be here to do this. I just think it's beautiful and fitting that there's all these other kid toys over here that were sitting next to you. Anyway, you know
2545 I feel that energy here with us now.

And, yeah, I would say that for us and for the youth that we work with, I can't speak for them but I know in our conversations it comes up that we need strong leadership for taking care of the environment right now.

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And I love all these environmental arguments that I've come before us as you said Steph and I would just throw in the word regeneration that this is a time in humanity where we need to not just be sustainable and like slow down our impact on the land but we need to regenerate landscapes.

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So there's lot of talk about the endangered species on this land already and I would just like to think of the potential for other species to come in and I know, yes, it's like these wet fields, these wet, you know, that's the section where the development wants to go so okay, you know, it's like this thing or it's value, there's other wet fields for these species to go you know.

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Yes, yes.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Est-ce que on pourrait laisser les gens parler s'il vous plaît. Sorry.

M. STEVE LECKMAN :

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That's right and so I would just think that what an opportunity is here for the City to protect the whole space and really be a role model for the future generations to take leadership and to not only preserve but to help regenerate landscape so that means not developing any part of this, of the land in question.

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Yeah, and if that means like making it a national park so that the City does not have to buy back the land from the construction companies, it can just be the Feds can get involved and buy the land. I think that's a great solution cause I know there's big money behind this, you know and what's a bunch of frogs and birds you know, it can go, anyway.

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So, yeah, so I think there's a huge opportunity there for to be a role model for the youth, you know that the City can take right now or not, anyway. That's what I'd like to say.

Thank you.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Thank you. Merci. You've been working during the last five years, did you notice some changes regarding animals or land?

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

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That's interesting yes that the land a lot of it is fallow agricultural land and I think that there has been an increase just by the allowance of more and more that succession that occurred in those fields. I can't say I've been there actually during the four years I know it's my colleagues Steve who's been there for years.

M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Yeah.

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

I've been there for the past year. I wouldn't be surprised I guess is what I'm saying.

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Absolutely, yeah, every year, it's remarkable just watching the trees grow, watching the plants grow, seeing more bird nests, you know, in a lot of those fields, there's a lot of young trees the ash trees and the buckthorns that are coming up. Who else, I was there today walking around it. Anyway, there's a lot more life that comes in, there's a whole story that's unfolding and when I walk around that landscape, you know, have you guys walked around?

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Yes.

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

You've been there?

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Yes.

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Okay. I picture. You have an idea of what these forests could turn into, you know, and the diversity that is there already in so many different little ecosystems that you can walk right in and I can picture the growth and the development and the story that is yet to come, you know. So some people are like Ah, It's kind of ugly, it's all very uniform, some of these fields, you know, it's not very like majestic or whatever but there's an incredible potential that I think we need to keep on our hearts and minds.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

I have another question. At the end of your brief, you're saying, you're writing that la region has the potential to welcome more rare and endangered species, à quoi vous pensez?

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

This is the written?

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Yes.

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

Piece that we also submitted?

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Yes.

M. STEVE LECKMAN :

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Yeah, well, the Jefferson salamander that's like under question. I think of like plotter of different bird species walking around today I was picturing moose, we were elsewhere I don't know the place in connecting to the moose. There's been reports on moose in that area but in the past and there, not too far past and I think of like wow, how amazing would that be to have moose on the island too, anyway. Yeah, let alone other predators, I mean, we've seen porcupines there in the past, we've seen there's wild turkeys coming in now. Yeah, I think the list could go on.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

There are wild turkeys now?

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Yeah, yeah.

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

I haven't seen a sign of them. Have you seen them?

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

Yes, I've seen the tracks.

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MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

Yes, we've seen the tracks.

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M. STEVE LECKMAN :

You can't mistake.

MME STÉPHANIE DIMITROVAS :

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Yes.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Alors, no more questions. Thank you very much. Oui, je crois que Madame Daphnée Bilodeau est arrivée. Est-ce qu'elle est déjà repartie? Non? Si vous voulez venir, on a peut-être une petite question ou deux à vous poser.

Comme vous êtes la spécialiste semble-t-il.

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MME DAPHNÉE BILODEAU :

Bonjour.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Bonjour. On a pris un petit d'avance sur notre horaire, oui.

MME DAPHNÉE BILODEAU :

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Oui, j'ai vu ça.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE:

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La première question c'était la vôtre sur l'agriculture.