

MME JANICE MACDONELL :

2085 Not dissimilar to Cap Saint-Jacques. I mean Cap Saint-Jacques and L'Anse-à-l'Orme are so close, I mean if they did anything to it, the most I could see is what they've done to Cap Saint-Jacques because it's very like, it's very friendly for the everyday person, there's parking there, there's lot of green spaces, there's lots of woods, it's beautiful. We can't lose that.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2090 Thank you very much.

MME JANICE MACDONELL :

2095 Thank you.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2100 J'inviterais maintenant Madame Jennifer Guimond s'il vous plaît. Ça va. Allez-y.

MME JENNIFER GUIMOND :

2105 Okay. So I decided to speak in response to the Pierrefonds West Development Plan mainly to help stop the development and to be a voice for the last major and develop natural space on the Island.

2110 I was born and raised in the West Island and I resided here up until I went off to university. In those 20 somewhat years, I was witness to the slow progression of destruction. I witnessed more and more green spaces removed for housing projects, commercial use as well as industrial takeover. But it wasn't until four years ago when my husband and I bought our house in Kirkland that I began to see just how bad things had gotten.

2115 So, it's no wonder that in 2013, when Denis Coderre came in to office, Montreal ranked dead last of any city in Canada for poor capita of green space. But by inheriting a huge green space deficit, the new Mayor and his team also inherited the responsibilities to do something about it.

2120 Unfortunately, today less than 6% of Montreal Island is actually protected which means that if we are to reach our own proclaimed objective of protecting 10% of natural green spaces, which was adopted in 2015, we would need an additional 2,000 hectares. So what better way to start than to protect the 185 hectares at stake in our own backyard.

2125 When the project was initiated back in 2005, and environmental studies were conducted, it was a much different ecosystem. Over the last 12 years, the land continued to revitalize and areas now home to more than 270 species of fauna and flora, including several threatened species, such as the bobolink bird, the brown snake, as well as the wild plant that have already perish from the Greater Montreal area.

2130 The Canadian black snake grew, and best there is some very important species that need to be protected by Provincial and Federal laws.

The problem with developing the fields and preserving only our richest precious natural forest is that the fields are equally as rich and precious.

2135 The animal and bird species that inhabit the forest, different from those that have been in the fields and there's research to indicate that any development in this area will seriously damage the regions valuable biodiversity.

2140 In addition, the land that is to be built over has allowed for the connectivity between nature parks, Cap Saint-Jacques, L'Anse-à-l'Orme, Bois-de-la-Roche and Angell Woods. Ecological connectivity is directly correlated with the quality and quantity of biodiversity and sadly Montreal has seen some profound changes of the years.

2145 In 1966, around 45% of the land had a very high level connectivity which declined to almost 38% in 1981. By 2010, only 6.5% of the landscape was connected. Faced with this worrying situation, each additional development has the potential to significantly impact biodiversity on the Island.

2150 Because of the share magnitude of the Pierrefonds West Development Project and its location, which is in an area of high ecological value, if this project goes ahead, it will reduce the connectivity of all species by 27%. That's directly affecting the quality and quantity of biodiversity according to a study conducted by researchers from McGill, Concordia and Quebec Universities.

2155 In addition a new study done by the David Suzuki Foundation has found that some of the species at risk will have little room to migrate and escape seriously damaging the regions valuable biodiversity if the development proceeds.

2160 Close to 17,500 citizens have already signed a petition against this massive development project and would rather see its protection than its destruction. I've been one of those 17,500 urge that this project be stopped and then instead we should be looking at international leaders like New York, London, Berlin, Vancouver and Toronto. The Ontario Greenbelt alone that was created in

2005 protecting nearly 2,000,000 acres in and around Toronto is now the largest in the world. Montreal citizens want real conservation from political leaders with new and innovative ideas for real sustainable development.

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Plant, animal and bird species throughout the world are undergoing perceptible drops in numbers in part because of habitat loss. Mayor Coderre's idea of sustainability develops, preserve the rest, may have had made sense 60 to 70 years ago when there was a lot more green space. Since then it was developed, developed, developed. It is now 2017 and Montreal has a huge natural space deficit as mentioned earlier whereby Montreal is well below the standard considered necessary for the health and well being of its citizens.

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The only way to correct this imbalance is by preserving what few natural spaces remain on the Island of Montreal, therefore protecting all of Pierrefonds West, both forests and fields. That's it.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Merci. Comme vous avez lu un texte, est-ce qu'on pourrait en avoir une copie que vous enverriez à madame Wells, s'il vous plaît.

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MME JENNIFER GUIMOND :

Oui.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Peut-être qu'on aura des questions. Écoutez comme on n'avait pas votre texte, on n'a pas eu le temps d'y réfléchir alors on vous remercie beaucoup d'avoir pris soin de venir nous voir.

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MME JENNIFER GUIMOND :

Merci.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Thank you very much. J'inviterais maintenant Madame Kim Gravel s'il vous plaît. Madame Gravel vous pouvez vous mettre deux, tout de suite là. Vous installer à deux.

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