

1070 **LA PRÉSIDENTE:**

Re-bonjour à tous, nous reprenons avec monsieur Terrence Regan, s'il vous plaît.
Bienvenue, Monsieur Regan. Be welcomed.

1075 **M. TERRENCE REGAN:**

I can have some water?

1080 **LA PRÉSIDENTE:**

Sure.

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

1085 Merci beaucoup. O.K. Well, merci. Mon nom est Terrence Regan. Je suis un résident
du quartier depuis plus de 40 ans. J'ai habité au centre-ville et j'ai été impliqué pour un
long-term avec Peter McGill, le quartier Peter McGill, et de Milton Park aussi, pour les derniers
30 ans, j'ai été impliqué avec l'Association récréative Milton Park, et j'étais le directeur-
général, là, pour 15 ans. Il est situé au... rue St-Urbain et sommes le partenaire avec la Ville
1090 de Montréal à gérer le centre communautaire qui sert beaucoup de personnes.

I'm going to do this in English to save you guys the problem...

1095 **LA PRÉSIDENTE:**

Be welcomed.

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

1100 ... from my accent... So, the redevelopment of the Montreal Children's Hospital site includes condominiums, apartments, housing for the elderly, some family base social housing, and the community center will help promote the revitalisation of an important and long-neglected part of the development of western part of downtown Montreal.

1105 Recognition of the importance of creating specific physical structures, in order to accommodate the physical and social needs of local residents is now being seen as an essential component relating to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life and environment in neighborhood or community. And you see this now with more and more emphasis being given to try to attract families with children to the downtown area.

1110 Plans for the construction of a community center within the redevelopment project is certainly welcome news and something that local residents have been fighting for during the past 30 years.

1115 However, building a new community center without a gymnasium is like building a new hospital without beds. Currently, there is zero public gymnasiums in the Peter McGill downtown Montreal area for the tenth of thousands of residents and children to play group sport activities. The two public gyms in the area are in Little Burgundy and Centre multi ethnique in Milton Park and rue St-Urbain. They're filled to capacity – I can attest for our centre, it was 7 days a week, every evening, all Saturdays, all Sundays, starting from 9:00 in the morning till 11:00 at night.

1120 So this further demonstrates the important need for these life-giving life-enhancing facilities to be built. The YMCA on rue Stanley requires membership to participate in their activities - which is around \$600, \$700 a year – and the YWCA gym and pool closed over five years ago for financial reason and for specious reasons, they tried to give it to the private sector which didn't work and the gym is not functioning anymore and hasn't function for a number of years unfortunately.

1130 A public gymnasium has its place and will allow probably for *garderies*, schools and
senior citizens during the day; fitness yoga, dance, courses at noon for the thousands of
people who work and live in the area at noon time; sports, dance, gymnastic courses for
children after school; and sports, badminton, basketball, volleyball, cosom hockey, yoga,
tai chi, fitness courses, etc. for adults in the evening. A gymnasium can also serve as a place
for public meetings and performances, all of which contributes to a sense of community
1135 identity and fosters a feeling of neighbourhood and belonging which is much needed in this
densely populated area, which is about to become even more densely populated.

1140 That someone who has managed of thriving community center with... from three to five
hundreds participants per day, I can attest the short-term and long-term individual and societal
benefits which a gymnasium brings. This is especially true for the Nordic type of environment
that we live in where it's very difficult to do many physical or sporting activities for seven
months of the year.

1145 Public gymnasiums are seldom used by a lead athlete. They're by far in a way
extensively used by children and adults of a variety of ages to indulge in assortment of sporting
and physical activities, which promote short and long-term health benefits for all participants.

1150 There are no other indoor organized physical activities for children, adults and seniors,
except for those offered in gyms, in dance and yoga studios which are often time lodged in
community centers which also have gyms. The true sense of working together to achieve a
common collective objective is genuinely developed and fostered through participation in sport.
More than almost any activities, sports give a person a deeper insight into themselves, and
how they can contribute their individual, physical and social abilities to achieving collective
success in the context of a meritocracy. So, when you are playing sports, you have to see
1155 yourself within the context of other people, and this certainly helps you to deal with social
situations, interpersonal situations in many aspects of your life.

1160 These insights drive from all levels of participation sports, not only at a high level, a contributing factor to forming many successful men and women leaders in our society. With one the densest population in all Canada, the downtown Montreal area is in a higher need of a public community center to serve its multitude of social, physical artistic and recreational needs. This center should also contain a gymnasium to encourage physical fitness and a service place for public meetings and artistic performances can be given.

1165 The new Children's Hospital project will generate millions of dollars in tax revenue for the Ville de Montreal, which is financially supported, and encourage the construction of keeping an administration of other communication centers throughout the island of Montreal and the Ville-Marie borough, which is one of the richest – if not the richest borough in Montreal.

1170 Millions of dollars is spent each year on health care and health care facilities, care for the infirmed and elderly, and services for people to further integrate in the society. The new Children's hospital project will give a chance to put a relatively small amount of much needed funds into constructing and maintaining a community center with a gymnasium which will service as a positive, preventive measure so that downtown residents can maintain a healthily, physically, mentally, socially and artistically good life. That's it.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE:

1180 Thank you, Mr. Regan. As far as we know, the preliminary program for the Peter McGill community center includes some «sports facilities», we don't know exactly at this point what we mean about that. In addition, we have heard that the program of the community center will be developed with the community, organization groups and so on, in order to fit the needs of the community around So, what we have with your brief is that there is a crucial need for a gymnasium – public gymnasium.

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M. TERRENCE REGAN:

Well, I think that there is a certain amount of money being put aside. And it's gonna be millions of dollars...

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LA PRÉSIDENTE:

Yes...

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M. TERRENCE REGAN:

...that it should be considered having a gymnasium. There is a huge lack of gymnasium space for people in the downtown area and there is a crying need – I mean I've seen people at our community center on St-Urbain that's begging for a place. The people are trying to maintain a certain form. Socially, we push for people to stay in shape, be in shape, and be physically active. I think the answer is there's no place for people to do it unless you're a kid. And if you're a student, there's a whole bunch of opportunities. But for people like us, Madame Lapierre and...

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LA PRÉSIDENTE:

Laperrière, but it's OK.

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

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Laperrière, like Jacques... there isn't as much place for us to do it. And it's more essential for older people, for adults, to maintain their form.

LA PRÉSIDENTE:

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You're right!

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

1220 Students have all kinds of opportunities. But afterwards, there should be access to physical activities where they will continue promoting sports and activities throughout their lives.

LA PRÉSIDENTE:

1225 You're right. There's a need for that. One of my nieces is working at the *Centre de loisirs multi ethnique*, it's packed-jammed, I mean, there's people from the very morning up to the night, down there. So, I will invite you to follow.

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

1230 O.K. we'll do.

LA PRÉSIDENTE:

1235 We will have... about the development, but we're taking notes that there is a need for that. Any questions?

M. ARLINDO VIEIRA:

1240 Yes. I have at least one. You know, this type of gymnasium, part of gymnasium requires a certain amount of human resources to manages, to coordinate activities, monitoring. And who do you see would be doing this? The administration of the gymnasium?

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

1245 Well, as we would at the *Centre multi ethnique*. I think a partnership with the Ville de Montréal is very doable, and the partnership with the Ville allows community groups to be

involved. Like my group was the *Association récréative Milton Park*, and Ville de Montreal had very little to do with the programming of the association, of the center, so it was given to the community. So, as long as you'll already have a Community Centre being built there, you're going to have somebody to be in charge of that. And the gymnasium type of utilization is just part of the overall operation of this Community Centre. But millions are already going to be spent into building a Community Centre, it should include a gym. A Community Centre serves a small purpose – well, a lot of purposes – but it's limited in the physical activities that people can do.

M. ARLINDO VIEIRA, commissaire:

O.K. Thank you.

LA PRÉSIDENTE:

Thank you Mr. Regan.

M. TERRENCE REGAN:

O.K. thank you very much.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

J'inviterais maintenant si elle est parmi nous, madame Ghislaine Laramée. Madame Laramée, bienvenue. Vous êtes à date dans toute l'histoire de l'Office de consultation publique de Montréal la personne qui a le plus grand esprit de synthèse pour son mémoire. Pour la petite histoire, le mémoire de madame Laramée tient dans trois lignes, ce qui est formidable pour nous. Ça nous aide. Je vous félicite. Bienvenue, Madame Laramée.