

MME TIMA SADAJHI:

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So, I have a background in environment. So, I think there's a concept of *polluant-payant*. So, whoever does the contamination, pays for cleaning. And also changing the zoning from industrial to residential.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

Thank you. Thank you everybody.

J'inviterais madame Deirdre King, s'il vous plaît.

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Sorry. Sorry for the delay.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

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That's O.K.

I can start standing up there.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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Well it's better for the microphone, and it's better for the transcription if you speak...

MME MARIE CLAUDE MASSICOTTE, commissaire :

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And, for your own comfort too.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

2995 For your comfort. So, we'll wait a minute. Hi.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3000 Hi. So, I'm... my name is Deirdre King and I'm coming as a citizen and my intervention, actually...

LE PRÉSIDENT:

3005 Can you get closer to the microphone?

MME DEIRDRE KING:

Absolutely.

3010 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

Thank you.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3015 Can you hear me now?

LE PRÉSIDENT:

3020 Yeah. Perfect.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3025 And my intervention follows, I think quite nicely, because what motivated me to come forward, was that I have, you know, on a number of vacations, taken hikes and so on. Mainly organized by the group, actually, Sauvons la falaise. And I've been very perturbed, I think it potentially has a tremendous potential as a wild space, and I'm perturbed by the condition it's in now. And I was told that there's nothing specific, possibly because it is zoned industrial. There's nothing specific protecting that part, the whole falaise, the whole escarpment. There's nothing
3030 specific protecting it.

3035 So, in my brief, which is brief, I wanted to make three points. The first one is I think it has potential, as a wild space. The second one was like it could play a really important educational role. And the third one is that many people speak of the importance of a green belt for Montréal. And the falaise, I think, could play a really important role there. And therefore, we want to foster it rather than gradually see it degrade.

3040 So, my first point about it being a natural space. I myself, have participated in some hikes. I've seen deer poop at the bottom. One of the hikes was with a wildlife biologist who pointed out, you know, hawks, and various song birds, and so on. So, even though the area may look a mess because of the old tires and the various things in the area, it's actually a very rich area from a natural point of view.

3045 And in fact, like if it were preserved as a wild area. Because I think now, we're beginning to recognize, in the environment, you could have green spaces which are primarily recreational. And then, you have wild spaces. And I know on the mountain, where I live very near the mountain. In fact, those two vocations are sort of almost in conflict now. There are so many people on the mountain. And you have Les Amis de la montagne trying to preserve the natural ecosystem. But the falaise is really perfect in terms of preserving it as an ecosystem, because it's really not... you
3050 could never develop on it, because it's not stable. And you couldn't, it's not really appropriate as a recreational area either.

So, it's perfect in the fact, as a wild space. And it seems to me, just like Mount Royal, and other people mentioned this in their presentations too. You could... you have a volunteer group, the

3055 Sauvons la falaise group, who are very enthusiastic. I went on one of their clean ups, I believe it was last year. A teacher showed up with this class, there were at least, I didn't do any kind of count myself, but there were at least thirty (30) people there. And maybe like quite a lot more.

3060 So, just as possibly with Les Amis de la montagne, you know, invasive species could be, you know, eliminated using volunteers with perhaps some guidance from experts, and also, you know, other species could be planted, species which would encourage, for example, you know, birds to come and feed, and so on, *et caetera*.

3065 The second point I wanted to make is, I think often, when we... I worked as a Cegep teacher, in John Abbott College for thirty-eight (38) years, O.K. And one of the things that struck me as I was teaching was, actually, often how, students and young people are really interested in nature. In my particular case, I used to have someone from the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue area who had grown up there. And he used to come and he used to present to my class photographs of the wildlife, you know, snakes and turtles, and birds, and foxes, and deer, and so on, which were on the West Island.

3070 And the students were amazed, actually, to see what was there, because they themselves, they didn't realize the richness. I think that's true of the falaise, actually, that people, well they maybe like the fact that it's green space, but they don't realize the potential that it has. And that has a potential, I think, for young people for education, but also for citizens groups. You know, and bird watchers, and so on, who can use the falaise, wild drive, like a hundred kilometers (100km), if you have like, you know, wild space that's preserved.

3080 And, my third point is that I think if you look at, I've seen an aerial map of Montréal, and the green space, and there's so little green spaces left. And I think people would like to see a master plan for Montréal, which would conserve the green space. You know, using Angrignon park. Using, you know, the park along the river, Meadowbrook, the mountain and so on. And clearly, when you look at the map, it seems to me the falaise plays such an important role there, you know, for wildlife and animals, and so on, to move from one, you know, green space to another.

3085 And therefor, for those three reasons, I wanted to... I understand that there's zoning questions, and so on. But surely, you know, it should be possible to somehow preserve this area.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

3090 Thank you very much.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3095 Do you have any questions?

LE PRÉSIDENT:

Oh, yes.

3100 **MME DEIRDRE KING:**

Which I may or may not be able to answer, because I only found out about the consultations about five (5) days ago. So, I had to, you know, I didn't have much time to research.

3105 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

Well, we're going to go with what you gave us, and what we've heard. And I think you'll be able to...

3110 **MME DEIRDRE KING:**

Sure. O.K. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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So, the first question, you talked about that you've hiked through the falaise.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3120 That's correct.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

3125 Should this be an experience that would be open to everyone? Should there be trails across the falaise to eventually connect to new trails that are proposed in the new park?

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3130 OK, I'm speaking for my own person.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

Yeah, yeah. That's... you have an expertise...

3135 **MME DEIRDRE KING:**

3140 Well, I think that, as I said before, that with green space, there's always a conflict, between trying to preserve wild space, which I think, the public really wants. At the same time, if all of the public always goes there, then you'll end up with not a wild space. So, I would see the falaise more as a wild space. Though, clearly, it is important as other people have said with the dalle-parc and so on, to... you know, you might have like some trails going through, but I wouldn't want to see it, it seems to me that the parc-nature might be a better place, you know, for...

LE PRÉSIDENT:

3145 To do the hiking, and then the falaise would be a...

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3150 That's right. And that would be more of a preservation area. Even in areas, like Angrignon park, or parts of the mountain. There are parts of the mountain where really... you know, the public is less encouraged, shall we say, to go, because the idea is to preserve it as wild. So, I see, you might have a couple of trails, but I... you know, you wouldn't... I don't think you'd want to make it like a major, you know, a major... that's how I see it.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

So, it would be easier for you, you'd be more interested in going hiking in the new park, if that was accessible, and the falaise was sort of like a protected area?

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MME DEIRDRE KING:

Yeah. I would like to see the falaise as a protected area. It doesn't mean that there might not be groups like bird watchers, or whatever that might go in. But its primarily... primary vocation would be as a protected area.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

O.K. You've also talked about how you participated in clean ups.

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MME DEIRDRE KING:

Yes.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

So, I'd like to hear a little bit more about that experience. You said you were about thirty people?

3180 **MME DEIRDRE KING:**

Possibly more.

3185 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

O.K.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3190 Because when I went on this clean up, you understand, like I didn't realize that I was going to be presenting. The cleanup was last spring. And I got the notification, on, you know, through an email, and a Facebook notification.

3195 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

What are the kind of things you picked up?

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3200 So, I showed up. Well, what we picked up, it was... first of all, a ton of plastic bags. I mean, you would not believe, like how many plastic bags there were. Other things, like I guess bottles and cans, maybe the most upsetting thing are these huge tires that have been thrown over the edge. I'm trying to think... really kind of Mars, if you like the... you know, the whole area. But the area, actually, it... you know, people and also... the other... I mean, it was so nice to see people like...
3205 I don't know, you know, they were so enthusiastic, and people worked so hard, you know, lugging all this stuff back up. I mean, there were like bags, and bags, and bags of the stuff. And we only did like a tiny little area, really behind the road.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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O.K.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

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You know, we didn't... we didn't go over either, in one direction or the other.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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And do you think the citizen initiatives is the way to go forward, like that would be applicable for the whole park, and that this is the kind of way we could make sure that the park is...

MME DEIRDRE KING:

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I think possibly, like, a system like on the mountain, I think, you know, where you have, I think, citizens groups need like expertise and they need a structure to help them. At the same time, I think it's encouraging with the falaise, there really are citizens who want to see that preserved. And I'm surprised, just when I told a few friends, we never discuss the falaise, oh, I'm presenting on this, they said "Oh, the falaise, I love the falaise". I was like quite you know, it does... people actually do care about it.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

O.K. Danielle?

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MME DANIELLE LANDRY, commissaire :

You were very clear about the fact that we should preserve the nature in the falaise. So, I suppose it means also that the education activities should take place into the park? Am I right, or... or both, in both places?

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MME DEIRDRE KING:

I'm not an... you know, I'm not an expert on this, but... because I think, you don't want to seal, maybe wild areas, off entirely, so nobody can go there. But at the same time possibly, just like in the mountain, for example, it's not like there's anybody saying "You can't go through here" but, for example, on my side of the mountain, I live in the Plateau, for example, O.K., they really did resurface, and they cut off a lot of paths, and everybody I know who walks in the woods, they respect that. Because they, themselves, they don't want to see it turned into, I don't know, you know, like a wild... you know, supposedly wild zone, really, there's, it's nothing but paths. So, I think the general public, if you kind of close off some wild areas, they support that, actually.

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MME DANIELLE LANDRY, commissaire :

That's clear. So, how do you think that you should go about planning and running these educational activities, for one. And second, is there a need for some kind of infrastructures, both in the falaise or in the park, to be able to support these activities?

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MME DEIRDRE KING:

I mean, the falaise, it's so... it's really a delicate area. You know, there is a lot of erosion. I just really don't see, like realistically speaking, a lot of people going through. I would see exceptions would be bird watchers, or for example, you know, people maybe, you know, somebody bringing like a group of school children. You know, like they do in certain areas. I would see it much more that way. Hopefully, maybe the park, the park nature, will also have educational activities.

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3270 I just came back from Hong Kong where I hiked across Lama Island. And I was extremely impressed. Actually, they have a path, which has been built across the Island. And they really don't encourage you to go off the path. It doesn't say you can't go off, but it's so densely built up, you tend to stay on the path. And they had wonderful signs, pointing out to the, you know, the various, different kinds of plants, and so on. And it just fit, it happens so naturally, you know. You'd stop here, if you needed a rest, and then they have, you know, explanations.

3275 **MME DANIELLE LANDRY, commissaire :**

So, is this what you would see in the park, in terms of...

MME DEIRDRE KING:

3280 In the parc-nature, yes. But I think, in the falaise, really, I would like to see its wildness encouraged.

MME DANIELLE LANDRY, commissaire :

3285 I understand.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

And maybe we would have signage on the dalle-parc, to point things out.

3290 **MME DEIRDRE KING:**

Yeah. That's right.

3295 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

Yeah.

MME DANIELLE LANDRY, commissaire :

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Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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Well, thank you very much for your contribution.

MME DEIRDRE KING:

You're welcome.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

J'inviterais madame Alison Hackney, s'il vous plaît.

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MME ALISON HACKNEY:

Bonsoir. Vous m'entendez bien?

LE PRÉSIDENT:

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Oui.

MME ALISON HACKNEY:

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Je suis vraiment ravie de cette proposition de toutes les possibilités de ce projet. Et je constate que pour moi, il y a deux (2) aspects principaux qui vont... qui pourraient être des réalisations merveilleuses. Un, c'est le parc en soi. Moi, je conçois ça comme un grand parc, qui engloberait la falaise et le grand parc à quatre (4) secteurs. La falaise, la partie aménagée en bas,