

March 29, 2004

To Commission of Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities

Your Fax 872-2556

Object: Memoire for a Montreal Charter of Citizen Rights

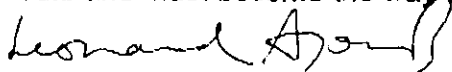
Too often we write our MP's or MNA's to express to them our concerns on positions they take or to intervene on our behalf or even to congratulate them . However city councils are also part of this loop.

I have seen bureaucrats in federal and provincial offices who eventually become bureaucrats in municipal politics and I have seen the reverse and I wonder what is the message here? Are these bureaucrats trying to bring the citizen closer to the city or to distance him from the decision-making?

That being said I definitely see the need for a Montreal Charter of Citizen Rights so those bureaucrats and the people they hire realize that there are Montrealers who can offer input at the municipal level and who need the unequivocal support of this Charter.

It is a unique opportunity for our citizenry to participate and to come to terms with a situation where today we are serving the interests of certain ones and co-opting the interest of others. In that respect the Montreal Charter will help to resolve in its own way a part of the democratic deficit that continues to persist and in that sense this grass roots idea in Montreal that is unique in North America will give the message to other municipalities to get their act together.

In the face of wrangling within municipal councils, the citizen must become sovereign and society will be best served by this. The media will have to understand this. In the end this should and must become the way of the future.



Leonard Ayoub