

Hello. My name is Lisa Dick. I am here as a private citizen and I am also a dedicated member of the Housing rights committee of Project Genesis. I am here because I feel that everyone has the right to housing. It's 2020, it's time to see if we can make this work.

I once went to a meeting with a city councilor in the CDN area, to plead our case for social housing. Her response, generally speaking, was that building social housing is too expensive. She urged us to try to find our own private funding to help pay for it. Although I can understand the infrastructures cost a lot, to use that as an excuse to say that the profits from the sales of land to developers can't also be used for housing, doesn't make sense. These costs can be absorbed by the developers, because they are the ones profiting the most from it.

The people should profit as well as the developers. Especially here, the city owns the land. Blue Bonnets belongs to the people and must be used to serve the public. It's a golden opportunity.

Housing is recognized as a human right by the United Nations. These are basic human rights and should be and must be available to everyone, regardless of their income. Right now, the shortage and lack of low-cost, safe housing options intensify the challenges faced by individuals and families. Blue Bonnets can change that.

The situation is quite dire: at present there are 25,000 households on the waiting list for low-cost housing in Montreal. HLMs are not being built anymore, the only solution to this urgent need is to build social housing on the land owned by the people and the city of Montreal. The issues of poverty and housing cannot be separated. The choice for many living on limited income is to spend disproportionately on housing and jeopardize other essential needs like food, clothing and transportation.

My vision for Blue Bonnets is that it's inclusive, it includes people of all income levels. And of course, there are schools, parks, stores, green spaces, etc.

There is enough space for everyone. There's a folktale that says, "there is always room for one more", and in this case, I think there is space for 2500 more. I feel at least 2500 social housing units should be built on this site.

Thank you

Lisa Dick