

Mme TAÏKA BAILLARGEON :

Ça répond?

1020 **LA COMMISSAIRE NGOM :**

Oui. Merci. Et j'aimerais finir comme vous avez commencé : j'habite presque en face de la chapelle, donc j'ai suivi ce qui est arrivé et je compatis. Voilà.

1025 **Mme TAÏKA BAILLARGEON :**

Ah, merci beaucoup.

1030 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Alors, il ne me reste plus qu'à vous remercier pour votre présence et contribution, puis d'annoncer qu'on poursuit avec le 785 Mill Street.

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M. ROBIN DOAK, M. VIANNEY BÉLANGER ET M. EPHRAIM HERNANDEZ
785 Mill Street

1040 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Alors, rebonjour. Nous voici maintenant avec 785 Mill Street, Robin Doak, accompagné de Vianney Bélanger et Ephraim Hernandez. Alors, bonjour messieurs. Bienvenue. Donc, je vous rappelle : vous avez 10 minutes pour votre présentation. On vous écoute.

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M. ROBIN DOAK :

1050 Merci. Je vais la présenter en anglais parce que si je la présente en français, ça va me prendre 20 minutes. Mais de toute façon, je vais commencer en anglais, mais vous pouvez voir sur l'écran en français.

1055 My object today is to present to the commissioners and Montrealers our plan to build the Montreal Industrial History Interpretation Centre at 785 Mill.

 785 Mill is a small private lot on the Pointe-du-Moulin. And I will proceed with the next screen. We can skip that screen, so that's context.

1060 So, I first presented this proposal at the 2019 Bridge-Bonaventure public consultations. At that time, it was quite unclear what would be allowed to be built, but we presented our intention of building this heritage interpretation centre on the site, and it was very enthusiastically responded to by a lot of people.

1065 And since then, we've had lots of questions: "When is it going to happen?", "Can we help?", blah, blah. It was important to us since then that we come up with the right project to support the centre, and not that it just be a condo tower, if you like, which is an evil word, which we're all aware of.

1070 So, we wanted it to respond to the needs of our urban future ecologically, socially and practically, and as well as celebrate our industrial heritage. And we've come up with something which is very different from anything else, which we believe that the 785 Mill Domus project will meet all your expectations in that regard.

1075 Next screen. I don't have time to lecture you on the history of the Lachine Canal, but you'll see a couple of images on screen. So, the first image to the upper right is essentially at the time... intended to represent the time when the canal was opened in 1825. And it wasn't very effective. The most deep ships that could go through only had a three-foot draft.

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And in the 1840s, it was decided that the canal needed to be widened, and you can see in the lower image that this was done by sixteen hundred workers. And it was at this time that the first hydraulic lots were created.

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Water ran through turbines, which turned shafts, which turned pulleys, which turned belts, which turned machinery. A lot of people think that this made electricity, but it did not. And this simple type of mechanical power completely transformed Montreal into a powerful manufacturing centre.

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785 Mill was hydraulic lot number 1 and many, many industries set up along the canal at that time, as we're all aware. And they made many different kinds of products. Machine shops, and boat yards, and foundries, and textile mills, and a sugar refinery which everyone's aware of, and a major hardware manufacture. And that's our mechanical heritage, powered by the canal.

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The machinery was very ingenious because there was no electricity. The history is very exciting, and there were lots of takeovers, and fights, and lawsuits, and , and breakdowns and sinkings, and lots of fires.

Despite all this, we always found a way forward, through ingenuity and perseverance.

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So where do you run into these stories? Where do you see photos? Where can you see a working machine shop with hundred-year-old running machines?

We always got through with ingenuity and perseverance. Where can you go to contemplate, learn and be inspired by all this history? So soon, we expect that it'll be at 785 Mill Street.

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O.K., next image, we have... Just a comment on the industrial heritage in general: it's enormously important in Europe. It's enormously important in France, in Belgium, in Germany, who all show off artifacts of their industrial specialties and expertise.

And in England, Scotland and Wales, the restoration of industrial heritage is almost a religion. Tourists make special trips to see operating antique machinery.

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In American mill towns, if you go... (inaudible)... they build whole museums dedicated to their artifacts. Montreal has fallen behind in being aware, not only of what it has but what it can do.

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Next image. So, this is a history of something that happened seventeen years ago, in which my brother and myself, and some of our friends pushed the city to save some of our industrial heritage, when the largest foundry in North America, which was in Montreal, was being demolished.

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We succeeded but we don't know where those artifacts are now, and we have no idea where they could be displayed. This is important stuff, and the best stuff was lost.

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Next. O.K., here's a picture of me and my brother. He's back there, so we don't really need to talk a lot about this page. But my brother and I have been industrial machinery dealers even though we were trained in other fields, for 50 years. Over 50 years now. And always, our warehouses were along the Lachine Canal, so it's like home to us.

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And after 50 years in the business, it's time for us to give back and also to share our knowledge.

Let's talk about the 785 Mill site. 785 Mill is absolutely the best possible site for an interpretation centre of our industrial heritage. It's the link between Old Montreal and the Pointe-du-Moulin, on the way to the new Bridge-Bonaventure.

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It's beside the Lachine Canal, it's beside the lots, it's beside the silos, it's beside the bicycle paths, it's beside a bridge, which used to be Black's Bridge, an old spillway, a small park administered by Parks Canada, and each of them has their own mechanical histories.

In 1853, Frothingham and Workman owned the 785 Mill address. There's a reproduction to the right, of a plot plan from 1853. And Frothingham and Workman were the largest dealers in wholesale and retail hardware in Montreal, and in fact, in North America.

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Workman became the mayor of Montreal for three terms, and the site is very important from this point of view as well.

The next page, we have, to the left, just some maps of Frothingham and Workman's operations on the canal. So to the left, it's Côte-Saint-Paul lots, there's two illustrations there. On the right-hand side, buildings that they occupied in Old Montreal, which are considered treasures today. The upper one is the original and the lower one is a building that they built in 1871.

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Something to think about the building in 1871, it's four stories high. It's carved in limestone, and they built it in two months.

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We've been at this for five years. Sorry, I get passionate.

This is an idea of what we anticipate to have on the site. So, in the upper right, you'll see a picture of machinery which dates from the turn of the century, that's 1900. And we've collected quite a bit of machinery of this type, and there's more out there.

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So, the idea will be to have a working machine shop, with everything a minimum of a hundred years old, some woodworking and some metalworking machinery. The centre will also have theme-transient shows, so from museums, and libraries, and universities, and industry.

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And it may recount also the political, social, and personal stories of the workers and their communities along the Lachine Canal over the last 200 years. As everybody knows, villages actually disappeared and were knocked down. And we'll also be collecting printed material.

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The centre will take most of the ground floor of this building. I don't want you to panic when you see the rest. This is not exactly what it looks like, it's a prototype of a completely new kind of

1170 family housing system that's never been built anywhere in the world. And Vianney can expand on that after, we'll be giving you briefing papers.

We cooperate and coordinate with Canada Lands... Sorry, with Parks Canada. This is a 7,600-pound gear which we installed beside the site. I invite you to visit it, it's quite impressive.

1175 And next frame, this is a milling machine, one of two milling machines which we placed in a small park at the request of the city of Montreal, on the corner of Pitt and Saint-Patrick streets.`

LE PRÉSIDENT :

You have one minute left.

1180 **M. ROBIN DOAK :**

Thank you. And he says I don't have any.

1185 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

See, I'm generous.

1190 **M. ROBIN DOAK :**

Yes, thank you. 785 Mill is located in the centre of the heritage area. I'm a very serious preservationist. And I believe it can be one of the focal points of an artisanal history route. So you have the Old Port, you have the locks, you have the Faubourg des Artisans, which is planned, you have Silo #5, you have 785 Mills, you have Les Forges de Montréal, you have Espace VERRE.

1195 And if you keep going west, you have the new park for the Black Rock, which is being arranged between the Irish community and Hydro-Québec. It's important.

1200 The organizational structure will be... basically, this is not a vanity project. It's a legacy project. So this is a gift to Montrealers, and it will be run by a non-profit, and the title will be transferred for one dollar.

1205 This is a page which just recognizes that there have been a lot of researchers that have gone before, and some of them have produced marvellous work, which we can pass on to you.

Final comments. A lot of people would find it hard to believe that Mayor Jean Drapeau actually tried to fill in the Lachine Canal because he was building a metro and he had to put the dirt somewhere. So, we made... as a city, we made big mistakes.

1210 Similarly, we built a building for the Olympics that put us one and a half billion dollars in debt, and it took us thirty years to pay it off.

1215 So, what we're offering here, basically, is that... we're not asking for grants. We're just saying... we're just saying that we're going to do it. So, it's an opportunity for all Montrealers to celebrate our heritage.

1220 And also, a completely new residential building system which has never been done anywhere before. And so, we'll have a showcase of a nineteenth century industrial history, and a showcase for responsible living in the twenty-first century.

It's quite a marvellous building. Benefits for Montrealers, benefits for visitors, benefits for the planet. Something to contemplate. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1225 Thank you. Alors, est-ce qu'on a des questions? Coumba?

1230 **LA COMMISSAIRE NGOM :**

Plus tard, peut-être. Après Luba.

1235 **M. ROBIN DOAK :**

Je peux essayer de répondre en français, si vous voulez.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1240 Oui. Oui. Bien, en fait, j'aimerais peut-être savoir si le projet du centre d'interprétation... je comprends qu'il est lié au projet Domus. Est-ce que c'est indispensable ou ça peut vivre sans? Puis sous-entendu, aussi, j'imagine qu'il y a une question de financement?

1245 **M. ROBIN DOAK :**

Effectivement, ils sont inextricables parce qu'ils sont liés pour qu'on puisse le financer. On avait déjà fait ce que vous pouvez voir sur l'écran, là. On a fait ça nous-mêmes, physiquement. Mais de toute façon, on n'était pas capables de faire la chose au complet et donner ça au monde pour une piastre sans avoir un projet qui peut le supporter.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Um-hum.

1255 **M. ROBIN DOAK :**

O.K. Mais ce n'est pas un projet simple, c'est un projet complètement différent de tous les autres.

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M. VIANNEY BÉLANGER :

Si vous me permettez d'ajouter un...

1265 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Allez-y, oui. Oui.

UN HOMME NON IDENTIFIÉ DANS LA SALLE :

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Monsieur? May I ask you a question?

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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No, sorry. It's just between the commission and the participants.

M. VIANNEY BÉLANGER :

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Effectivement, ç'a été composé et créé les deux ensemble parce que c'était le rêve des frères Doak de faire un centre d'interprétation, mais comment arriver à le faire, tenant compte de l'histoire du lieu, mais aussi être tourné vers le vingt et unième siècle? Comment habiter Montréal différemment pour les familles?

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Donc Domus est un exemple, est un projet prototype d'habitation familiale pour le 21^e siècle. On offre cent pour cent de logements de deux et de trois chambres à coucher dans le projet Domus, qui peut être produit ailleurs à Montréal.

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Donc c'est un laboratoire, c'est un projet de démonstration et on pensait que les deux ensemble feraient une destination pour les Montréalais et aussi pour les touristes, ceux qui visitent Montréal. On aurait une vitrine de comment on a transformé, on a créé un milieu de vie urbain où c'est différent et ça permet aux familles d'y habiter.

M. ROBIN DOAK :

Thank you, you speak perfect French.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Coumba?

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LA COMMISSAIRE NGOM :

Alors, ma question portait sur le financement, justement, du projet. Est-ce que vous pourriez nous en dire un peu plus?

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M. VIANNEY BÉLANGER :

Oui. Ce qu'on essaie de faire, c'est que... J'ai travaillé beaucoup dans le communautaire et dans le social.

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LA COMMISSAIRE NGOM :

Um-hum.

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M. VIANNEY BÉLANGER :

Et je sais une chose : si on veut créer une pérennité d'un organisme à but non lucratif et si on ne lui donne pas la structure financière, et s'il part, cet organisme-là, avec des bases faibles, ça ne pourra pas être pérenne dans le temps.

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La seule façon de le faire, c'est d'être capable d'offrir l'espace, qu'il n'y ait pas de charges sur l'espace à l'organisation, pour qu'elle puisse exister indépendamment, autonome. Et c'est le but de l'autofinancement que l'on fait.

1325 Et aussi, on croit qu'il faut aussi arrêter de toujours demander des subventions. On pense que l'OBNL devrait être capable d'exister par ce geste-là, d'être capable d'être autosuffisant.

LA COMMISSAIRE NGOM :

1330 Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1335 Bien, en fait, ADM, le Port de Montréal sont venus ici. Ils nous ont parlé des enjeux de cohabitation entre les activités industrielles et des projets résidentiels à venir, potentiellement. J'imagine que vous y avez pensé vous-mêmes.

M. ROBIN DOAK :

1340 Bien sûr.

M. VIANNEY BÉLANGER :

1345 Oui, absolument. J'aimerais préciser : quand on parle de la cohabitation... Et je pense que les gens d'Héritage Montréal sont les premiers qui sont venus exprimer qu'est-ce qu'est la montréalité. Je pense que plus il y a de cohabitation, plus on fait un environnement dynamique. Plus on fait un environnement pour les familles, et on crée un sentiment d'appartenance.

1350 Et si vous remarquez, si vous regardez davantage, un petit peu, le projet Domus, on prévoit un espace collectif où les enfants, les parents, de façon sécuritaire, sur le site, vont être capables d'avoir une totale sécurité sur le site même.

Et le 785, il est à l'extrémité. Il est complètement à des distances suffisantes des nuisances qu'on pourrait... Comme j'ai mentionné, on n'est pas dans les périmètres restreints où on pourrait avoir des mesures de... des éléments dangereux.

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Alors, c'est à proximité du Vieux-Montréal, c'est à proximité du Faubourg des Récollets, c'est la fin du Vieux-Montréal et du Faubourg des Récollets, et le début d'un nouveau quartier à naître, que l'on va créer.

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C'est une situation privilégiée. On doit être capable de montrer la créativité à Montréal. Comment on peut intégrer l'histoire? Pour moi, je suis sensible à l'histoire. C'est pour ça qu'on a fait une affinité, pour essayer de faire un mélange heureux des deux et de garder les traces du passé, parce que c'est un milieu chargé d'histoire.

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Je pense qu'on l'a fait en jouant dans l'histoire et dans le futur, comme on fait un clin d'œil à Habitat 67 avec Domus, qui est un système de préfabrication qui vise à rendre abordable l'habitation, parce qu'on change les méthodes de construction, la rapidité d'exécuter.

Le but, c'est d'arriver à rendre le système Domus abordable pour les familles.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Parfait. Bien, merci beaucoup. Thank you very much.

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M. ROBIN DOAK :

Thank you very much.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Alors, on revient dans quelques instants avec le Centre de services scolaire de Montréal.
