

## **Support for the Permanent Closure of Wellington Street to Vehicles**

As a resident living at the busiest intersection of Wellington and Gordon, I strongly support the permanent closure of Wellington Street to vehicles. The current situation is not only inconvenient but also unsafe for both residents and visitors.

The heavy influx of tourists, especially on weekends, makes simple daily tasks like grocery shopping extremely difficult. Pedestrian traffic is overwhelming, and during winter, the situation worsens as snow takes up a large portion of the sidewalks. This creates a dangerous environment, particularly for children who are at risk of tripping and falling onto the road.

Moreover, drivers in this area often treat the streets as race tracks, only stopping for pedestrians when they feel like it. The mix of high foot traffic and impatient drivers makes crossing the street hazardous, further proving that vehicle access is incompatible with the needs of the neighborhood.

Permanently closing Wellington to vehicles would significantly improve the shopping experience for locals, encourage walking instead of driving, and create a much safer space for families and children. It would also provide residents with more freedom to move around their neighborhood without navigating through crowded and unsafe conditions.

To ensure a smooth transition, I suggest adding pedestrian lights to facilitate safe crossings at key intersections, making it easier for both pedestrians and necessary vehicle traffic to coexist. Additionally, new parking solutions should be introduced for residents and visitors to accommodate the change.

I fully support making Wellington a pedestrian-only street. This move will enhance the quality of life for Verdun residents, create a safer and more enjoyable environment, and make our neighborhood more vibrant and accessible for everyone.

Emmanuelle Blanchette