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Mme PAMELA BEGIN
Citoyenne

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Nous allons recevoir comme dernière intervenante ce soir qui veut déposer son opinion, Pamela Begin, qui est citoyenne de Montréal. Bonjour.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Salut.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Alors, vous avez un gros 10 minutes.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

O.K., parfait. Mais je m'excuse pour *ma française*.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

You could speak English if you want.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Okay, thank you. *Je suis anglophone*. It's not my fault.

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I'm not an itinerant, I just... kind of a hobo sapien, right, but a lucky person that has got to sleep on very fabulous couches, and... So, I haven't really had to live in a tent or anything, but I've been homeless for about 4 years, since COVID started.

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And, you know, it's gotten worse and worse. And, like, options are farther and farther. Even though I work hard, I'm an artist, I'm a mother, I have a bachelor's degree in linguistics. It's just... it seems kind of more impossible, right?

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So, I've been thinking about the situation a lot. And one day, it dawns on me that the rents need to go down. And that's the... like, the only option because... Anyway, this happened just two days before the first meeting, and we did the exercise. So, it was just random that that happened.

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And, so, after when I was like, "maybe I'll speak," I started kind of doing a bit of digging. I was like, "why are the rents so high?" Like, "how did this happen? When did this happen?" And I really, like, went pretty far, so this is what I want to speak about.

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But in the meantime, like, for a woman – for anybody, really – out here, it's pretty dangerous. And like I said, like, I have a room now, but all my friends are, like, depleted and hurting, and defeated and they're robbed and they're dead and... So, like, I find myself helping a lot, which causes my foundation, like, a bit of problems too, you know? So, like, there's that aspect of a lot of friends that are dead, you know?

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And I used to be like a pretty bad alcoholic and stuff, but this really didn't have anything to do with this. But I am a product of change. And, like, I'm stuck in here, you know?

So, there's a lot of stuff I want to say, but I guess I'll get to the point where I was like... COVID happened, right? And then, the TAL became... the Régie became the TAL, 2020, September 1st, and they started changing things, kind of. So, the landlords now have, like, the right... there's no, like, max set price to, like, augment the rent. It's according to their discretion.

3015 And like was said before, like, once you lose your place, it's over, right? Game over. You're... just, like, you're just grouped. What if you have kids? Or like, what if you're not a drug addict and people are screaming outside? Like, I agree that the place is nuts, like, the Labre House is nuts.

3020 And they... I don't think it's really the solution. I think the rents need to go down. And people need autonomy. It's just too hard to, like, separate them in all these certain ways, like...

3025 And seriously, if you just, like, mess up, like before you can kind of get back on your feet, you know, or... not even mess up, but something happens in your life, or... You always had these options, but now, like, it seems like it's just getting, like, farther and farther, and more like depressing. And so, people use drugs, and then there's like the judgment, and it's just insanity, and...

I pretty much think the TAL is kind of not great. And I don't mean that rudely. I mean, if you, like, just see the way, like, the laws are changing, I mean, with their own, like, agenda. You know what I mean?

3030 And I've... I think, I'm not sure exactly what I've come across, but like individually, the seven members, they have sole, like, judgment on all of the cases. And it goes more like through, like, kind of a Superior Court of Canada. It's not... It kind of seems like it's just totally changed but it still kept the same logo, and the process is different, and it's definitely not for tenants, right? Like, they don't even get looked at. Even... none of it does, like...

3035 So, I'm not sure what they're doing behind, but... I don't even know what I'm, like, trying to say here, but I'm pretty sure that there's something to do with, like, the Rouyn-Noranda gold mines purchase, and these people are like big, big pharma.

3040 And it probably started when everyone was scared from COVID. There was like Airbnbs, right? And it was illegal and stuff, but people were scared of the market, so started getting foreign investors, and... And I think DuProprio might be part of the TAL. And it's all just one sided, and it almost seems like we were like... like, put here, you know?

3045 Like, how does someone like me... Like, if... I was on the housing list for my son, okay? He goes on intervention. And, like, I'm a product of change, you know? But... So, I had this like, HLM, you know? And I got the apartment, and I was really happy. And I went... and my son isn't on my paper anymore, so I can't have the place, you know? Like, it's just this constant... you know?

3050 And I'm an artist. I'm a really good artist, you know? I do portraits. I have a bachelor in linguistics. I want to go to law school, and I will. Right? I'm just like, at the mercy of, if I'm behaving for men, or like where I am, or like, how much I can help, and I have to turn people away, and I don't really know if more Labre Houses are the answer.

3055 Like, I really, really think something needs to change, like, fundamentally. And it... Like, Canada is trying to find these resolutions to, like, these things, but there's something really, really, like, bad about the TAL. And that's what I think.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Okay.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3065 And I don't know why they've made it really impersonal and hard to... Like, you know how Quebec is. Like, when you go to court, it's really archaic and they're rolling in. Like, there's something about Quebec that is just so beautiful, and it got lost somewhere in that.

3070 And I don't know if it is part of, like, these bigger corporations buying up the mineral and all the properties. And I'd just like an opportunity, you know? And that's what I think.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Okay. – Peut-être que tu peux essayer...

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Je parle français aussi.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Oui. – Peut-être que tu peux essayer de résumer en quelques mots le propos de Pamela, juste pour qu'on soit tout le monde sur la même longueur d'onde.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Je m'excuse.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

Non, non.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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No, no. No problem.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

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Je vais essayer...

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Oui, oui.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

... je ne sais pas si je vais être à la hauteur de... if I'm able ...

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Oui.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

... to translate, but...

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Yeah, of course.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

... correct me if I'm wrong. – Je pense, essentiellement, Pamela a dit que les personnes autour d'elle, ils ont mal.

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VOIX MASCULINE HORS CHAMP :

Oui.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

Ils ont fini. Ils ont mal. Pamela a aussi parlé beaucoup de logements, des difficultés de trouver un logement, et les difficultés du système qui ne gère pas assez les taux de... les...

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

D'augmentation de loyer.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

3145 ... des loyers. Et aussi que la Régie du logement est devenue le TAL, le Tribunal administratif du logement. Et si je ne me trompe pas, Pamela a dit qu'elle trouve comme un changement un peu dans l'attitude, dans l'orientation, qui n'est pas tellement dans l'intérêt des personnes qui ont besoin de l'aide et de logements. – If that's essentially it?

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3150 I think it's big corporations of...

Mme JUDY GOLD :

3155 Right.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

... kind of made this happen and... because really...

3160 **Mme JUDY GOLD :**

D'une façon...

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3165 ... it's just not not...

Mme JUDY GOLD :

3170 D'une façon plus globale, on est assujettis... ou ces institutions sont assujetties aux corporations, aux grandes corporations. Oui, puis aussi mentionner que, t'sais, que Québec, c'est une place très accueillante à vivre aussi, en plus.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

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I think if we lowered the rents back, and maybe made some agreements with the landlords so they could have their... you know, like, they... it's a huge thing, but then people have autonomy, and they're happier, and then they spend money, and Montreal's back to normal. Like, this is never gonna work...

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

Let me translate.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Yeah.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

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Oui. (inaudible) but I want to thank you so much for coming, how much I appreciate it.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Thank you for inviting.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

You said that people are hurting, depleted...

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Depressed.

3205 **Mme JUDY GOLD :**

... depressed, because they're on the street, because life is too hard.

3210 **Mme PAMELA BEGIN :**

Like some people are homeless and they love it. They're free.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

3215 Right.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3220 Then other people get stuck. And it's hard to go to work. How do you keep a job? How do you get your kids back? Like, there's no hope. It's...

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3225 It's really sad. And I've seen a lot of people die. And a lot of frustration. And then being put beside a school where they have signs like "you shouldn't be here." And you live there. It's just like so mean. And it judges like a whole bunch of people. Like, yeah, there's some people you're like... But it has to do with people all kind of coming in and being fish-bowled. And it's really...

Mme JUDY GOLD :

3230 You've seen people die?

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3235 Yeah. A lot of my friends are dead.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

From what?

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

I guess probably overdoses a lot.

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VOIX MASCULINE HORS CHAMP :

Cold.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

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Cold? From the cold?

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

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Heart attack. Well, not so much the cold, but there's, like, men, when... I can't... the people feed, or... their bones, like, in the cold. They're gonna get arthritis. And people get robbed. Their tents get burned just because some people are dumb. Like, it's just so dangerous. And for women, it's dangerous. And for men, it's dangerous. And for everything in between. Like, it's really, really hard out there.

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And if you live at the Labre House, just say, like, I'm a woman, I was on the list, why do I not live there? Like, I don't do drugs. Like, I drink, you know what I mean? But like, I don't know, I... To live there with all the craziness, I don't think I could do it.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

I have this question. Do you, or people that you know, have they gone to shelters? And what's their experience in shelters?

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

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Well, I've never been, but I know that a women's shelter would be rough, because they probably think I don't belong there or something, right, you know? And it's rough there. I'd probably rather go to a men's shelter, you know?

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I don't know. It's just... I'm pretty sure it's dangerous. And just, if you're tired, right, and you're stressed, and just say you wanna sleep. You know, when you wanna sleep 12 hours, let's say? But you have to leave at 7:00 with nothing. It's just grounds for, like, morbid...

Mme JUDY GOLD :

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You know, the City wants to... they're asking us to consult the population because the City wants to open shelters... transitional housing, shelters, warming stations around the City. What's your...

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

I want an apartment.

Mme JUDY GOLD :

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... what would you like us to tell the City?

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

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I think that people need autonomy, especially when they come from it, right?

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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And you don't have it in the shelters?

VOIX MASCULINE HORS CHAMP :

Oh, she's got a room and she's sheltered.

3305 **Mme PAMELA BEGIN :**

Why are you talking for me? – You see what I mean? But I mean, it's, like, you know, our lifestyle before all this? This is what we're used to, right? And it's hard to just put everybody who lost their apartment, maybe their landlord gave it to their (inaudible), and then you can't get it back. Like, it's over. And we're... everyone's stuck in this place where their life isn't theirs anymore.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

So, what would you like...

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

I think that...

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

... that we say to...

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

I think that the TAL is horrible.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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Okay, but this is Quebec, no?

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3335 No, I know, but it's Superior Court now, right?

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

3340 Oui.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

So, this is Canada.

3345 **LA PRÉSIDENTE :**

Okay.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3350 And I think there's a lot of foreign investment going on and they don't really give a shit.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

3355 So, best rules for... *plafond des loyers*...

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

3360 Maybe we... Yeah, rethinking how we can... Like, some people love to be outside, and that's what they do, right? And then, that's fine. We've always had that.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

But most of them want a roof.

3365 **Mme PAMELA BEGIN :**

Free people, right? And... But I think it's important to... that, like... just say, like, your building burns down, like, you're like, "oh no, we're gonna..." Like, I don't even know. – This is my pen, who cares. – It's just, it's a choiceless thing that makes people angry, you know?

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And there's a lot at stake for so many different things, like, people's kids. How do you bring your kids to a place like Labre House, right? And then the judgment behind it. How do you go to work, right, if you got people screaming? Maybe you're the screamer, right? Like, how do you segregate, like, separate them in proper ways, you know?

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I just... I really don't think that building these places is ever gonna work. I think it's a recipe for a huge disaster.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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I didn't understand.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

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It's a recipe for disaster, you know?

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

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It's a recipe for disaster.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

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And unfortunately, that's what I think. I think it may be... systematically, could look into, like, people at the TAL, and find out why they have so decision-making skills, and ain't doing nothing for anyone.

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And just maybe reassigning their duties or, like, working something out with the landlords to, like, take the... you know, the... whatever it was before, like, 3 point or whatever, like, a year, and then a little bit, and just kind of, like, get things back to normal. Then you're going to have more influx in the community, right? People are gonna have money to shop, you know?

I don't know. That's what I think. Just, like, back to the roots.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

I want to thank you so much...

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Thank you for listening.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

... for coming. It's really appreciated.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

I hope that made sense.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

You made extreme sense.

Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Okay.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

100%.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

All right.

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Mme JUDY GOLD :

And, really, thank you again.

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Mme PAMELA BEGIN :

Thank you very much.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Okay. Thank you, Pamela.

MOT DE LA FIN

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Alors, ceci met fin à l'audition des opinions de la consultation sur l'itinérance et la cohabitation sociale. Je remercie toutes les personnes qui ont participé et celles qui ont assisté en personne ou en ligne à cette consultation. Merci à mes collègues commissaires, à notre analyste, à l'équipe de l'OCPM, à la régisseur Caroline et à l'équipe coop webTV. On vous donne rendez-vous demain soir,

3460 26 février, à la Casa d'Italia ou en ligne pour la toute dernière séance de cette consultation. Bonne
fin de soirée et merci.

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AJOURNEMENT AU 26 FÉVRIER À 19 H

3470 Je soussignée, LAURENCE FILLION, sténographe officielle, certifie sous mon serment
recueillies au moyen de l'enregistrement numérique, le tout hors de mon contrôle et au meilleur de
la qualité dudit enregistrement. Le tout conformément à la loi.

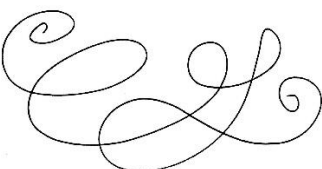
ET J'AI SIGNÉ :

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Laurence Fillion, s.o. n° 341561-9

3480 I, Chantale Gervais, Official Stenographer, certify under my oath of office that the foregoing
pages contain a true and accurate transcript of notes taken by means of a recording in my absence,
beyond my control, and to the best of the quality of such recording. All in accordance with the law.

And I have signed:

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Chantale Gervais,
Official Stenographer N° 341660-7