

Montreal General Hospital Expansion Project (MUHC)
MEMORANDUM

INTRODUCTION:

Following the procedures of the OCPM for public comments on current projects, this memorandum is submitted by an individual living near the Montreal General Hospital and having an informed interest in improving services and the urban environment in Montreal's city center.

OPINIONS ON THE PROJECT:

Citizens of Montreal deserve excellence in health care, urban planning, and architecture. Based on documents published and on the OCPM public consultation on May 13, 2008, the proposed MGH expansion on the Mountain Campus meets neither the mandate stated by the hospital nor the criteria set by the City, including the Comité d'architecture and d'urbanisme, Comité consultatif d'urbanisme, Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal, and the corresponding provincial offices for culture and communications.

CONCERNS PERTAINING TO THE PROJECT;

The proposal adds building mass that is out of scale with the natural and built setting of the existing MGH, and increases the volume of public and private transportation. MUHC has not demonstrated that the expansion would enhance capabilities for medical and service professionals and amenities for patients and visitors. Concerns:

- direction and scope of project development shifted since consultations with city offices, and consultative groups began around 2006. Liaison to Les Amis de la Montagne and Héritage Montréal have been cited in support of the MUHC's process though the objections of these and other public interest groups and individuals are disregarded.
- MUHC plans manipulate the City's technical standards regulating the size and scale of construction on this site to gain size advantage for the institution over the real needs of the community it should serves.
- MUHC's claims of no significant increase in the volume of traffic do not match projections for drop-off and parking areas; ambulances; new shuttles from Metro stations; enhanced bus service contingent on schedule and shift changes to be negotiated with STM.

- MUHC has not demonstrated speed and ease of access for ER vehicles to Mountain Campus over Glen Campus.

SUGGESTIONS TO ENHANCE THE PROJECT:

- MUHC should maximize existing assets at MGH and re-purpose ample spaces as a Leed-registered facility.
- MUHC should define ER and other priorities for MGH to meet them effectively within space available.
- MUHC should re-direct funds from expansion of Mountain Campus to Glen Campus and MNI on-site needs.
- MUHC should re-evaluate the purpose of the proposed expansion of the Mountain Campus in context of the overall medical mission and mandate established for the Glen Campus.
- MUHC should provide documentation supporting claims of medical and service needs for the Mountain Campus.

note: identification and coordinates for this submission are attached.