

June 27, 2011

Chers conseillers/Chères conseillères de l'Office de Consultation Publique
Re: Dossier – Expansion du CUSM, Campus de la Montagne

I write as a concerned citizen of Montreal. I have been observing the expansion of one institution after another as they encroach, from all sides, on our beloved Mont Royal, one of the only supposed “protected” green spaces within our city. What has come to the fore time and again, is that despite laws invoked to enforce the protection of the mountain, private developers and major public institutions (primarily the universities and hospitals), have been granted zoning changes “under the radar” to allow for unchecked expansion. Mount Royal and its immediate vicinities have been declared '*Sites historiques et naturels*' by the Quebec government. Allowing the CUSM – Campus de la Montagne (Montreal General Hospital) to expand beyond its current footprint will encourage it, and other institutions, to continue to expand.

Unfortunately, our institutions have not proven to be good stewards of the mountain. McGill has greatly expanded its stadium and blocked views of the mountain. The cemetery wanted to build several large mausoleums on the side of the mountain. A few years ago, the Royal Victoria Hospital was censured and made to remove an asphalt parking lot they had made by cutting down several trees on Park property reasoning that the space was required for patients and nurses. There will always be a crying need for parking around a hospital but we only have one Mountain. It must be protected! We are building a new hospital at the Glen yards. The Montreal General Hospital should be held to the original agreement they signed with the City in 2008 where they promised not to build beyond their existing footprint. We have these fights again and again. The Mountain is surrounded by institutions, what is the point of having a protected zone if institutions are allowed to ignore the restrictions.

Yours truly,

Eada Rubinger