

Kirkland, April 26, 2017

**Brief presented to the *l'Office de consultation publique de Montréal* on the future of Pierrefonds-Ouest.**

I live in the city of Kirkland since August 2015 and what I really like about this place is the tranquillity, harmony and closeness to nature.

I think we all know the reality and the problems that occur in our natural environment today, it would be difficult to go unnoticed because they can be found almost every day in the news, in documentaries, newspapers and even in people's daily conversations. We are all familiar with the loss that comes from the disappearance of natural areas and the flora and fauna they contain.

A few weeks ago in the mail I received a pamphlet that caught my attention, containing information about the housing plan where the intention is to develop approximately 5500 homes on 185 acres of land that is part of the L'Anse à l'Orme ecoterritory. This was a huge surprise to me because I was not aware that this project was in the making and certainly had no idea of its magnitude. I felt disappointed, sad and angry because it would put in jeopardy this wonderful place and this does not seem to be important to the real estate developers or to the City that is approving the project.

I have personally witnessed how fertile and diverse the flora and fauna are in this area. I consider it to be a unique and precious jewel in the middle of a metropolis. Hundreds of birds come to this place every year to nest, reproduce, etc. and many other species call this place home. I feel fortunate every day to be surrounded by such beautiful nature and I would love to see my son grow up having access to this wonderful green space. In fact, I think all Montrealers could benefit from the conservation and enhancement of this area and being able to feel it is theirs and made available to them for their own benefit and the benefit of their children.

Many species of animals and plants become extinct every year due to the fragmentation of habitat, contamination, and human expansion. Today our planet is losing approximately 150 species of animals every day. In the last 25 years, we have lost 129 millions acres of forest and, if we don't stop this real estate development, we will soon be part of that statistic. This project would not only reduce the green space on the island of Montreal, it would also destroy an extremely efficient filter and air cleaner, and prevent part of the heritage of our City to be passed down to future generations.

People are always concerned about global warming and world leaders often gather with the intention of finding solutions to slow down its advancement. We all know that global warming is partly caused by the increase of contaminant gases and reduction of forest land. The negative impact of human activities or anthropogenic actions on the environment are becoming more notorious. For example, oceans are being overfished, deforestation is climbing radically, atmospheric CO2 is

increasing rapidly and too many animals are becoming endangered or extinct. Countries around the world are trying to stop or reduce the impact of human activities on our environment. So if we recognize the importance of the environment and we are trying to find ways to better protect and conserve it, how could we allow the l'Anse à l'Orme ecoterritory to be destroyed?

Forest land and wetlands are extremely important to the balance of our ecosystem. Among other things, our forest land provides climate regulation and captures contaminant gases. Wetlands act like giant sponges, soaking up rainfall and slowly releasing it over time, are an efficient sewage treatment absorbing chemicals, filtering pollutants and sediments, neutralising harmful bacteria and very important provide flood control.

In short, the benefits that this territory provides are priceless and are simply irreplaceable. Losing part of this area would be like taking out a vital organ from our City, and this is irreversible.

Please save and conserve the l'Anse à l'Orme ecoterritory for us and our children and do not allow it to be destroyed by a massive urban development.

Thank you,

Luis Munoz