

Brief Submitted by Jennifer Guimond

RE: Plan for the future of the western sector of Pierrefonds

April 27, 2017

I am writing this brief in response to the plan for the future of the western sector of Pierrefonds. I was born and raised in the West Island, I lived in Kirkland up until I went off to University. In those 20 some odd years I was witness to the slow progression of destruction; I witnessed more and more green space removed for housing projects, commercial use as well as industrial take over. But it wasn't until 4 years ago when my husband and I bought our house in Kirkland that I began to see just how bad it has gotten. It is no wonder that Montreal ranks dead last of any city in Canada for per capita green space, and only 5.75 per cent of Montreal Island is protected natural space, well below the norm of 10% . Cities like Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto all have greenbelts, Toronto's being the largest in the world, with nearly 2 million acres of protected land. I truly believe that we need to take a step back and look at these other cities and follow suit; demanding that Montreal make a REAL commitment to preserving the remaining green space on the island of Montreal.

When the project was initiated back in 2005 and environmental studies were conducted, it was a much different ecosystem, over the last 10 years the land was able to revitalize and it is now home to more than 100 species of birds, a variety of mammals and reptiles, a herd of 40 deer and not to mention a vast array of trees and plants. By going through with this development I believe that it will result in the elimination of a massive amount of biodiversity and the last major undeveloped natural space on the island.

Close to 17,500 citizens have already signed a petition against this massive development project and would like to see its protection, I being one of those 17,500 urge that this project be stopped. Instead of destroying 185 hectares of pristine green space; if Montreal is serious about ``sustainable development`` the Cap Nature project could be built on other sites in Pierrefonds-Roxboro by densifying central sectors of the already existent borough and areas along major arteries that are already served by public transit and existing water, sewer, gas and electrical infrastructure.