

MME MARTHA BOND :

Poor planning basically.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Alors je vous remercie beaucoup Madame. On prendrait une quinzaine de minutes de pause avant de revenir avec Madame MacDonell s'il vous plaît.

1970

PAUSE ET REPRISE

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

J'appellerais maintenant Madame MacDonell s'il vous plaît. Bonjour Madame.

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MME JANICE MACDONELL :

Hi.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Hi, How are you.

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MME JANICE MACDONELL :

Très nerveuse.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Well, there's no need.

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MME JANICE MACDONELL :

I'm going to be very brief.

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LA PRÉSIDENTE :

It's okay. There you are.

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MME JANICE MACDONELL :

I'm going to read this. I'm too nervous. Sorry. Okay.

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I am here as a citizen of Roxboro to express my very serious concerns regarding potential housing development in the Western Sector of Pierrefonds.

2015

In the twenty years that I have lived on the West Island, I have watched several green spaces that were once wild and natural be destroyed and turned into housing developments. Take for example the area above Gouin Boulevard at the most northern tip of Sources. All of the beautiful forest that was once there has been reduced to a bare minimum. Walks in the woods in that neighborhood are a thing of the past.

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The traffic and pollution generated by this development has turned Sources Boulevard and the suburban living in that area into a congested nightmare not dissimilar to downtown Montreal.

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The thought of adding another 6,000 housing units to the Pierrefonds-Roxboro Borough is terrifying. What will become of the beautiful open, natural space home to a rich biodiversity and ecosystems within the wetlands? The negative environmental impact is immeasurable. The increased number of cars will only create more traffic problems and spew more carbon dioxide into the air we breathe.

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The concept of this development may look good on paper but in reality it will simply contribute to urban sprawl and serve the needs of a very few developers.

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If the needs of the citizens and the environmental were the true motivation behind this project, I would endorse it whole-heartedly. I simply cannot see how this will improve the quality of life on the West Island for anyone.

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I believe this project is short-sighted especially at a time when climate change is our planet's biggest threat. We need to be preserving and conserving as much green space as possible.

I want there to be open natural spaces, fields and forests not only for my grandchildren but for generations to come. We just cannot continue to treat Mother Earth with such complete and utter disrespect. Leave the 185 hectares alone. Let us continue to enjoy the peaceful space that it

offers for once it is gone, it is gone for good. Where will we go then?

2045 This is an election year, why not be democratic and let the people decide the fate of this land? Why not hold a referendum and allow voters to have their say? The question could be put to them on the election ballots. Elected officials are supposed to represent the majority, let's find out what the people want.

2050 In the meantime, I urge you to enjoy the photography work of Arnault Laville and enjoy his beautiful photography you will see how magnificently he captures the beauty of this very unique area. I urge you to leave this pristine land to the artists, wildlife, nature lovers everywhere and especially for future generations.

2055 Thank you.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

Well congratulations. You made it.

2060 **MME JANICE MACDONELL :**

Thank you.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2065 Can we ask you a few questions?

MME JANICE MACDONELL :

2070 Sure.

LE COMMISSAIRE WOLFE :

2075 I thank you, it's all very clear. I don't have any other additional questions.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2080 How would you see - do you understand French? - l'aménagement, the organization of a park if the whole land was dedicated to a park?

MME JANICE MACDONELL :

2085 Not dissimilar to Cap Saint-Jacques. I mean Cap Saint-Jacques and L'Anse-à-l'Orme are so close, I mean if they did anything to it, the most I could see is what they've done to Cap Saint-Jacques because it's very like, it's very friendly for the everyday person, there's parking there, there's lot of green spaces, there's lots of woods, it's beautiful. We can't lose that.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2090 Thank you very much.

MME JANICE MACDONELL :

2095 Thank you.

LA PRÉSIDENTE :

2100 J'inviterais maintenant Madame Jennifer Guimond s'il vous plaît. Ça va. Allez-y.

MME JENNIFER GUIMOND :

2105 Okay. So I decided to speak in response to the Pierrefonds West Development Plan mainly to help stop the development and to be a voice for the last major and develop natural space on the Island.

2110 I was born and raised in the West Island and I resided here up until I went off to university. In those 20 somewhat years, I was witness to the slow progression of destruction. I witnessed more and more green spaces removed for housing projects, commercial use as well as industrial takeover. But it wasn't until four years ago when my husband and I bought our house in Kirkland that I began to see just how bad things had gotten.

2115 So, it's no wonder that in 2013, when Denis Coderre came in to office, Montreal ranked dead last of any city in Canada for poor capita of green space. But by inheriting a huge green space deficit, the new Mayor and his team also inherited the responsibilities to do something about it.

2120 Unfortunately, today less than 6% of Montreal Island is actually protected which means that if we are to reach our own proclaimed objective of protecting 10% of natural green spaces, which was adopted in 2015, we would need an additional 2,000 hectares. So what better way to start than to protect the 185 hectares at stake in our own backyard.