



March 17, 2004

Office de consultation publique de Montreal
1550 Metcalfe Avenue
Suite 1414
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 1X6

Re: Charter of Rights and Responsibilities

To whom it may concern,

I have learned of the City of Montreal's proposed Charter of Rights and Responsibilities which is available on the city's web site. As a citizen, I wholeheartedly endorse this initiative which promotes values which I feel are largely shared by Montrealers from one end of our municipality to the other.

Moreover, the Charter should be seen as a pledge by the municipal administration recognizing the need to consult and work with the citizens . As such the Charter is an important tool to promote democratic participation.

However, the long term status of the Charter is unclear. At first I thought that the rights and responsibilities that are to be encouraged would become part of the City Charter. But after a second reading I have concluded that the Charter of Rights and Responsibilities is a separate document and not one protected by law. Could a new City Council simply repeal this Charter ?

If that is a correct interpretation, I recommend that the Charter of Rights and Responsibilities be enacted by legislation into the City Charter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Fleshier". The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elizabeth Fleshier