

Old CN Yard re-development

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I am writing this memo with admittedly little hope of any real change coming from it. I have participated in all the consultations, questions and concerns of the citizens of Montreal. Like many of them I am rather sceptical that consultations or memos are anything else than compulsory procedures that are then ardently ignored.

In June 2006 M Chiara bought the CN yards for one dollar with the understanding that he would decontaminate the land. It has become quite clear since then that he has not intentions of doing so. The land where citizens will live will be 'managed', toxic earth moved around, hidden under mounds for future generations to deal with. Train yards people have been complaining about for decades will be rebuilt (no need to decontaminate). Large, noisy polluting industries (no decontamination) will be built. All this in the middle of a dense urban area.

My concern is as follows. How is this benefiting the citizens? Jobs perhaps: I would recommend the city speaks to the local schools as I have. They will tell you that industries in the neighbourhood are hardly good corporate citizens. From what I have been told by the principal of one of these schools, having these types of industries in our neighbourhoods encourages kids to drop school at an early age to go work for them.

So why is the city of Montreal letting this happen? Burying toxic earth, destroying a beautiful park, building industries and houses without a sensible transportation access, permitting large industries in the middle of an urban area. The entire project lacks vision, imagination and courage. Worse, it smells of accommodation (to put it **very** mildly). My proposition and many would agree with me is to leave the status quo for as long as it takes until the Mach Group (or another, or the people) can fulfill its promises to decontaminate the entire land and present a project that makes sense to the city, the people, and to themselves.