

Master Development Plan

Royal Victoria Hospital and Allan Memorial Institute site,
Montreal, Quebec.

While at best an occasional visitor to Montreal, and yet a great lover and admirer of the city, I offer the following comments and queries based on an overview of the plans and the material made available to the public with respect to the new Royal Vic:

1. Master Development Plan: It does not appear to be included in the material provided. Is this, in fact, the case? Is it available for review?
2. Theme 1: Vocation of the Site: To ensure the site is open to the community, it has to be welcoming; there has to be enticing reasons for wanting to go there; an easy to understand and user-friendly wayfaring system; ease of circulation and mobility, and availability and ease of visitor parking.
3. Theme 2: Architectural, Landscape and Cultural Heritage: The conservation and re-purposing of the built heritage and cultural landscape of the site is admirable and to be applauded.
4. Theme 5: Mobility and Connection: The site is characterized by significant changes in grade making it difficult, and in some cases challenging, for pedestrians and others to access various areas and buildings on site with ease. While new staircases are being planned, their location and length is not readily apparent. Is consideration being given to providing measures such as escalators and other amenities to facilitate pedestrian circulation throughout the site and in all types of weather?
5. Theme 6: Other Opinions: Community Hub/Focus: Does the redevelopment plan include provision for a central gathering place or hub (along with a square or piazza) which can be conveniently accessed and enjoyed throughout the year for socializing with friends, colleagues, fellow students, employees and the wider community? This, I believe, would be a very important and desirable element of the redevelopment plan but am not able to identify whether it is being provided for.
6. Theme 6: Other Opinions: Winter City: The many simulated views of 'The New Vic' show people walking, engaging, entertaining and relaxing outdoors in a campus park-like setting characterized by generous landscaping, open space and fair weather. The reality is that Montreal on many days throughout the year, and particularly in winter, can be a far less inviting place outdoors—being sometimes brutally cold, windy, rainy, snowy. The winter variable in combination with the terrain of the site can make being outside on campus an unpleasant and arduous ordeal. I am interested to know what provisions and measures are going to be taken to ameliorate and mitigate the adverse impacts of winter and inclement weather conditions.

Respectfully submitted by:
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On behalf of:
Jane Adams

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