

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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O.K. Merci beaucoup. Merci pour votre présentation. Bonne soirée.

M. STEVE SHANAHAN :

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Merci. Bonne soirée.

M. JINGANG GUAN ET Mme JIURU ZHU
China Canada Friendship Promotion Association

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Prochains intervenants : Jingang Guan et Jiuru Zhu. Bonsoir. Alors, merci d'être ici avec nous, on a eu votre document également, qu'on a lu, alors on vous écoute.

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M. JINGANG GUAN :

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Okay. Good evening everybody, my name is Jingang Guan, and this is Jiuru Zhu. We are on behalf of China-Canada Friendship Promotion Association. First of all, I would like to thank Montreal Public Consultation Office to give me this opportunity to present my opinions for protecting Chinatown.

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Why do we need to protect Chinatown? I will analyse it from two angles. First one, it's the intrinsic factor, which is Chinatown's, its own value. And the second one: its intrinsic factor, which is developers threaten.

So, let's start from Chinatown, its own value. First, why is Chinatown is memorable historical site. Everybody knows Chinatown have survived for more than 140 years. That, end of

1785 the 19th century, only a few families live De La Gauchetière Street, and only survived with laundromat. And right now, the Chinese families have grown to a 1 000 and 500 000, and the Chinatown has expanded about ten street blocks. And the (inaudible) right now is were rich and various.

1790 Okay. The second value of Chinatown is because Chinatown is Chinese cultural center, which symbolized by Chinese culture and by Chinese architecture, and art. In Chinatown, the Chinese architecture can be represented by the Holiday Inn. Just this building. Because on the top, there's a gazebo of Chinese style. Another one will be (inaudible) Square, or it's also called Sun Yat-Sen Park.

1795 (Inaudible) Square has a lot of Chinese elements, for example the glass, the tiles, and the roof, carved windows and the doors, carved beams and carved pillars, all these elements tell this is Chinatown.

1800 The art culture will be presented by the wall carving. This is not only the carving art. It is also very famous for Chinese (inaudible) knows the western journeys, and everybody know this is Chinese story. And other Chinese carved art product can be represented by the Chinese paper cut, letters, Chinese print, and the Chinese calligraphy.

1805 Okay. The clothing culture and food, Chinese food is also part of Chinese culture. The typical Chinese traditional (inaudible) clothes is tangzhuang and the Tai Chi uniform. The Chinese food, I think, is very familiar with everybody, because everybody knows the dim sum and dumplings.

1810 Okay. There's a Chinese saying that is that holiday season missing relatives even more. So that first of all times, the Chinese Montrealers will be missing their relatives, then they will go to Chinatown to taste back their hometown, and to recall their childhood by enjoying the Beijing opera, lion dance, dragon dance, and the music instrument playing, such as two strings violin, and luth.

1815 The next one is Chinatown is also a commercial site. Because in Chinatown, we can get house services, like the Chinese hospital, traditional Chinese medicine stores and the clinics, acupuncture clinics, we can also taste Chinese food at the restaurants, Vietnamese restaurant, and we also can buy the Chinese products at the grocery stores, clothing stores or general stores.

1820 The next is Chinatown is a (inaudible) very memorable tourist sight. Chinatown attract a lot of tourists to visit. The tourist come Chinatown for enjoying the long memorable hard earned history, and to approach Chinese culture, and to taste Chinese food, or to buy the Chinese products, or to learn Chinese, or he went to obtain Chinese community services.

1825 Furthermore, Chinatown is also a helping center. In Chinatown, the Chinese community have brought a lot of new immigrants to learn French, to learn English, to learn local culture, and to find a job, to find apartment. All this is to help new immigrants effectively to integrate to the local society.

1830 This is the intrinsic factor why do we need to protect Chinatown. Now, I will talk about the extrinsic factor, which is developers threaten. Because in the past 50 years, there are a lot of developers' mega projects occupied or demolished more than one third of the buildings in Chinatown. For example, the Federal Complex Guy-Favreau, demolished more than six acres of buildings in Chinatown. Palais des congrès de Montréal, also expropriate a block of Chinatown. And furthermore, the Complexe Desjardins also use some of the land in Chinatown.

1835 If Chinatown destroyed like this little by little, eventually Chinatown will be erased from the Montreal landscape. So, we have to protect Chinatown. Now, the question is: how to protect Chinatown? Should we start from government of Quebec and the City of Montreal?

1840 Government of Quebec has designated core block of Chinatown as Quebec historic heritage district. And City of Montreal has modified its plan to limitate the buildings height density and architecture in the neighborhood.

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We welcome such decisions, but we think this is not good enough, so we propose the full approach to protecting Chinatown. The first one we think: only designated the core block of the Chinatown as Quebec historical heritage block is not good enough.

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We should ask Quebec government to designate the whole Chinatown as historical heritage district, because the whole Chinatown, every part, represents or reflects its developing history. Each part reflects different periods of the history and the culture. Any part of the Chinatown destroyed, the cross-bounding culture and history will be erased. So, we should ask to designate the whole Chinatown as historical heritage site.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Can you go to your conclusion?

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M. JINGANG GUAN :

Okay.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Yes. Please.

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M. JINGANG GUAN :

And another one we should ask, to protect intangible Chinese culture, because in the Chinatown, only protect tangible building is not enough. Like the City of Montreal talked only limited buildings height density. But we should ask to protect the intangible Chinese culture, because of the tangible buildings and the intangible culture is undividable. And it's complementary.

1875 Because if Chinatown only with rows of buildings, that will be like the architecture museum. Only ways the Chinese community service with cultural center activities and with resident colourful lives and (inaudible) with taste of our food, this makes real Chinatown. And the next sentences will be presented by miss Zhu.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1880 I'll give you just one minute, okay? One minute.

Mme JIURU ZHU :

1885 Okay. So, okay, I don't use my PowerPoint. Just, there was some (inaudible). From the previous speaker, we can see it's a problem of the Chinatown now is Chinatown was squeezed by the high-rised building. That is why you limitate the density and height of the building.

1890 And, in Chinatown, you can see there're so many abundant buildings. If we use them as historic culture heritage, so how we can protect them? And is it necessary to treat them as heritage building. Because there... I will show you one picture in Clark Street, okay? There one building besides, (inaudible) is totally abundant. There's the window is blocked. And the building is scratched. So, I want to know if it is necessary to keep it as heritage. Yeah. Build it or not.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1895 So, what do you recommend?

Mme JIURU ZHU :

1900 I recommend analyse each building of each lot to see it is worth for to keep it or not. Because Chinatown need evolved. Not only just keep. We keep the good. Not keep the bad. By

doing that, Chinatown will be more appealing to the tourists and to the people who want to live there again.

1905 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

And what you're saying is that new construction should be Asian look?

1910 **Mme JIURU ZHU :**

Yes. Yes. For the new construction, yeah, I would like to propose these oriental elements, such as, for example, the carved sculpture of the windows and the... you know, something like this.

1915 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Okay. Et par rapport aux hauteurs, about the heights?

Mme JIURU ZHU :

1920 Hauteurs, it cannot, because heights and the density developer, for sure, they want to make money. They want to get their invest. We cannot only limitate the density and heights and block the potential developer to really invest Chinatown development for good. Otherwise, nobody wants to invest. The Chinatown will go worse and worse. This situation, nobody wants to... want like this. So, for the new building, yeah, the density and the height, for sure, have limitation. As
1925 long as it is comfortable and is good the pedestrian, for the residents, I think, yeah. We cannot just limitate 50 meters. We have to analyze each case by each case. Cannot just by one standard, one height to block, obviously.

1930 And for the building already there, we can put some Chinese or oriental elements there, for example: a wall painting, or some banner, with Chinese calligraphy or lanterns, just like Holiday Inn. Holiday Inn is very successful model for the future project. Is very good. From outside, you

can see Chinese architecture there, and inside you can find the fountain, you can find the gold fish, something. So, this is an example for future project. That's good. Thank you for your listening.

1935 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Okay, merci, thank you. Bruno-Serge?

1940 **LE COMMISSAIRE :**

Moi, that's okay, you were very clear, thank you for participation.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1945 Danielle?

LA COMMISSAIRE :

Oui, ça va.

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Mme JIURU ZHU :

Okay, thank you very much. Thank you all.

1955 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Xiè xie. Thank you, merci. Bonne soirée.

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