

Dear Commissioners of the OCPM,

My name is Cynthia Kelly and I am writing because I feel Montréal's historic Chinatown is a vital part of our current culture and should be protected.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed new height and density permissions of buildings situated in Chinatown. I strongly oppose higher buildings in the area, as mentioned in proposals by the City of Montréal.

I ask that the City of Montréal affirm the heritage designation of Montréal's historic Chinatown from René-Levesque to the North to Viger to the South, and Rue de Bleury to the West and Sainte-Elizabeth to the East. I also ask the City of Montréal to affirm their proposal to lower the height and density allowances to encourage the preservation and promotion of community and cultural life, and local economic growth in the neighbourhood.

I am particularly concerned that without additional measures Chinatown will no longer be an attraction for tourists, will be a corridor of buildings that are unwelcoming to the general population, and will be too crowded. Ensuring that the physical historical buildings are protected and preserved is vital to protecting the histories of the neighbourhood are not erased and remain a part of the Canadian and Québec narrative  
Keep commercial development right-sized for the neighbourhood and maintain local small and medium business ownership in Chinatown instead of internationally owned big box stores moving into the neighbourhood.

We should be providing more opportunities to create green space and outdoor leisure space, allow residents, especially seniors, to remain in affordable housing and age in place and dignity, maintain and encourage social service delivery in the neighbourhood, create opportunities for continued intercultural and intergenerational exchange, all of which are vital for ensuring that the histories of the neighbourhood are not erased and remain a part of the Canadian and Québec narrative.

Beyond affirming the heritage designation of Chinatown and the height and density limits, I join our fellow neighbours and community members in their concerns that the current measures alone will not sufficiently bring about the desired results mentioned above. I hope with the adoption of the proposed changes to the Plan d'Urbanisme, the City of Montréal and the Borough of Ville-Marie will further consider creating a more holistic development plan for Montréal's historic Chinatown that aims to protect, preserve, and promote the history and culture of its historical populations. This should also include considerations for housing, economic development, and improving the quality of life indicators for Chinatown's residents.

I hope you will take this recommendation seriously and continue to use the feedback of residents and community members to develop a holistic plan that values the unique character of Montréal's Chinatown.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kelly

