

Mme MURIELLE CHAN-CHU :

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Merci.

Mme NORAA LIANG et M. MARC ZHANG

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La Chambre de commerce chinoise de Montréal/Association d'échanges culturels et artistiques Canada-Chine

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Bonne fin de soirée. J'inviterais maintenant Noraa Liang. Alors, Madame Liang, bonsoir. Vous êtes accompagnée de monsieur – vous êtes monsieur Marc.

M. MARC ZHANG :

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My name is Marc Zhang, Montreal Chinese chamber of commerce.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Alors, bienvenue.

M. MARC ZHANG :

Thank you.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Bonsoir.

M. MARC ZHANG :

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Glad to see you again.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Donc, vous avez dix minutes, oui.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

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So, bonjour, Monsieur, bonjour, Madame. Je suis contente de see you again. So today, I use English to talk and first I talk about la Chambre de commerce Chinoise of Montreal. The idea, I write it on this paper.

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I know today I speak to association, the content may be too much, if I cannot finish all my things, I will leave it here.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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The paper, we read it.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

Yes, that's another one.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Another one, okay, you can send. Vous pouvez nous le donner aussi.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

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I send an email, but I will give the paper to you also, yes.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Merci.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

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So, I say his speech first: my name is Marc Zhang, and I am reading on behalf of La Chambre des commerce Chinoise de Montréal. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new height and density permissions of the buildings situated in Chinatown.

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The MCCC strongly supports the City of Montreal's proposal to lower the height and density allowances.

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The MCCC registered in the 1985, we have about 150 members and we were supported and praised by the three-tier government in Canada, which aroused the admiration, respect and imitation of other communities.

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When it comes to MCCC, Chinatown comes to mind. The two Chinese style arches in the North and South were originally established by the Canadian government, the Shanghai government, and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. That's a landmark of Chinatown.

The MCCC spares no effort to preside over and participate in such things as the renovation of Chinatown, the renovation of Sun Yat-Sen Park and the completion of the Sun Yat-Sen standing, the statue of the Mister Sun Yat-Sen standing in the Sun Yat-Sen Park, together with Sun Yat-Sen Park Foundation. So, Sun Yat-Sen Park is the landmark of Chinatown, it's in the middle of Chinatown, which is also a contribution of our Chinese culture.

2145 For the prosperity of Chinatown, the MCCC has continuously contacted the government and actively cooperated with the city government to renovate the streets into a spacious, bright, clean and tidy appearance.

2150 It ensures the safety of businesses and social stability, the MCCC spared no effort to ensure the security of Chinatown. After one year of hard work, we finally successfully applied to the police station to install 24 hours cameras in Chinatown.

Since then, the number of homeless people in Chinatown has decreased, and the environment has improved, and law and order has now become better.

2155 We think no homeless shelter can be provided around Chinatown, and Chinatown cannot be a messy gathering place. This will greatly destroy the business development of the community.

2160 So, in order to attract more tourists to Chinatown, we apply for four annual Chinatown summer open-air sales promotions, to promote the businesses. Not only is it a convenient for the tourists and businesses, but it also shows the other ethnic groups with Chinese cultural products. Tourists flock to it every year we hold this.

So, the following is the suggestion which we've written to how to can be a build up better, I will leave it here to the paper to you.

2165 At the end, we MCCC will support the work of the government very much, and we are willing to serve you.

So that's one.

2170 So, Dear Madame, Monsieur, hello, my name is Noraa Liang and I'm writing on behalf of the Association d'échanges culturels et artistiques Canada and Chine, CCCAE. Thank you also for the opportunity to let me come here to talk to you.

2175 We created artist activities, heritage protection opportunity on how to maintain and activate cultural charm of Chinatown.

The CCCAE strongly support the City of Montreal to protect Chinatown businesses and cultural development.

2180 CCCAE conduct non-profit activities in the field of cultural, society, charity, nationality, religions, science, arts, professional sports, education, et cetera.

2185 CCCAE promotes the development of traditional culture on an international scale, promote a multicultural integration, promotes cultural exchanges between China and Canada, increase communication between different groups and develop friendships between the two countries. We are committed to cultural planning event, execution, and community cultural news promote.

2190 There were about 170 members; we have been operating since 2017. We often hold a different cultural event in Chinatown, and Chinese communities, including activities in language barrier free communication.

2195 Quite a lot of the Chinese living in Montreal be part of them, they either could not speak French and English.

2195 So traditional food sharing, historical researches, museum, culture, costumes, culture of the two countries, design, concept, music style of the two countries, dancing, singing, music, instrument playing style, film expression (inaudible) customs, social, festivals, culture, et cetera.

2200 We can also provide platforms for cultural exchange between artists of two countries, maintain the development of Cantonese culture, Mandarin Chinese culture, integrate local culture of Quebec, Canada, and reach multicultural feed.

We encourage the lower than minimum possible height. We suggest that the government can find places in the Green Zone or (inaudible) heart (inaudible) on the first floor on the building in Chinatown is like such a small museum in the place for long term cultural exhibition.

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We hope to build a small stage in the center of the Chinatown, like Sun Yat-Sen Park, to hold more events in the future.

I also have another suggestion written down here, which I can also mention if I still have time.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Yes, two minutes.

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Mme NORAA LIANG :

Okay. The association CCCAE has been held and organize the following events: Chinese lunar New Year, lantern festival, mid-autumn festival, and there is a traditional festival in Canada and Quebec organized for gathering and (inaudible) friendship between people of all group.

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Every year we participate in Canada Day Parade, including some multicultural performances. For example, every summer, drums for units to celebrate Asian heritage month, which was held in last week, last two week. (Inaudible) take art culture appreciation month, et cetera, free online courses for those who want to learn Cantonese and Mandarin and do regular reading activities for children in French and English.

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Together with the Montreal Chinese Chamber of commerce, MCCC, we had a large scale oversee tour show for our five continents in the same spring, for oversea Chinese and local citizens. Specially co-organized with happy Chinese New Year temple fair held by the MCCC which aroused huge repercussions in the local society, China, and Chinese communities around

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the world. And this becomes one of the most influential and most influential successful overseas Chinese cultures.

2235 It has become the most representative cultural business cards for Chinese in Montreal. From the 1st to the 4th, the Dee Jong Di building, according to the local statistics, there were more than 40,000 people and passengers, making it one of the biggest festivals in Montreal.

2240 And the event that year, there were a huge follow and people, and it was necessary to allow visitors in batches enter the largest indoor event held in the whole North America.

2245 In 2022, this year, the six online temple fairs, the national level artists have come to the forth. The stars are bright and the big name gathered. The number of click and reprinted is huge and the responses are fantastic and the praise is overwhelming.

We hope you will take our recommendations serious and continue to use the feedback of the residents and community members to develop the plan value and unique character of Montreal Chinatown.

2250 If in the future, you need our association to organize any of the cultural development activities mentioned about for the municipal government, our association is very willing to work for you, continue to serve our community. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2255 Merci beaucoup. Avant de passer aux questions, j'aimerais vous féliciter et vous remercier pour le travail remarquable que vous avez fait pour diffuser l'information concernant la consultation, en assurant également de la traduction, et en mobilisant les citoyens, les résidents de la communauté du Quartier chinois. Alors, xiè xiè, merci.

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Mme NORAA LIANG :

If possible, we really hope...

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

... Nous avons des questions, we have some questions for you.

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Mme NORAA LIANG :

Okay.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Yes. Danielle, ça va. My question is par rapport aux activités culturelles. Donc, il y a des lieux actuellement dans le Quartier chinois qui sont utilisés pour l'expression de l'art et de la culture chinoise, vous en avez mentionné plusieurs.

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So, you mentioned a lot of cultural activities that you do throughout the year. Where do you do those activities and is there some specific spaces, outdoor or indoor, that needs to be protected?

Mme NORAA LIANG :

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I talking about the periods before the Covid, we used to connect with the China Park, also China Mainland. They are artist, and they come here. They have a big show, but that kind of big show could not be held in Chinatown, no space. So that the time we held it in the theatre I think in the theatre and also the China temple fair we held in the Dee Jong Di building that is what we used to do.

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Some small activities like the drums for united; we can do it in the Sun Yat-Sen Park. But now we suggest if you can have more spaces, can do more things. So that's really necessary.

2295 Like people, they come here, even they come to a shopping mall, they need space to relax, to see, to know. If the people, the visitor they come here, they can eat, okay, they eat here, they can see things, they can like learn new things, and getting something, buy stuff. That they would really love to stay here for the whole day or whatever.

2300 So that's why we thinking maybe we build a small exhibition along, (inaudible), small house, something like that, we put some history things there to regularly you can have full time. So let the people have... with a different, especially with the different festivals, can hold different activities, so that will really attract them.

2305 Just like last two weeks, we held a drum of unit activity. There were I think like 4-5 hundred people come, past. They come here, they will eat their lunches here, make their commercial. It is a circle. So, I think it works. Making a life.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2310 Okay. Bruno-Serge.

LE COMMISSAIRE:

2315 In the first part of your intervention, you talked about the homeless people. You said there was a lot in Chinatown and maybe we would need more shelters for them.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

2320 Sorry I translate to him because this is his concern about this question. So, I translate.

LE COMMISSAIRE:

2325 Okay. So, one of the largest shelters in Montreal, the Old Mission Brewery, is very close to Chinatown. Did you mean that you should have a new shelter just for Chinese homeless people or for the population in general?

M. MARC ZHANG RÉPOND EN CANTONNAIS.

2330 **Mme NORAA LIANG :**

2335 As our Chinese MCCC has big and long history association. So, about this homeless people issue, there are lots of Chinese, they are living, they are doing business in China, they complained to him said: "We don't want that crowd too close to Chinatown, that would destroy their businesses here. It is not safety if a place (inaudible). The number (inaudible).

2340 Like the first one, the important thing is safe, you need to be safe here and you would develop second, third, forth. The first step is the safety. So that's why at the time, the MCCC was working for a whole year to ask the police government to give the 24 hours cameras to set in Chinatown. That's really helped. After that the whole Chinatown security is growing, there's no dangerous thing happen.

2345 If you compared to the other like recently the other provinces that happened the shooting cases there, so here won't have that.

If you imagine like Montreal Chinatown have one case like that? Oh my God. That's really...

2350 **M. MARC ZHANG RÉPOND EN CANTONNAIS.**

Mme NORAA LIANG :

2355 The Chinatown are not just place for doing business, it's also a visiting place. It's a place for the tourists to come visit. So here is a place where safety is really important.

2360 If the homeless people be so many many around, they will break the windows, they have no happy moment, they will break the windows, destroyed the businesses here. And then the businessman, they will really suffer and living here, and doing business here, working here.

M. MARC ZHANG RÉPOND EN CANTONNAIS.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

2365 He said Chinatown it's a really famous landmark in Montreal all around visitors for all around the world come here to visit Chinatown, especially in China, there's a huge population of traveller.

2370 So, if they come here, they will definitely will come here. So this Quartier chinois est très, très important.

2375 He gives example, he said: under the YMCA building there, every night after 1 AM, 2 AM, they still have some homeless people yelling at them, screaming at them. So that's really bad for the whole place.

M. MARC ZHANG RÉPOND EN CANTONNAIS.

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Mme NORAA LIANG :

2385 He said he won't wish the Montreal Chinatown can be the second Vancouver Chinatown.
In his mind, he considers Vancouver Chinatown is a bad example, because the Vancouver
Chinatown, around the Vancouver Chinatown, build up so much homeless people, the shelters.

2390 So that will directly destroy the Chinatown no more attractive at all so not alive anymore.
This Vancouver Chinatown, no one will come at night time.

M. MARC ZHANG RÉPOND EN CANTONNAIS.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

2395 He thinks that the Montreal Chinatown is the best one in the whole America.

VOIX NON IDENTIFIÉE :

2400 Also, there's no homeless Chinese people in Chinatown.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

O.K. Merci, je vous remercie. Thank you very much.

2405 **Mme NORAA LIANG :**

Yes, of course.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2410 If you can, vous pouvez nous transmettre vos documents.

Mme NORAA LIANG :

Oui.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

You can give us copies of the other documents.

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Mme NORAA LIANG :

Je vous, send you an email.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Merci beaucoup, thank you.

M. PARKER MAH, citoyen

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Prochain et dernier intervenant, Parker Mah. Monsieur Mah, bonsoir.

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M. PARKER MAH :

Bonsoir à tous et à toutes. Vous m'entendez bien?

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Bonsoir, on vous entend bien.