

**M. FRANCIS GRENIER :**

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Merci.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

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C'est bien apprécié. Bonne fin de soirée.

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**CANADIAN CHINESE  
HISTORICAL AND CULTURE SOCIETY**

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**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

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Le prochain intervenant, Timothy Chan, de la Canadian Chinese Historical and Culture Society.

**M. TIMOTHY CHAN :**

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My name is Timothy Chan, president of the Canadian Chinese Culture and Historical Society.

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In 1998, when Mr. Pierre Bourque was the mayor, I was a member of the Chinatown Roundtable Development Committee. Whenever we held meetings to discuss new buildings in Chinatown that should not exceed six storeys because it would block the scenery of the mountain, people thought that was an unimportant matter, but it brought some significant and historic changes to Montreal.

When Jacques Cartier discovered Montreal, the first thing he found was Mount Royal. He exclaimed in surprise, "Oh! Mont Royal!"

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When we were driving back to Montreal from Highway 15 South, I could see the whole land from a distance. I felt surprised by the love I had for Montreal. The scenery was so beautiful that I had immense admiration for it. The fatigue of long driving suddenly disappeared.

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One day in 2014, a senior couple in their sixties came to Montreal from Paris, France, as visitors. They were in front of the metro Place-d'Armes. The lady politely asked me: "Sir, may I ask you where Chinatown is?" I felt very strange and replied: "You are in Chinatown now. We are in front of Holiday Inn on the street Saint-Urbain. If you walk up the street, you will be in the heart of Chinatown in two minutes."

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The three examples above have always made me wonder whether Chinatown is not appealing at all? Or is the municipal planning work not properly done?

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In recent years, Chinatown seems to have no way to develop. What is the reason? Is there a holistic set of community development plans?

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Entering the 21st century, the community should determine a series of preservation measures to welcome the new culture by preserving the old history and culture. First, we should limit the heights of buildings. From 2021 to 2022, two tall buildings were built on the south side of Saint-Laurent Street; the south arch was completely blocked by them.

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Even if you are standing on the edge of Chinatown, like those two French tourists, you would still ask how to get to Chinatown. We can't see the characteristics of Chinatown anymore.

As Chinatown is being developed, there are many high-rise buildings, and there is no traditional and authentic Chinese touch. For tourists who visit Montreal, what are they looking for? In order to find the answer, it is best to carry out a survey.

1100 From July 1st to October 30th, we can distribute questionnaires to travel agencies, bus terminal stations and metro stations, airports, hotels and schools, to understand what tourists like to see and their favourite tourist attractions.

I will share my opinion on cultural preservation:

1105 In the future, if Chinatown builds new buildings or renovates old buildings:

1) It is a top priority to preserve the original buildings of Chinatown, they cannot be demolished.

1110 2) Taxation is one of the most representative economic supports in modern cities. Chinatown can function with two legislative rights; we can maintain the existing tax system. Those old buildings do not generate a lot of income, and the buildings are too old, they cannot afford the huge costs to repair them.

1115 3) New buildings of 2019 and later must be included in a new regulation to increase the tax rate.

1120 This regulation can be called "New Century Chinatown Development Tax System". New buildings from Berri Street in the East to Saint Alexander Street in the West, and from Viger Street in the South to Sherbrooke Street in the North, cannot exceed 6-7 storeys or 25 m in height. This territory should be the one that new height limits should be imposed on.

1125 Why? If buildings exceed the height limit, that will block the airflow and affect the living environment. Especially nowadays, the United Nations calls on all countries to protect our environment and support green energy. Chinatown should take advantage of this opportunity to develop green energy, such as increasing the installation of solar panels on new and old buildings

to absorb solar energy and collect electricity. If there is excess electricity, it could be sold to Hydro Quebec. Hydro Quebec could sell excess electricity to the United States to increase revenue.

1130 Montreal can become a world model in terms of promotion and attract more tourists.

To improve the living environment, we must create a green environment by conditioning the air, sunlight, airflow and car emissions.

1135 Since COVID-19, our living environment has been affected. I suggest that the city make full use of the Chinatown's empty spaces and coordinate with the communities on Chinatown development based on its norms and regulations. Traditional herbs can be planted in the empty space, those herbs are already there on the street. What is left to do is presenting its name in French, English and French on the side. This will attract a lot of tourists to Montreal's Chinatown.

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**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Are you in your conclusion?

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**M. TIMOTHY CHAN :**

By doing this, we are not only becoming the world model of environmental protection, but also a pioneer in educating citizens. Making optimal use of energy and environmental protection are also the next steps for the city's development direction.

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Very sorry.

And this, in Chinese, we call it feng shui.

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And also... very sorry.

I suggest that Clark Street, between the Chinese Community and Cultural Centre, next building, used as the library. And 1050 St. Laurent Street, City could buy that to use for a museum, so all the details I can explain it if I have time.

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That's it, thank you very much.

What I just described is a summary of what the Chinese often call "feng shui".

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**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Well, thank you Mr. Chan. You went over your time, but I didn't want to stop you because I wanted you to finish all of your statement.

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**M. TIMOTHY CHAN :**

Oh, it's okay. Because in my feelings, this is the first time the city of Montreal has chosen, so important, to call for a long meeting. A long meeting that's two weeks in a row, that's really important.

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Secondly, the Quebec government and the city of Montreal they work together to make Chinatown as a heritage site.

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You see Chinatowns in the world, everywhere, they have the new and the old one, but only in Montreal, they have a heritage. Then we could use this good opportunity to improve it. Improve it, why? Because of new immigrants coming or immigrants past. And this is really important for us to get together to make a better movement for the future.

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**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Xiè xiè. Des questions? Danielle?

**Mme DANIELLE SAUVAGE :**

1190 I think that you are a celebrity in Chinatown. The way you speak about your city, votre  
Quartier chinois, and everything you've done for the Quartier chinois is very impressive. And  
you're known... It's very much because of you that all these people are here and these people are  
fighting to preserve the Quartier chinois, so I thank you very much.

1195 **M. TIMOTHY CHAN :**

Excuse me, because, my hearing.

1200 Today, I was an immigrant to Canada in 1954. This year I'm 86, so my hearing is lost, my  
memory is lost. But Chinatown, I never, never forget, never lost. I keep generations and  
generations. I sold them Chinatown. Chinese food changed from chop suey to dim sum, to the  
Mandarin, hot and spicy, the culture has changed. Our people have changed. Heritage has  
changed. Why we don't keep this good movement, keep it for the younger generation  
continuously. So, there is education there, so that's what I care. Me, I'm old and I have a lot of  
1205 things to take care of for multicultural, keep peace. Everybody to visit the museum, is education to  
them. How we... how they work so hard, and even my age, when I came to Canada, is no  
education. My English, no grammar, street language, but I don't care. I have to learn by dictionary,  
by newspapers, even Quebecor in Quebec City, Sorel or Montreal Star. I read them, I read  
English and French. But I forget, you know. So, thank you.

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**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Thank you. Bruno-Serge?

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**M. BRUNO-SERGE BOUCHER :**

1220 Thank you very much for your presentation. I get that you agree with the document that says that we should lower the heights in Chinatown, do I get that right?

**M. TIMOTHY CHAN :**

1225 The high-rise sky buildings, what's built is built, you know. But I was checking a few times, I was in City Hall. In City Hall, one room is for refreshment. I stayed up there, I saw Chinatown and I saw their model. And this is beautiful, we could keep. But they build it too high, and cannot see. Why, I'm not sure. We understand, we know. But if some government leader visits Montreal, they have to look at all the buildings. Look, you go all over the world, every city, they have old sky-high buildings. They don't have anything, nothing older, historical, museums, older historical, to tell the  
1230 tourists. Now the tourists come to Montreal, most important, they want to see the Chinese older culture, not the new culture.

**M. BRUNO-SERGE BOUCHER :**

1235 Okay, well, thank you. We would appreciate very much... I noticed that you read from a text. It would be very nice if you could leave your text with our friends here, so we could refer to what you said to us.

**M. TIMOTHY CHAN :**

1240 Okay, thank you very much.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

1245 Merci, thank you, xiè xiè.

Nous allons maintenant prendre une pause de 15 minutes, donc nous reprendrons à 20 h 35 avec Kent Chong.

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**PAUSE**

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**M. KENT CHONG**

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

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Alors, on va reprendre. Maintenant, il nous reste quatre intervenants. Alors, le premier, Kent Chong.

**M. KENT CHONG :**

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Oui.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Bonsoir, Monsieur Chong. Alors, vous avez 10 minutes pour votre présentation.

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**M. KENT CHONG :**

O.K.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

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Par la suite, on a un autre 10 minutes pour échanger avec vous.