

Hello everyone, today is June 13, 2022 and i am here to express my support for the proposed building height limits by the city of Montreal, expand and formalize the perimeter of Chinatown and enhance the distinctive character of chinatown. I would be remiss to continue without acknowledging that this is all happening on Ji-oh-jah-gé, the unceded territory of the ké-nian-ké-ha-ga Nation.

As we discuss decisions and changes to the built environment and the impacts those changes and decisions have on the cultural experience of those that currently inhabit the space I think it's so essential to acknowledge the harm, displacement and violence (re colonialism) that occurs when affected communities are not consulted in the decision making processes that determine changes to the built environment.

So as I said before, I'm here to voice my support for the regulation changes and share why I think these considerations will have a positive impact at the community level in the long run.

As mentioned earlier by previous presenters, I'm going to talk about the urban heat island effect. There is plenty of research available examining the causes and effects of the urban heat effect. Impervious surfaces hold heat and cause the surrounding area's temperature to increase. A potentially dangerous feature of a neighbourhood that is home to our older citizens and at risk neighbours. I say this to illustrate the fact that should more high rise condos be presented to the area, it will only exacerbate the heat island effect and demand more energy to maintain livable temperatures for the residents.

In some of the literature I've come across, biodiversity is offered as both a measure of and a solution to the effects of the urban heat island.

Stay with me now...

I'm an urban studies student, in my studies I've learned that variety is the spice of life!

Biodiversity is understood as the variety of life in an ecosystem. This concept fits like a glove when it comes to urban environments. That's variety for income levels, that's variety for land use and that's variety for building types.

Business as usual has a way of homogenizing neighbourhood by design. Especially when the neighbourhood is home to minorities and marginalized communities. What do I mean when I say this? I mean that development in this day and age has a way of dulling cultural reference points in favour of mass appeal. Chinatown came to be from a need. New immigrants coming from China, folks coming off of working on the trans Canada railway, these people came and continue to come to montreal's chinatown. The need to maintain and consider the current residents wishes and needs is essential to maintaining the diversity and variety needed for communities and neighbourhood to thrive.