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[Sarah Lake] [Date]

Office de consultation publique de Montréal (OCPM) Dear Members of the OCPM,

My name is Sarah Lake, and I'm a 31-year-old resident who has had the pleasure of calling Verdun home for a total of 12 years. I live near Promenade Wellington, and it holds a special place in my heart. It's more than just a street I walk down every day; it's a vibrant part of my community and daily life.

I'm writing to express my strong support for making the pedestrianization of Wellington Street a permanent feature year-round. As someone who regularly visits and enjoys this street, I believe that a car-free Wellington will genuinely enhance the quality of life for all of us who use it.

One of the most significant benefits, in my opinion, is how much more pleasant the street becomes when we prioritize pedestrians. Currently, the sidewalks can feel cramped and overcrowded. By removing vehicles, we open up space for walkers, cyclists, and families to move freely and comfortably. This encourages more spontaneous social interactions, strengthens community bonds, and supports local businesses that line the street.

Pedestrianizing Wellington Street aligns with a broader vision of sustainable urban living. Embracing car-free streets not only reduces pollution and noise but also encourages healthier, more active lifestyles, which I believe is crucial for the future of our cities.

The transformation of Wellington Street over the summer months has shown us a glimpse of what's possible—a lively, dynamic space that is welcoming to everyone. Making this change permanent would enrich the character of Verdun, provide a more enjoyable environment for residents and visitors alike, and act as a shining example of progressive urban planning.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I am excited about the potential positive impact a pedestrianized Wellington Street could bring to our beloved community.

Warm regards

Sarah Lake

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