

**MONSIEUR ÉRIC MICHAUD:**

C'est nous qui vous remercions.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

J'inviterais maintenant monsieur Thomas Boushel.

**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL:**

Bonne soirée.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

Bonsoir, Monsieur.

**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL:**

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for this opportunity, it is greatly appreciated. First of all, I would like to say that I fully support the memoire submitted by the Table Interaction Peter-McGill.

The reason I support it so significantly is that having been a member fairly recently, just in the past three years. My wife and I have been very involved, my wife is on Boards for the Seniors Action Quebec, she is the vice-president. I'm on a Board, I have been on two Boards of charities and involved very much with the poor.

When we take a look at the history of the  
arrondissement, it has really been a real gold mine for the  
City, and multimillionaires, the Golden Square Mile, all  
the taxation that has gone in, and most of those people had  
demanded literally no services other than things like  
streets and sidewalks and snow clearing.

They sent their kids to private schools, they have made  
no demands for libraries, community centers, sports fields  
or anything else because their children had sports fields  
at their private schools and they had summer places, they  
didn't need summer places, they didn't need playgrounds  
because they had playgrounds at the end of the day when  
they took the train to their country place.

That has changed over the last century. It started to  
change drastically after the 1950s, but really the City has  
still never invested, there isn't one sports ground, there  
isn't a community center, there isn't anything for the  
people living in the arrondissement.

Now, when you take a look at the statistics that were  
given to you by many of the people that presented, I don't  
want to waste your time talking about it, but when you take  
a look at all the new Canadians, and many of them are poor,

many of them there is no school for them to send their  
children to in the arrondissement so, consequently, there  
is no sports fields. If they have a sports fields at their  
public school, which most of them don't these days, but if  
they do, they are coming home on the bus immediately after  
school, and I'm not talking about the later high school,  
I'm talking about most of the children between 6 and 12 and  
13. They are taking the school bus home, and they have no  
activities in the community.

So consequently, that's the reason why we support it.  
When we have seen this change in demographics, there are  
literally no services in the arrondissement at all, and the  
services that they need with the families are, for one,  
community centers and the other ones are sports and  
recreation, and there is none.

The City of Montreal has it everywhere else. If you go a  
couple of blocks down below the highways, you've got, since  
1920, I was looking at one of the buildings, down there  
they have sports fields that were done and community  
centers that were built in the 1920s.

So consequently, there have been literally no services  
and are no services. The only park you are well aware of is

that little little thing for children from 2 to 5, and to  
call it a park is a gross overstatement. It is certainly  
not a park for the community.

When I take a look at the situation for these people  
living in our arrondissement, we really need something, and  
that's why I fully support the fact that it should be  
turned into a sports field, some type of public park and  
sports fields, as what could be built on the site.

If that is not going to happen, and I fully understand  
who we are up against and what we are up against; if that  
is not going to happen, I would ask you to use your  
influence and please demand that we get a quid pro quo  
immediately, and I would suggest that that quid pro quo be  
the rental of space immediately for a community center in  
an existing building until such a time as five, ten or  
fifteen years.

But when we talk about, the mayor did his announcement  
in the paper and we are talking the next fifteen-year plan.  
Please remember that the children in our arrondissement  
right now that are 6 years old will be 21 years old fifteen  
years from now.

We have been talking about this Franciscan building for, 1  
I have been told by people who were involved before me for 2  
a while, decades now, okay? We had nothing for the last 3  
decade. So that means all the children that grew up over 4  
the last decade have had nothing and will have nothing 5  
until something is done. 6

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So, I would ask that we have some type of quid pro quo 8  
that is going to benefit the community and these people 9  
within the community. These new Canadians aren't the type 10  
of people, they don't have the time; many of them are 11  
holding down two and three jobs, many of them are doing all 12  
sorts of different things that middle class and upper 13  
middle class people, like you and I, don't have to do. 14  
They are not the type to be here, so we are speaking, 15  
people like myself and many others are speaking for them. 16

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But I would ask you to please consider the fact that 18  
there is nothing in this arrondissement for these people 19  
and hasn't ever been and will not be for the immediate 20  
future. 21

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So consequently, if this development is going to take 23  
place and we are going to lose this land, there is nothing 24  
for these families and will not be for what, three, four, 25

five, seven, ten, fifteen years? So consequently, I would  
ask for an immediate quid pro quo, and that quid pro quo,  
badly needed, is a community center. The City could rent  
space for us in many of the buildings where there is space  
available in the west end of the arrondissement, and some  
type of quid pro quo that is going to help out, because the  
families need it. They have nothing.

And so, when you take a look at the list of needs for  
those families, it's activity centers, community centers,  
sports centers and sports fields. And if this project is  
going to go through, then please demand that a quid pro quo  
be given back to the great needs of the community.

I won't bother going through my presentation in detail,  
you've got it to read. I would ask you, though, to read,  
there was a very important article that I put in there, and  
it's by André Picard, who is a health reporter and  
columnist at the Globe and Mail. He lives in Montreal, he  
is a Montrealer, and he did recently, and I did give you  
the link, I gave you a copy of his article with the link to  
the online article, and it's called « All the Lonely  
People »; and what he is referring to is the six million  
Canadians that are living basically very lonely lives. And  
these new Canadians, and these people that are here, are

living lonely lives. They don't have, as I said before,  
they don't have - this article talks about the needs of  
community. And when the mayor talks about, you know, these  
new projects, they are projects, and that is the wave of  
the future.

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I'm not here to talk against the wave of the future, but  
one of the things that this talks about is the estimated  
six million Canadians living in isolation and we have many  
of the seniors, many of these poor people living in  
isolation with no community activities.

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So please refer to that article, I think it is one that  
is immensely significant, especially in cities and  
especially in downtown Montreal.

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I would ask you to refer to that and to give us some  
type of quid pro quo in return if this project does go  
forward. I know that the City wants it to go forward, I  
know that the Developers want it to go forward, and I  
understand that, okay. But all I'm saying is that the needs  
are incredible. The City has done nothing for the last  
decade in this arrondissement, and they are talking about  
doing something in the future, but we are talking years  
here, years and years, and meanwhile all these people,

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every single day, don't have any services and need these  
services, and we have to find a way to do it; and so, I beg  
you to please consider that in your deliberations.

I thank you very much for this opportunity, and I really  
appreciate it.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

Thank you, sir.

**MONSIEUR VIATEUR CHÉNARD:**

Thank you. You sort of mentioned, because we didn't receive  
a document, maybe you have it with you now.

**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL:**

I put it in, I sent it to M. Vézina. So you have a copy of  
my report, plus also the online, I sent in the online  
article that I would ask you to please read because it is  
significant and it just came out a couple of weeks ago.

**MONSIEUR JOSHUA WOLFE:**

You repeated several times the idea of interior rent, that  
the City should rent space for a community center and other  
facilities. Are you aware of, I know you are aware of the  
existence of the YMCA and the YWCA, but they do provide



some of the facilities you are describing, no?

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**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL:**

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They do and they don't, okay? What I'm talking about is when you speak to, in the area I live in, through my wife and I we have contacted a lot of these new Canadians and they really are living very solitarily.

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For example, many of them can't send their children because, until they get their permanent residence that is, they can't send their children to daycare, the government run daycares. So consequently, for example, the Y did set up a program, the details of which people from the arrondissement can give you the full details, but I do know, one, they are not available every day and they are not available to everybody on a routine basis, okay? So consequently, there's all sorts of services that these people don't have.

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So, for example, a lot of these new Muslim people in our building they get together and they have one of the wives take care of seven or eight different children, okay, or eight or nine during the day while the other mothers and fathers go out to work.

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Well, one of the things I found out is that most of them  
are not learning French or English. They are, you know, the  
babysitters are taking care of them in their native  
language, and if they are learning something, sometimes it  
is English because it is a second language that many of  
them have.

But by the time they go into school, the public schools,  
at the age of 5, they are the class clown, if you will,  
because kids are mean and they don't speak French. And so,  
consequently, when you take a look at all these services,  
and the fact that they don't have, there is no - if we had  
a community center that we would have activities in sixteen  
or eighteen hours a day, we would have halls available to  
use in the evenings and for them, their men to, of course  
their men to meet, sometimes the women to meet separately,  
and their children to have activities, but we would have  
community-type spaces for all of these different cultural  
people to use as a community center.

They don't have any of this available to them. So when I  
talk about them living in isolation, yes, there are  
specific activities they can do at the Y at certain times  
of the day, but many of them are not availing themselves  
and it is not the type of thing that they feel comfortable

availing themselves in. A lot of these new Canadians, and  
that applies not only to Muslim people, that applies to  
Chinese people, that applies to...

And when you speak to them, they want to have a  
community center that they can use at certain times of the  
day or evening, or whatever, that they can use for their  
own cultural activities. And so, consequently, these are  
the types of things where there is a big, big need, and we  
recently had... Peter-McGill has done a great job over the  
past couple of years since their founding of the  
Interaction Peter-McGill, they have done a great job.  
We have just had a meeting with all the new - 80 people  
came during the day at the Y for a meeting on immigration  
and the needs of new immigrants to Montreal, and it was  
probably the best-attended meeting ever for new Canadians  
coming to a Peter-McGill activity, and it was really  
incredible to see these people talking from their hearts of  
the needs of their community.

The people that they sent were the best, the leaders in  
their community, young leaders, students, masters students,  
whatever, in their community, but it was really incredible.  
It was a great thing to see, as an older Canadian looking  
at these new Canadians and seeing what the future is going

to be, but their needs are very specific. Their needs are  
for, they need to have a space that they can use on a  
regular basis, you know, two days a week, or whatever, in  
the evening between eight and ten, or something like that  
for the Chinese women, or for whatever.

They will organize it themselves, they will help us  
organize it, but that is the request that they had, that is  
what they want and need, and there is nothing within the  
community for them.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

Fine. Tell me, where is located the school for the 6-12  
years old? Where do they go?

**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL:**

To be honest with you, I do know that...

**MADAME HÉLÈNE CORNELLIER:**

Westmount/Mile End. À ma connaissance c'est Westmount puis  
Mile End.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

Mile End, O.K.

**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL :**

So they are picked up by buses.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

They are bused there. Okay, thank you very much. Well,  
thank you very much, Mr. Boushel.

**MONSIEUR THOMAS BOUSHEL:**

Thank you.

**MADAME NICOLE BRODEUR, PRÉSIDENTE:**

Alors, monsieur Boushel est la dernière personne à  
présenter un mémoire. Ce qui veut dire que notre assemblée  
de ce soir est terminée.

Après les trois séances d'audition, mes collègues et moi  
comme je vous l'indiquais en début, de même que notre  
analyste, monsieur Rinfret, commencerons à analyser  
l'information reçue et les opinions qui nous ont été  
communiquées.

Ainsi que je vous le disais, le rapport de la  
Commission sera présenté aux élus municipaux dès le début  
du mois d'août. Il sera rendu public deux semaines après le  
dépôt.