



# STOP

651, rue Notre-Dame Ouest  
Bureau 130 520  
Montréal (Québec)  
H3C 1H9

Téléphone  
(514) 393-9559  
Fax  
(514) 393-9588

Brief to the City of Montréal  
concerning the draft wood-burning by-law

submitted by

Bruce Walker

STOP

March 2009

1970  
25  
1995

## Introduction

STOP is a non-profit citizens' environmental group. Incorporated in Québec in 1970, STOP deals with a wide range of environmental issues, including air quality, acid rain, climate change, energy policy, solid waste management, and municipal sewage treatment. STOP representatives regularly ask questions at public meetings of Montréal Agglomeration Council and CMM Council.

STOP is proud to be a founding member of le Conseil régional de l'Environnement de Montréal.

STOP is pleased to support the proposed solid fuel burning appliance by-law. STOP urges Montreal Council to go further by examining the serious air pollution and public health problem caused by existing wood stoves and fireplaces.

Montreal Council should have adopted this measure many years ago. In February 1989 the Montreal Urban Community Environment Department published a history of its air pollution control efforts. The following statement is found in the conclusion:

"Le problème du chauffage au bois devient de plus en plus préoccupant à la lumière des nouvelles découvertes scientifiques relativement aux micro-polluants alors émis à l'atmosphère et à leurs effets sur la santé humaine. Une fois l'ampleur du problème évaluée pour l'île de Montréal, des mesures correctives devront être trouvées."

Communauté Urbaine de Montréal, Service de l'environnement,  
Bilan des activités en assainissement de l'air de 1970 à 1988,  
février 1989, 88 pp.

## Why Montreal needs tougher air pollution controls

The air pollution control rules on the island of Montréal have often been more strict than similar regulations adopted by the Government of Québec. There are three reasons why this approach is still necessary:

- 1) thousands of sources of air pollution
  - stationary sources large & small
  - mobile sources
- 2) large, densely-packed population
- 3) lack of buffer zones between the sources of air pollution and the population

In December 1978 Montreal Urban Community Council debated whether to adopt the avant-garde air pollution By-law 44. An ad hoc coalition of community groups, including STOP, supported the tougher measures, and asked for even more stringent rules. Industry groups argued against some of the proposed rules. After a long debate, MUC Council voted in favour of By-law 44, with 2 members dissenting: the Mayor of Montréal-Est, and the Mayor of Anjou.

In 1986 MUC Council toughened the rules again, by replacing By-law 44 with By-law 90. By-law 90 was strengthened several times during the 1990s, often with the support of STOP.

Now the City of Montreal is once again proposing the adoption of more stringent standards.

Montreal Draft By-law      March 2009

- new installations limited to pellet stoves
- emission rate: 1.2 grams per hour particulate matter

Québec Draft Regulation      April 2008

- new installations: EPA certified stoves
- emission rate: 7.5 grams per hour particulate matter

In STOP's view, the City of Montreal needs to adopt these tougher standards.

Bruce Walker

STOP

651 Notre-Dame St. West  
Suite 520  
Montréal, Québec  
H3C 1H9

(514)-393-9559

March 2009