

TALK IT UP, COORDINATE PLANS  
COMMISSION DE LA PRÉSIDENCE MAY 5/2010  
CITY HALL  
FOOD FOR THOUGHT #401

Good evening,

There is too much bad publicity of inappropriate contracts, price fixing and collusion, and general waste of the little funding we have left. These serious issues have not been addressed by providing guidelines and by-laws to prevent them. This year same as last and possibly more in the future residents and businesses will be requested to pay a lot more; they have all been squeezed to the limit to Balance the Budget.

Our problem is that Montreal is at the financial mercy of all levels of government who collect the bulk of the Easy Revenue and allocate the spending; Quebec is running high deficits and talks of cutting back on that spending.

I would like to suggest the following Motion which I don't think takes another commission; hopefully you can debate and put forward the following: Each one of our Executive Committee Members, heads of Committee or Commissions must Increase Credible Talk on Radio, TV and Newspapers concerning their area of expertise. It is a positive move for us to become known to the media as the "In Your Face and Demanding" city provided you are creative and inspire leadership qualities in your suggestions. It would appear what the Media Makes Public the Province Must Seriously Address.

Yes, the province has constitutional rights to raise revenue and decide how to spend it; but Montreal is the largest city and population and still the economic engine of the province; they must Give Us and We Can Loudly Request our Specification and Needs.

Mayor Dauphin! I like this room; I become empowered to speak appropriately in this chamber. Please mention to our Mayor to publicly request Premier Charest and all his Cabinet Ministers With Portfolios assemble in this Grand Chamber to discuss and be questioned by the public and our Executive Committee members. Request thereafter they continuously do so every month. We need a simple forum to coordinate ideas and plans with one voice.

Any Quebecer who has ever emailed a Quebec MNA only gets a form letter reply from an anonymous person and never a response. It's time that all Montrealers have a chance to access and address the Quebec government decision makers. And most definitely it would be a great perceptual move for our city to suggest these monthly meetings. We can call it a "Commission Of The People and Quebec Working Together" or, "COPQWT" for short.

Permit me to give you a taste. The news this morning stated "Gas prices up twelve cents on the island and less off island where one was 8 cents a liter less expensive; told you so! I'm expecting to see an Aislan cartoon of a Full MTC Bus, destination off island, with commuters holding a gas tank out the window. Caption... "Buses Finally Running full!"

The public transit deficit is growing daily like a white elephant out of control. The 1 1/2¢ excise fuel tax increase will raise only \$40 million while

another \$4000 million (4 billion) will be spent just for metro cars. It is more likely that the mayor's talk of a 15¢ liter surcharge will become a reality before the STM dares to double or triple the fares.

Our large geographic area requires too much public transit infrastructure to service a comparatively small population; this is not a congested city like New York. It's time to stop overspending billions and together with Quebec direct the funds to other infrastructure needs such as water, sewers, roads, bridges, etc...before they collapse. It's time to acknowledge that the smaller and more efficient cars of the future will compliment public transportation and should no longer be the cash cow or the excuse.

Raising the price of gas for short term gain makes all products and services more expensive; it makes Montreal and Quebec less competitive than their off island neighbors and provincial counterparts respectively. Punchline: tell Quebec that off island communities which profit from their proximity to Montreal, use our infrastructure daily but pay little to support it Must Pay Big Time same as demerged on island suburbs do.

One more example concerning Turcot Interchange: A Quebec and city proposal has been submitted each with their overly expensive consulting architectural and engineering fees. Now Premier Charest states "we can discuss it". What a Waste of Money and Time which will only become insignificant if a disastrous collapse worse than the Concorde overpass happens in the interim.

I'm attracted to the Quebec version with less concrete and built on the level instead of the elevated; there are presently too many reminders of dangerous and decaying concrete structures in need of continuous repair or replacement after short periods of time. It also better reflects today's environmental perception that the car well compliments public transportation for a "society on the move"; smaller more efficient 2/4 cylinder gas, hybrid, electric and other alternative fuel models will be available before the completion of any interchange.

I don't really have any questions but hope my theatrics have over emphasized the point. Quebec and Montreal must work together consistently and provide the needed infrastructure funding at the lowest cost we can afford and most definitely remove "Political Patronage".

All contracts must be tendered to as many qualified as possible, bidding on a level playing field. Engineers, architects and consultants must also bid by hourly fee schedule and whenever possible a maximum service amount; no longer should these services be handed out without a competitive tender.

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