

COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY-COMMISSIONS FOR THE  
PEOPLE  
COMMISSION DE LA PRESIDENCE MARCH 24  
CITY HALL  
FOOD FOR THOUGHT #399

Good evening,

Democracy in Action, requesting the electorate owners of the city to have their say and providing the venue to do so is the most important Commission you can entertain doing. I remind you all of a thought my Mayor Tremblay mentions often... "Good perception is as important as reality; it provides inspiration the future will be better. He promises to Open Up City Hall to the people with Transparency." Democracy in Action is necessary to give any commission, committee or its findings Legitimacy.

Whether they are formally educated in school or educated on the street, whether professional or not there are 10's of thousands of Knowledgeable Activists who wish to help and offer their great suggestions from their area of expertise; all willing to give of their time away from business, family or pleasure with no remuneration except the personal satisfaction of being part of a team or at a minimum serving by good example to educate their children to do it for others and their community.

If you recall there was a commission for Democracy in Action but I believe it failed in its most important mandate on how people can come before this government to comment and put forward suggestions. It is obvious that city council meetings are not an appropriate time for public intervention. No more than 15 have an opportunity to speak in an hour and half which should be devoted to Important City Business and introducing Motions. Hundreds come and because of the "Luck Of The Draw" are denied entry and may wish never to return. I would suggest however, Claude Dauphin, in the interim before a change is made that you announce a Fair Ground Rule that those coming before council have 3 Minutes to make statement With or Without need of Questions to

Follow. This way they can guide themselves accordingly and not become frustrated by the lack of time.

Eventually Replace this Question Period by what I call the Best Continuous Standing Committee once a month without the fanfare of media being present. Residents, merchants and business people would be invited to meet with Executive Committee Members and all other Political Representatives who wish to be present in the Grand Reception Hall outside this chamber. Long tables could be set up with seating on both sides to facilitate Quiet Discussion. And yes, all politicians are invited and can use This Time to discuss with others and executive committee members to impress and emphasize the importance of their motions or those of their constituents.

Just think of the possibilities! Once the set up is established we could hopefully with much fanfare request our Quebec Cabinet Ministers attend Quarterly to do the same; That would be a Kick! And maybe we can use the opportunity to loosen up more money for committee initiatives.

And if you wish to conduct other specific commissions they obviously can be programmed using the same infrastructure. However, never forget the most important function of any commission or fact finding venue. Vocalize the best of suggestions even if it does not support "Your Party Lines". You the participants owe it to all Montrealers to do so. If it falls within provincial jurisdiction then impress it on those responsible. Don't waste great opportunities, knowledge and solutions to make Montreal Better; Produce Results! Or your committees are useless and will provide a Negative Public Perception Of Hopelessness.

## AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

Concerning the awarding of contracts, it is imperative that a bylaw be passed as soon as possible that All Contracts tendered Be Open to as Much Competition as possible and must receive a Minimum of 2 Sincere Competing Bids. If this cannot be realized the tender must be

restructured to appeal to more than one and all must again be notified of changes. The Lowest Bid Wins; to choose or negotiate after bidding closes a higher bid because it provides more value not called for in the tender Is Inappropriate! If you wish more value you put it in the tender to provide Equality for All Submissions. Similarly Sale Of Assets must accept Highest Bid.

All Consultants, Engineers and Professional Services such as Lawyers, Accountants, Architects, etc... must also bid for their services according to an Hourly Fee charged unless a better mode of tender comparison can be provided. They must in No Way be Associated with bidding companies for goods and services either by subsidiaries, mutual board of directors or employees who may be perceived to be in a Conflict Of Interest.

To provide the Competitive Perception our city must market the Impression that "the fix is not in, there is no collusion, price fixing or political patronage; without competition we will always Pay Too Much for Too Little Value. And the talk of the "\$500,000 toilet" will still persist! Start by making Public Statement to this effect that a "New Era in how the city conducts business is Dawning; Open Competition is the Rule of the Day".

To support this statement Vocalize and Advertise Loudly that New Lists will be Created ahead of time in all areas of business activity so that as Many can be Informed and Requested to Bid.

In short, Close all Possible Loopholes to prevent the awarding of Inappropriate Contracts. This will reflect well on this administration that irrespective of what has taken place in the past, it will not continue today and in the future.

After all, our city may be strapped for funding for many years and there is little juice in the dry lemon to squeeze from residents, merchants, businesses and service fees. And with interest rates to surely increase a lot more funds may be required to service the debt. We still must provide for hospitals, waterlines, sewers, roads, bridges, over passes and mass transit costing many billions and way past due because of financing problems.

And calling on our “Father in Quebec” for more funding when they are finding it difficult to balance their budget and may not be able to do so by 2014 without taxing the same source, our people, who as I mentioned are strapped, is definitely “a Stretch”.

When we see negotiations of an estimated \$4 billion contract for New Metro Cars Without Competition and PPP’s for hospitals with perceived poor value, we can again vocalize loudly that this Is Not Fair Nor Appropriate and request Quebec Make Changes. Their money is our money even though they are fortunate to collect the revenue and allocate the funding. If not, in the end, there will less possible for our city.

Why not request Quebec pass a Fairness Law forcing off island communities whose attraction is their proximity to Montreal, use our infrastructure daily but pay nothing to support it , to finally do so the same as on island suburbs. Call it the “50KM Off Island Support Law”. Otherwise our Families and Businesses will continue to Flow Off Island With Investments And Revenue which may never return.

Why not establish a “Creative Committee” to brainstorm ideas to make Montreal better and pursue in further consultations the best of these. We need this Positive Perception to Inspire our current Population to Grow With Us and not taste the “Fruits Off Island”.

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