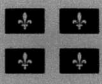


- LL-2

Québec 

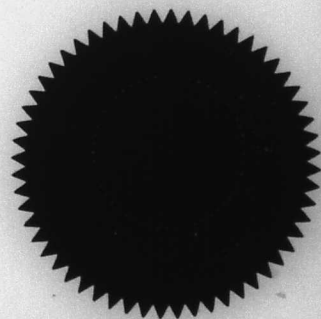
- LL-1

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N^o 1650 - 2000 1215
document 1 de 26

***Rapport sur les consultations publiques
tenues dans l'Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal et portant
sur le projet de loi 170 visant les fusions municipales forcées***

Dorval, le 6 décembre 2000



Cher lecteur,

Le 15 novembre 2000, la ministre d'État aux Affaires municipales et à la Métropole a déposé le projet de loi 170 visant la fusion forcée de toutes les municipalités de l'Île de Montréal en une seule grande ville de Montréal. Toutes les autres municipalités disparaîtraient ou deviendraient des arrondissements de la nouvelle ville.

L'Opposition libérale a immédiatement demandé des consultations publiques sur ce projet de loi, ce qui a constamment été refusé par le gouvernement du Parti québécois.

Étant donné l'importance de ce projet de loi, de ses conséquences pour les communautés locales et leur identité, et compte tenu de la frustration des citoyens qui se sentent exclus du débat, les députés libéraux à l'Assemblée nationale ont décidé de tenir leurs propres consultations publiques. Ils ont invité les groupes communautaires, les maires locaux et les citoyens à exprimer leurs préoccupations quant au projet de loi du gouvernement.

Vous trouverez ci-après un rapport sommaire de cette journée extraordinaire. En tant que députés de l'Assemblée nationale, nous avons été impressionnés par la qualité des exposés, le profond attachement à la communauté locale et la colère dirigée envers le processus politique qui les a exclus. En tant qu'élus, nous avons été touchés par l'engagement des citoyens pour les débats publics et envers leurs communautés.

Sincèrement,

Geoffrey Kelley
Député de Jacques-Cartier

Pierre Marsan
Député de Robert-Baldwin

François Ouimet
Député de Marquette

Russell Williams
Député de Nelligan

Introduction

Le 13 novembre 2000, les quatre députés de l'Ouest-de-l'Île à l'Assemblée nationale ont annoncé qu'ils avaient l'intention de consulter la population sur le projet de loi 170. Des invitations ont été envoyées aux municipalités des quatre comtés, aux organismes communautaires de même qu'aux citoyens ayant exprimé leur intérêt quant à ce projet de loi.

Les consultations publiques ont été tenues à l'Hôtel de ville de Kirkland, le dimanche 3 décembre 2000. L'après-midi était divisé en trois parties:

- 1) une table ronde pour les débats avec les maires;
- 2) des exposés des organismes communautaires et
- 3) le microphone libre pour les commentaires des citoyens.

De plus, nous avons reçu par écrit les commentaires de groupes et personnes qui ne pouvaient être présents lors des consultations publiques. Ces commentaires et ceux des participants sont inclus à l'annexe B du présent rapport.

Cent-cinquante personnes et plus ont participé aux consultations, soit en tant que témoins, soit en tant qu'observatrices.

1. Table ronde avec les maires (voir la liste des participants à l'annexe A)

La mairesse de Baie d'Urfé, Mme Anne Myles, a dénoncé le fait que les citoyens aient été exclus du processus de fusions forcées. Elle a indiqué que Baie d'Urfé existe depuis 1686 et que sa ville participe déjà au financement des services régionaux. En effet, le propriétaire moyen, à Baie d'Urfé, verse annuellement 1756\$ en taxes à la CUM comparativement à une moyenne de 433\$ pour Montréal.

Elle a mentionné le haut taux de bénévolat dans sa ville. Elle a aussi souligné l'excellent travail du service des pompiers bénévoles. Le personnel de la bibliothèque municipale est entièrement composé de bénévoles et la bibliothèque est ouverte le jour et en soirée.

Le maire de Pointe-Claire, M. Bill McMurchie, a déploré l'affaiblissement de la représentation locale entraîné par la réorganisation car les nouveaux conseillers représenteront 10,000 citoyens alors que le ratio actuel est d'un conseiller pour 2,500 citoyens. Il craint une diminution des services et a mentionné la crainte qu'ont les employés de se joindre à un grand syndicat. La fierté du travail accompli, de l'innovation et le désir d'exceller sont perdus dans « la lourdeur ».

Le maire de Roxboro, M. Ovide Baci, a plaidé en faveur des huit petites municipalités qui seront abolies par la réforme. Pourquoi faut-il éliminer ces petites municipalités qui représentent 2% de la population et 3% de l'économie locale?

Le maire de Dorval, M. Peter Yeomans, a indiqué que le projet « est un coup d'argent pour Montréal, mais que c'est un moyen de rendre les citoyens et leurs conseils municipaux stériles et serviles ».

Le maire de Dollard-des-Ormeaux, M. Edward Janizewski, a indiqué qu'il y a au Québec 752 municipalités de moins de 2000 personnes, principalement en zones rurales. Si le gouvernement veut réduire le nombre de municipalités, il devrait faire des efforts plutôt de ce côté-là. Il a accusé le gouvernement de vouloir déchirer des communautés fortes sur l'Île pour des « raisons politiques ».

Le maire de Senneville, M. George McLeish, a noté que l'acquisition d'une maison est la plus importante décision prise par une famille, il s'agit du choix d'une communauté. Il a demandé à ce qu'un référendum soit tenu sur les fusions forcées par un gouvernement qui tient des référendums sur d'autres questions.

Le conseiller municipal, M. René Leblanc, a dénoncé la mauvaise foi entourant le projet de loi 170 qui amoindrit la démocratie locale et élimine toute autonomie financière pour les futurs arrondissements. Sa municipalité a tenté de négocier avec le gouvernement, mais ce dernier a fait la sourde oreille.

Un autre conseiller municipal de Pierrefonds, M. George Boutilier, a déploré la fin de Pierrefonds qui serait réduite à un arrondissement. Il a offert un poème, « pHarelisé » afin de résumer ses pensées. Pour le texte complet du poème, veuillez consulter l'annexe B.

M. Jean Charest, le Chef du Parti libéral du Québec, a résumé les propos tenus précédemment et a présenté son point de vue sur les fusions forcées. Il a réaffirmé l'engagement de son Parti de respecter les vœux de la population si son Parti devait former le prochain gouvernement.

2. Exposés des groupes

Le président de la Chambre de commerce-de-l'Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal, M. Guy Lemieux, a présenté les résultats d'un sondage mené auprès des membres de la Chambre de commerce. Sur les 440 membres qui ont participé au sondage, 59% des membres

étaient opposés au projet de fusions forcées et 34% l'appuyaient. Les membres de la Chambre étaient préoccupés par la qualité des services, le niveau de taxation de la nouvelle ville et l'absence d'études d'impact. M. Lemieux a invité le gouvernement à reprendre le dialogue.

Le porte-parole de Démocracité, M. Rob Geller, a expliqué comment son organisme a été formé afin de recueillir les réactions des citoyens quant au projet de fusions forcées du gouvernement. En trois semaines, Démocracité a reçu plus de 7000 signatures par Internet, 12000 signatures « réelles » et 10000 lettres de protestation. Il a encouragé les citoyens à consulter le site Web (www.democracite.org) afin de communiquer leur opposition au projet de loi 170.

La directrice générale de PartageAction de l'Ouest-de-l'Île, Mme Lucie Fournier, a souligné l'excellente performance des municipalités lors des crises récentes que ce soit lors de la crise du verglas ou suite à la tragédie des Toope. Les municipalités ont apporté leur appui aux bénévoles locaux qui enrichissent la qualité de la vie communautaire dans l'Ouest-de-l'Île. Elle a indiqué que plus de 30% de la population faisait un don à des organismes de bienfaisance ce qui représente environ 26000 personnes (plus que la moyenne nationale).

Le vice-président de l'Association de citoyens Pine Beach, M. Jean Clément, a rappelé les succès de son Association au cours des cinquante dernières années. Son organisme a exercé un lobby sur la Cité de Dorval pour la construction de piscines communautaires, pour la construction d'un tunnel sur l'autoroute 20 et pour d'autres projets. Son Association a mis en place un programme de surveillance de quartier, a organisé des cérémonies pour la fête du Canada et d'autres activités. L'Association de citoyens de Pine Beach a récemment reçu le prix du bénévolat Dollard-Morin du gouvernement du Québec.

Des citoyens de Senneville, M. Michael George et Mme Suzanne Lalonde, ont fait un exposé bilingue afin de souligner l'histoire du Village de Senneville, son patrimoine culturel et sa tradition de bénévolat.

Le directeur général de la ville de Pointe-Claire, M. Tom Buffit, et le directeur de la Sécurité publique pour cette ville, M. Jean-Pierre Dufort, nous ont fait part de leurs préoccupations quant au maintien de services de qualité dans une ville fusionnée. Qui décidera de l'affectation des employés? Est-ce que le service de premiers répondants, qui traite 2300 appels d'urgence annuellement, demeurera en place? Qui paiera? Quelles seront les conséquences de la fusion sur l'esprit de bénévolat? M. Buffit a conclu que la mise en vigueur de ce projet de loi entraînera « des taxes plus élevées et une diminution de services ».

Mme Madeleine Hall, du Club de canoë de Pointe-Claire, a souligné l'importance de l'appui de la municipalité de Pointe-Claire sans lequel « le club ne pourra survivre aux fusions ».

M. Keith Thompson, président du projet de conservation Terra Cotta, 45 hectares à Pointe-Claire, craint qu'il n'y aura pas suffisamment de fonds pour maintenir le parc Terra Cotta dans la nouvelle ville. Le parc résulte de la collaboration étroite entre les citoyens et la municipalité.

M. Gérard Bourgeois, de l'Association des citoyens de Dollard-des-Ormeaux, a demandé « Pourquoi suis-je opposé aux fusions forcées? C'est comme demander pourquoi est-ce que je préfère la démocratie à la dictature? ». Il a indiqué que le gouvernement n'a pas le mandat de procéder sur les fusions forcées et que le gouvernement n'a fourni aucun renseignement aux citoyens. M. Bourgeois a exprimé sa préoccupation en ce qui concerne le partage de la dette de la Ville de Montréal déjà existante.

M. Don Fraser, du Service de pompiers bénévoles de Baie d'Urfé, a souligné l'histoire de son service de pompiers. Il s'inquiète du fait que ses pompiers bénévoles se préoccupent du dommage causé à l'image du Service des incendies de Montréal suite à la récente grève. Les boyaux d'arrosage sectionnés et les camions recouverts d'autocollants prouvent que c'est le syndicat et non la ville qui dirige le Service de prévention des incendies de Montréal.

Mme Ada Colomb de l'Agence d'entraide de Baie d'Urfé a fait rapport du succès de la récente campagne de financement annuelle de son Agence, à Baie d'Urfé. Elle craint que la perte de l'identité locale mette en péril cette campagne dans l'avenir.

Mme Ann Davidson du Centre de ressources communautaires de l'Ouest-de-l'Île s'inquiète des conséquences à long terme des fusions forcées. Les problèmes reliés à la pauvreté et au chômage croissent dans l'Ouest-de-l'Île et les municipalités locales apportent leur soutien aux organismes communautaires qui fournissent de l'aide aux personnes dans le besoin.

Mme Heather Parker, de AMCAL, un organisme communautaire qui aide les familles en difficulté, a souligné l'appui moral et financier des maires au cours des vingt-cinq dernières années. En certaines périodes, leur appui a aidé à assurer la survie de son organisme.

M. Mustapha Kachani, du CIMOI, a fait part de ses préoccupations quant au processus mené par un petit cercle de technocrates. Il a demandé à ce que le public soit consulté. Des structures plus larges sont inévitablement plus impersonnelles et souvent plus inefficaces. Il doute fort que les taxes seront moins élevées. Il nous a aussi fait part de son expérience à Paris où le modèle des arrondissements présente plusieurs défauts.

M. Michael Abcarius du Club de tennis de Roxboro a demandé « que le gouvernement traite avec dignité et respect les personnes qu'il représente ». Il a souligné l'esprit de bénévolat et les liens étroits du Club avec la ville de Roxboro. Il s'est inquiété de la capacité future du Club à embaucher des élèves si les emplois au Club deviennent syndiqués.

M. Steve Pinkus, d'Alliance Québec, a soulevé beaucoup de préoccupations quant aux conséquences du projet de loi 170 sur la démocratie locale. Bien qu'il ait soulevé des questions portant sur les changements qui seront entraînés sur le statut bilingue des municipalités et les services offerts à la population, il a noté que ce débat n'était pas un débat anglais-français mais plutôt celui des citoyens contre un gouvernement qui refuse de consulter la population. Il a soulevé d'autres problèmes ayant trait aux pouvoirs accordés aux comités de transition, au projet de loi 171 sur la redéfinition du statut bilingue, et a ensuite conclu en demandant le retrait du projet de loi 170.

Messieurs Maurice Allard et Pierre Thibault de SOS Lachine ont débuté en indiquant que la « démocratie n'était pas à vendre, la démocratie n'a pas de prix ». Ils ont demandé que soit tenu un référendum pour que les citoyens puissent exprimer leur opinion et ont déploré le manque d'information entourant ce projet de loi. M. Thibault a conclu en accusant le gouvernement péquiste d'être un lion affamé dévorant ses petits (les municipalités).

Mme Gretchen Code, de Centre de bénévoles de l'Ouest-de-l'Île, a souligné que l'aide des municipalités était essentielle à son programme de transport pour les personnes vers les hôpitaux pour des traitements de jour. L'année dernière, 630 personnes ont bénéficié de 7,535 déplacements grâce à l'appui généreux des municipalités locales.

Finalement, Mme Mary Straw, du Centre Julia Kraft, a souligné l'appui fourni par les bénévoles à son centre qui aide à intégrer les personnes ayant des déficiences. Qui prendra soin de ces personnes si le nouveau gouvernement devient impersonnel?

3. Microphone libre pour les commentaires des citoyens

Seize citoyens, ayant attendu patiemment, ont exprimé leurs préoccupations en ce qui a trait aux fusions forcées. Ils provenaient de diverses municipalités et de toutes conditions sociales, mais ils partageaient la colère que les citoyens aient été exclus du débat sur l'avenir de leurs municipalités.

Mme Doris Miller, de Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, une enseignante spécialisée en éthique, a exprimé sa colère en ce qui concerne le processus employé ainsi que la préoccupation des élèves. Elle a ridiculisé les limites de son nouvel arrondissement, l'appelant « Ste-Anne-de-Bizarre ». Elle a demandé la tenue d'un référendum sur cette question.

M. Alain Larivière, de Pierrefonds, a exprimé sa colère contre son maire et son conseil municipal parce qu'ils ne représentent pas les citoyens. Il voulait que le statut bilingue de sa municipalité soit maintenu.

Mme Pauline Busby, de Pointe-Claire, a lu le texte d'une lettre écrite à M. Lucien Bouchard, en défense de la municipalité de Pointe-Claire. Elle a souligné la qualité des services de la bibliothèque, du programme sportif de natation et plongeon qui a produit des athlètes olympiques.

M. John Clendenning, de Pierrefonds, s'est aussi plaint de son maire et des agissements de ce dernier avec le gouvernement du Québec.

M. Doug Lamley a mentionné ses expériences avec l'Association de baseball « Real Outdoor Basketball » dans sa recherche d'une ville pour l'organisation de jeux. L'appui de Pointe-Claire a été essentiel pour son Association et en tant qu'ex-résident de Toronto il a été témoin du manque d'esprit communautaire résultant des fusions. Il est maintenant converti au modèle communautaire de l'Ouest-de-l'Île.

M. Douglas Jack, de l'Association de développement durable, a soulevé des questions d'ordre environnemental. Il a rappelé aux participants l'importance des questions régionales, dont les déchets et la pollution.

M. Bill Spears, de Dollard-des-Ormeaux, un policier à la retraite, nous a rappelé la création du SPCUM et conclut que « plus petit est mieux » telle la police de quartier. Il a aussi remercié Lucien Bouchard de faire participer les citoyens au débat!

M. Peter Romaniuk, de Kirkland, a dénoncé le coup d'argent de la Ville de Montréal et le pelletage du gouvernement du Québec. Il a fait la proposition, peu usuelle, que les banlieues s'entendent pour enrayer la dette de la Ville de Montréal en échange du maintien de leur autonomie.

Mme Mary Jane de Koos, de Pointe-Claire, pense que le gouvernement punit les municipalités qui gèrent bien leurs affaires. Leur gestion efficace au cours des années passées ne reçoit aucune reconnaissance.

Mme Irene Lambert, de l'Association Low Vision Self-Help, s'inquiète des services qui seront disponibles aux membres de son groupe. Son organisme s'appuie sur la sympathie des municipalités locales.

M. Mike Babin, de Kirkland, a demandé pourquoi les commerces locaux ne s'impliquaient pas dans le débat.

Mme Sharon Noris, de Lachine, une étudiante en sciences politiques, a demandé pourquoi la participation des jeunes était aussi peu élevée. Elle considère les jeunes étudiants comme une ressource non utilisée dans le débat.

M. Carlos Rodan, de Kirkland, a rappelé que suite à un accident tragique dans son quartier, un signe d'arrêt avait été installé 48 heures plus tard. Il doute qu'une méga-ville pourra réagir aussi rapidement et efficacement. Il pense que le projet de loi 170 est un exemple d'abus de pouvoir.

M. Eugene Lehman, de Pointe-Claire, a demandé la tenue d'une élection provinciale hâtive!

Mme Yvonne Coupal a demandé aux députés libéraux de mobiliser les banlieues situées au Nord et à l'Est de Montréal. Elle pense que les Libéraux pourraient être plus présents dans les comtés détenus par le Parti québécois.

M. Ron Goes, de Dorval, a souligné quatre points dans un document écrit, déplorant entre autres le processus des coûts cachés et l'élimination de droits politiques.

Conclusion

Les consultations publiques tenues par les députés ont démontré la force de l'opposition au projet de réorganisation municipale du gouvernement, en général, et au projet de loi 170, en particulier. La plainte constamment répétée concernait la stratégie peu démocratique choisie par le gouvernement. Les citoyens ont beaucoup à dire, les consultations le démontrent bien. Le gouvernement a préféré l'arrogance à la transparence; la stratégie du bulldozer plutôt que le débat démocratique. Les citoyens en ont pris note.

Les députés souhaitent remercier la municipalité de Kirkland d'avoir ouvert son Hôtel de ville aux résidents de l'Ouest-de-l'Île et de nous avoir ainsi permis de faire notre travail de consulter les citoyens.

Les députés libéraux continueront de s'opposer au projet de loi 170, à l'Assemblée nationale. Nos discours et questions dans l'enceinte de l'Assemblée nationale seront enrichies et nourries par les commentaires réfléchis et les émotions exprimées par nos concitoyens durant ces consultations.

Annexe A

Liste des participants

Table ronde avec les maires :

Baciu, Ovide (Roxboro)
Janiszewski, Edward (Dollard-des-Ormeaux)
Kemp, Roy (Beaconsfield)
Macleish, George (Senneville)
McMurchie, William (Pointe-Claire)
Meaney, John (Kirkland)
Myles, Anne (Baie-d'Urfé)
Yeomans, Peter (Dorval)

Conseillers :

Leblanc, René (Pierrefonds)
Boutilier, George (Pierrefonds)
Ward, Bert (Pierrefonds)
Robb, Beverly (Beaconsfield)
Labbé, Jacques (Pointe-Claire)
Prassas, Peter (Dollard-des-Ormeaux)

Invité :

Charest, Jean, Chef du Parti libéral du Québec

Exposés des groupes :

Guy Lemieux, Président, Chambre de commerce de l'Ouest-de-l'Île
Robb Geller, Democracité
Lucie Fournier, Directrice générale, PartageAction de l'Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal
Jean Clément, Vice-président, Association communautaire Pine Beach
Michael George, citoyen de Senneville
Suzanne Lalonde, citoyenne de Senneville
Tom Buffit, Directeur général, Pointe-Claire

Jean-Pierre Dufort, Sécurité publique, Pointe-Claire
Madeleine Hall, Club de canoë de Pointe-Claire
Keith Thomson, Projet de conservation Terra Cotta
Gérald Bourgeois, Association des citoyens de Dollard-des-Ormeaux
Don Fraser, Agence d'entraide de Baie-d'Urfé
Ann Davidson, Centre de ressources communautaires de l'Ouest-de-l'Île
Heather Parker, AMCAL
Mustapha Kachani, CIMOI
Michael Abcarius, Club de tennis Roxboro
Maurice Allard, Association de citoyen(ne)s de Lachine
Pierre Thibault, Association de citoyen(ne)s de Lachine
Gretchen Code, Service bénévole de l'Ouest-de-l'Île
Mary Straw, Centre Julia Kraft

Microphone libre pour commentaires des citoyens :

Doris Miller
Alain Larivière
Pauline Busby
John Clendenning
Doug Lamley
Douglas Jack
Bill Spears
Peter Romaniuk
Mary Jane de Coos
Irene Lambert
Mike Babin
Sharon Norris
Carlos Ordain
Eugene Lehman
Yvonne Copula
Ron Goes.

Annexe B

Commentaires écrits

Alexander, Mary et David (citoyens de Dollard-des-Ormeaux)
Alexander, Mary F. et Couillard, Madeleine (Groupe d'entraide de l'Ouest-de-l'Île pour la sclérose en plaques)
Bourgeois, Gérard (citoyen de Dollard-des-Ormeaux)
Briggs, Edwin M. (citoyen de Beaconsfield)
Clément, Jean (Association des citoyens de Pine Beach)
Code, Gretchen (Service bénévole de l'Ouest-de-l'Île)
Colomb, Ada (Agence d'entraide de Baie-d'Urfé)
Davidson, Ann (Centre de ressources communautaires de l'Ouest-de-l'Île)
De Koos, Mary Jane (citoyenne de Pointe-Claire)
Goes, Ron (citoyen de Dorval)
Heron, Ian (Président, Parrainage civique de l'Ouest-de-l'Île)
Jack, Douglas (Association de développement durable)
Lapierre, Louis (citoyen de Dollard-des-Ormeaux)
Laroche Zielinski, Paulette (citoyenne de Pierrefonds)
Leblanc, René E. (Conseiller de la Ville de Pierrefonds)
Leylem, Emanuel (West Island Express Courier)
McAnulty, John (citoyen de Pointe-Claire)
Montpetit, Marcel (président, Office municipal d'habitation de Pointe-Claire)
Myles, Anne (mairesse de Baie-d'Urfé)
Pinkus, Steve (Alliance-Québec)
Ratcliffe, Peter H. (Ratcliffe Production Technology RPT inc.)
Tremblay, Legault, Charles (Président, Club récréatif Villa St-Louis)
Woodard, John S. (Lakeshore Light Opera Inc.)

Table des matières

Introduction

Table ronde avec les maires

Exposés des groupes

Microphone libre (commentaires des citoyens)

Conclusion

Annexe A (Liste des participants)

Annexe B (Commentaires écrits)

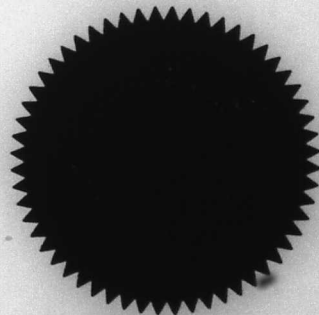
ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N^o 1650-2000 1715

document 2 de 26

**Report of the West Island
Consultation on Bill 170,
Forced Municipal Mergers**

December 6, 2000



Dear Reader,

On November 15, 2000, the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal tabled Bill 170, an act to force the merger of all municipalities on the Island of Montreal into an island-wide city of Montreal. All other existing municipalities would either disappear or be reduced to boroughs of the new city.

The Liberal Opposition immediately demanded public consultations on the Bill, a request that was repeatedly refused by the PQ government.

Given the importance of the legislation, its impact on local communities and local identities, and the frustration of the citizens who felt left out of the process, the Liberal MNAs decided to hold their own hearings. They invited a wide range of community groups, local mayors, and individual citizens to share their concerns about the government's plan.

What follows is a summary report of that extraordinary day. As Members of the National Assembly, we were impressed by the quality of the presentations, the depth of attachment to local communities, and the anger directed at the political process which has left them out. As representatives of our area in the National Assembly, we were moved by the citizens' dedication to public debate and to their communities.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Kelley
MNA Jacques-Cartier

Pierre Marsan
MNA Robert-Baldwin

François Ouimet
MNA Marquette

Russell Williams
MNA Nelligan

Introduction

On November 13, 2000, the four West Island MNAs announced their intention to consult the population regarding Bill 170. Invitations were sent to the municipalities in the four ridings, to community organizations, and to citizens who expressed an interest in the legislation.

The public hearings were held in Kirkland City Hall on Sunday, December 3, 2000. The afternoon was divided into three sections:

- 1) **A Round Table Discussion with the mayors**
- 2) **Presentations from Community Organizations**
- 3) **An Open Microphone for Citizens' Comments.**

In addition, written comments were received at our riding offices from groups and individuals who could not attend the public hearings. These written comments along with the written presentations of speakers are included in Annex B of this report.

Over 150 people attended the hearings, either as witnesses or as observers in the hall.

1. Round Table with the Mayors (see full list of participants in Annex A)

Baie d'Urfé Mayor Anne Myles denounced the fact that the citizens were excluded from the process of forced mergers. She noted that Baie d'Urfé has existed since 1686. It already participates in regional matters. The average Baie d'Urfé homeowner pays \$1756 in taxes to the MUC every year, compared to an Montreal average of \$433.

She noted the high levels of volunteerism in her town. She also highlighted the excellent work of the volunteer fire department. The library, for example, is entirely staffed by volunteers, and is open both during the day and in the evening.

Pointe-Claire Mayor Bill McMurchie deplored the reduction of local representation, as the new counsellors will represent 10,000 citizens, while the current ratio is 1: 2500. He fears the "levelling down of services", and notes the fear that employees have of joining a big union. Pride in work, innovation, and desire to excel are lost in "bigness".

Roxboro Mayor Ovide Baciuc made a plea for the eight small municipalities which will be abolished by the reform. Why do these small municipalities, which represent 2% of the population and 3% of the island's economy, need to be eliminated?

Dorval Mayor Peter Yeomans stated that the plan "is not just a money grab for Montreal, but it renders citizens and their councils sterile and servile".

Dollard-des-Ormeaux Mayor Edward Janizewski pointed out that there are 752 municipalities with fewer than 2000 people in Quebec, mostly in rural areas. If the government want to reduce the number, it should focus its efforts there. He accused the government of tearing up strong on-island communities "for political reasons".

Senneville Mayor George McLeish noted that the purchase of a house is the most important decision a family takes, choosing a community. He called for a referendum from a government that offers referenda on other matters.

Pierrefonds City Councillor René Leblanc denounced the bad faith of Bill 170, which reduced local democracy and eliminates all financial autonomy for the boroughs. His municipality attempted to negotiate with the government, but it did not listen.

Another Pierrefonds councillor, George Boutilier, deplored the end of Pierrefonds, which will be reduced to a borough. He offered a poem, "pHARELized", to sum up his thoughts. For the full text of the poem see Annex "B".

A wrap-up of the discussion was done by Jean Charest, Leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, who offered his views on the forced mergers. He reaffirmed the commitment of his Party to respect the wishes of the population should they be elected as the next government.

2. **Group Presentations**

West Island Chamber of Commerce President Guy Lemieux presented the results of a poll conducted of the members of the Chamber. Of the 440 participants, 59% opposed forced mergers and 34% supported the plan. The Chamber members were concerned about the quality of services, the level of taxes to be paid to the new city, and the absence of impact studies. Mr. Lemieux invited the government to reopen the dialogue.

Démocracité spokesman Rob Geller explained how his organization was formed to focus citizens' reactions to the government's merger plan. In three weeks, Démocracité received over 7000 on-line signatures, 12,000 "real" signatures, and 10,000 letters of protest. He encouraged citizens to consult his website (www.democracite.org) to register their opposition to Bill 170.

Community Shares Executive Director Lucie Fournier highlighted the excellent performance of the municipalities in recent crises, whether it was the ice-storm or

the Toope tragedy. The municipalities help local volunteers to enrich the quality of community life on the West Island. She stated that over 30% of the West Island population give to charitable causes representing about 26000 people (higher than the national average).

Pine Beach Community Association Vice-President Jean Clement reviewed the successes of his association in the past fifty years. It lobbied the City of Dorval for the construction of community pools, the tunnel under Highway 20, and other community projects. It put into place a Neighbourhood Watch Program, Canada Day ceremonies, and other activities. The PBCA recently won the Dollard-Morin volunteer award from the Quebec Government.

Senneville citizens Michael George and Suzanne Lalonde made a bilingual presentation highlighting the history, architectural heritage, and volunteer tradition in the Village of Senneville.

Pointe-Claire City Manager Tom Buffitt and Public Security Director Jean-Pierre Dufort raised concerns about maintaining the quality of services in a merged city. Who will decide where employees are to be assigned? How will the budgets of the libraries and the Aquatic Centre be protected? Will the First Responders program, which answers 2300 emergency calls per year, remain in place? Who will pay? How will the volunteer spirit be affected? Mr. Buffitt concluded that the bill will result in "higher taxes and fewer services".

Madeleine Hall of the Pointe-Claire Canoe Club stressed the city's support in creating and maintaining the club without Pointe-Claire's help, "the club will not survive the mergers".

Keith Thompson, President of the Terra Cotta Conservation Project, 45 hectares in Pointe-Claire, fears that there will not be enough money to maintain Terra Cotta Park in the new city. The park is the result of close cooperation between citizens and the city.

Gerald Bourgeois of the Dollard-des-Ormeaux Citizens' Association asked "why I am opposed to mergers? It is like asking me why I prefer democracy to dictatorship". He pointed out that government had no mandate to proceed on forced mergers and provided no information to the citizens. He expressed concern regarding the sharing of the existing City of Montreal's debt.

Don Fraser of the Baie d'Urfé Volunteer Fire Department outlined the history of his fire department. He worried that his fire-fighters were concerned about the damage done to their image by the recent strike of the Montreal Fire Department. The cut hoses and trucks covered in stickers prove that the union and not the city runs the fire department.

Ada Colomb of the Baie d'Urfé Charitable Campaign Agency reported on the success of its annual fund-raising campaign in Baie d'Urfé. She feared that the loss of local community identity will threaten this campaign in the future.

Ann Davidson of the West Island Community Resource Centre worried about the long term social consequences of the mergers. Problems related to poverty and unemployment are on the rise on the West Island, and the local municipalities help community organizations to help those in need.

Heather Parker of AMCAL, a community organization which helps families in difficulty, recalled the moral and financial support from the mayors in the past 25 years. At certain times, this support helped ensure the survival of her organization.

Mustapha Kachani of CIMOI raised concerns about the process being driven by a small circle of technocrats. He urged that the public be consulted. Bigger structures are inevitably more impersonal, and often more inefficient. He doubted that taxes would be lower. He also shared his experience from living in Paris, where the "arrondissement" model has many defects.

Michael Abcarius of the Roxboro Tennis Club urged the government "to treat people they represent with dignity and respect". He stressed the volunteer spirit and the close links the club has with the Town of Roxboro. He worried about the club's ability to hire students should the jobs at the club become unionized.

Steve Pinkus of the Alliance Quebec raised many concerns about the impact of Bill 170 on local democracy. While he raised issues about the changes on the bilingual status of the municipalities, and the services provided to the population, he noted that this debate is not an English-French one, but rather the citizens against a government that refused to consult its population. He raised other problems with the power of the transition committees, Bill 171 on the redefinition of the bilingual status, and he concluded by calling for the withdrawal of Bill 170.

Maurice Allard and Pierre Thibault of SOS Lachine opened by stating that "democracy is not for sale, democracy has no price". They called for a referendum to let the citizens speak out, and deplored the lack of information available to the citizens. Mr. Thibault concluded by accusing a hungry lion (the PQ government) of eating its children (the municipalities).

Gretchen Code of the West Island Volunteer Bureau focuses on municipal help for its program to transport people to the hospital for day-treatment. Last year, 630 people received 7, 535 transports thanks to the generous support of the municipalities.

Ada Colomb of the Baie d'Urfé Charitable Campaign Agency reported on the success of its annual fund-raising campaign in Baie d'Urfé. She feared that the loss of local community identity will threaten this campaign in the future.

Ann Davidson of the West Island Community Resource Centre worried about the long term social consequences of the mergers. Problems related to poverty and unemployment are on the rise on the West Island, and the local municipalities help community organizations to help those in need.

Heather Parker of AMCAL, a community organization which helps families in difficulty, recalled the moral and financial support from the mayors in the past 25 years. At certain times, this support helped ensure the survival of her organization.

Mustapha Kachani of CIMOI raised concerns about the process being driven by a small circle of technocrats. He urged that the public be consulted. Bigger structures are inevitably more impersonal, and often more inefficient. He doubted that taxes would be lower. He also shared his experience from living in Paris, where the "arrondissement" model has many defects.

Michael Abcarius of the Roxboro Tennis Club urged the government "to treat people they represent with dignity and respect". He stressed the volunteer spirit and the close links the club has with the Town of Roxboro. He worried about the club's ability to hire students should the jobs at the club become unionized.

Steve Pinkus of the Alliance Quebec raised many concerns about the impact of Bill 170 on local democracy. While he raised issues about the changes on the bilingual status of the municipalities, and the services provided to the population, he noted that this debate is not an English-French one, but rather the citizens against a government that refused to consult its population. He raised other problems with the power of the transition committees, Bill 171 on the redefinition of the bilingual status, and he concluded by calling for the withdrawal of Bill 170.

Maurice Allard and Pierre Thibault of SOS Lachine opened by stating that "democracy is not for sale, democracy has no price". They called for a referendum to let the citizens speak out, and deplored the lack of information available to the citizens. Mr. Thibault concluded by accusing a hungry lion (the PQ government) of eating its children (the municipalities).

Gretchen Code of the West Island Volunteer Bureau focuses on municipal help for its program to transport people to the hospital for day-treatment. Last year, 630 people received 7, 535 transports thanks to the generous support of the municipalities.

Finally, Mary Straw of the Julia Kraft Centre stressed the volunteer support for her centre, which helps integrate the handicapped. Who will care for these people if the new government is more impersonal?

3. The Open Microphone

Sixteen citizens, after waiting patiently, came forward to express their concerns about the forced mergers. They came from different municipalities and different walks of life, but they were united in their anger that the citizen had been excluded from the debate over the future of their municipalities.

Doris Miller of Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, an ethics teacher, expressed her outrage over the process, and the concern of her students. She ridiculed the boundaries of her new borough, calling it "Ste-Anne-de- Bizarre". She called for a referendum on this subject.

Alain Larivière of Pierrefonds expressed his anger against his mayor and council for not representing the citizens. He wanted the bilingual status of his city preserved.

Pauline Busby of Pointe-Claire read the text of a letter to Premier Lucien Bouchard, defending the record of the City of Pointe-Claire. She stressed the quality of Library services, the swimming and diving program which has produced Olympic athletes.

John Clendenning of Pierrefonds echoed criticism of his mayor and his dealing with the Quebec government.

Doug Lamley related the experiences of the Real Outdoor Basketball Association in its search for a city to organize its games. Pointe-Claire's support was essential for the LBA and as a former resident of Toronto, and witnessing the lack of community spirit as a result of mergers, he is now converted to the community model of municipal government found on the West Island.

Douglas Jack of the Sustainable Development Association raised environmental questions. He reminded participants of the importance of regional issues, including environmental, garbage and pollution.

Bill Spears of Dollard-des-Ormeaux recalled the creation of the SPCUM, and as a retired police officer reminded us that the police have come to the conclusion that "smaller is better" by introducing community policing. He thanked Mr. Bouchard for getting citizens involved in the debate!

Peter Romaniuk of Kirkland denounced the cash grab from the city, and the downloading from the Quebec government. He made the unusual proposal that the suburbs agree to help pay off the debt of the city of Montreal in exchange for their continued autonomy.

Mary Jane de Koos from Pointe-Claire felt that the municipalities were being "punished" for being good managers. Their effective administration in the past receives no recognition.

Irene Lambert from the Low Vision Self-Help Group worried about services made available to members of her group. She relies on the sympathetic ear she receives from local municipalities.

Mike Babin of Kirkland asked why local businesses are not more involved in the debate.

Sharon Norris from Lachine, a political science student, asked why more youth were not involved. She sees students as and "untapped resource" in the debate.

Carlos Rodan from Kirkland recalled that after a tragic accident in his neighbourhood, a stop sign was installed in 48 hours. He doubted that a mega-city would respond as quickly and effectively. He called Bill 170 an abuse of power.

Eugene Lehman of Pointe-Claire called for an early provincial election!

Yvonne Coupal called on the Liberal MNAs to mobilize in the suburbs north and east of Montreal. She felt the Liberal should be more present in ridings held by the PQ.

Ron Goes of Dorval outlined four points in a written brief, deploring the process the hidden costs, and the destruction of political rights.

Conclusion

The public hearings held by the MNAs revealed the depth of opposition to the government plan in general and to Bill 170 in particular. The single complaint that was repeated was the undemocratic process chosen by the government. Citizens have lots to say, as these hearings have shown. The government has preferred arrogance to transparency; the bull-dozer approach to the give-and-take of democratic debates.

The citizens have taken note.

The MNAs would like to thank the City of Kirkland for having opened up its city Hall to residents of the West Island, and allowing us to do our job of consulting our constituents.

The Liberal MNAs will continue to oppose bill 170 in the National Assembly. Our speeches and questions in Quebec City will be enriched and sharpened by the thoughtful and heartfelt comments we received from our neighbours during these hearings.

Annex A

List of Participants

Round Table with the Mayors

Baciu, Ovide (Roxboro)
 Janiszewski, Edward (Dollard-Des-Ormeaux)
 Kemp, Roy (Beaconsfield)
 Macleish, George (Senneville)
 McMurchie, William (Pointe-Claire)
 Meaney John (Kirkland)
 Myles, Anne (Baie D'Urfé)
 Yeomans, Peter (Dorval)

Councillors

Leblanc, René (Pierrefonds)
 Boutilier, George (Pierrefonds)
 Ward, Bert (Pierrefonds)
 Robb, Beverly (Beaconsfield)
 Labbé, Jacques (Pointe-Claire)
 Prassas, Peter (Dollard-des-Ormeaux)

Guest

Charest, Jean, Leader of the Quebec Liberal Party

Group Presentations

Guy Lemieux, President, West Island Chamber of Commerce
 Rob Geller, Démocracité
 Lucie Fournier, Executive Director, West Island Community Shares
 Jean Clement, Vice-President, Pine Beach Community Association
 Michael George, Citizens of Senneville
 Suzanne Lalonde Citizens of Senneville
 Tom Buffit, City Manager, Pointe-Claire
 Jean-Pierre Dufort, Public Security, Pointe-Claire
 Madeleine Hall, Pointe-Claire Canoe Club
 Keith Thomson, Terra Cotta Conservation Project
 Gérald Bourgeois, Dollard-des-Ormeaux Citizens Association
 Don Fraser, Baie D'Urfé Charitable Campaign Agency
 Ann Davidson, West Island Community Resource Centre

Heather Parker, AMCAL
Mustapha Kachani, CIMOI
Michael Abcarius, Roxboro Tennis Club
Maurice Allard, Citizens of Lachine
Pierre Thibault, Citizens of Lachine
Gretchen Code, West Island Volunteer Bureau
Mary Straw, Julia Kraft Centre

The Open Microphone for Citizens' comments

Doris Miller
Alain Larivière
Pauline Busby
John Clendenning
Doug Lamley
Douglas Jack
Bill Spears
Peter Romaniuk
Mary Jane de Coos
Irene Lambert
Mike Babin
Sharon Norris
Carlos Ordain
Eugene Lehman
Yvonne Copula
Ron Goes

Annex B

Written Comments

Allard, Maurice et Paul Thibault (citizens of Lachine)
 Alexander, Mary and David (Dollard-des-Ormeaux citizen)
 Alexander, Mary F. and Couillard, Madeleine (The West Island Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group)
 Bourgeois, Gérard (Dollard-des-Ormeaux Citizen)
 Boutilier, George (Counsellor Pierrefonds City) Poem **pHARELized**
 Briggs, Edwin M. (Beaconsfield Citizen)
 Clément, Jean (Pine Beach Citizens' Association Inc.)
 Code, Gretchen (West Island Volunteer Bureau)
 Colomb, Ada (Baie d'Urfé Charitable Campaign Agency inc)
 Davidson, Ann (West Island Community Resource Centre)
 De Koos, Mary Jane (Pointe-Claire Citizen)
 Goes, Ron (Dorval Citizen)
 Goreman , Helen (Dorval Citizen)
 Heron, Ian (President, West Island Citizen Advocacy)
 Jack, Douglas (Sustainable Development Association)
 Lapierre, Louis (Dollard-des-Ormeaux Citizen)
 Laroche Zielinski, Paulette (City of Pierrefonds Citizen)
 Leblanc, René E. (Counsellor City of Pierrefonds)
 Leylem, Emanuel (West Island Express Courier)
 McNulty, John (Pointe-Claire Citizen)
 Montpetit, Marcel (Président , Office Munipal d'Habitation de Pointe-Claire)
 Myles, Anne (Mayor Baie-Urfé)
 Pinkus, Steve (Alliance Quebec)
 Racicot, Jean et Micheline (Lachine Citizen)
 Ratcliffe, Peter H. (Ratcliffe Production Technology RPT inc.)
 Tremblay-Legault, Charles (Président, Villa St-Louis Recreation Club)
 Woodard, John S. (Lakeshore Light Opera Inc.)

LACHINE

Est-ce que la réforme des municipalités sera une répétition du succès de la réforme de la santé ?

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N° 1650-2000-1015
Document 3 de 36

La réforme municipale est une abolition de nos villes --- nous ne sommes pas intéressés.

Maurice ALLARD
M. Paul Thibault

1) Appartenance et identité

2) Les groupes sociaux sont la base de nos communautés. Les citoyens désirent participer et être identifiés au développement et au futur de nos communautés.

3) Ces communautés sont nos villes.

4) Problème de zonage : On ne veut pas de MATREC

5) Nous avons déjà nos services : piscines, usines de filtration, bibliothèques, aires, parcs. Nous désirons les conserver.

6) Les finances : paiement du **déficit de 3,1 milliards** ? Est-ce que nous devons payer le gaspillage d'une mauvaise administration ?

7) Les citoyens veulent continuer à participer aux décisions des finances publiques.

8) Plus grande la ville — moins de transparence.

- 9) **La démocratie** : a) on parle... mais est-ce qu'on est à l'écoute ? b) Comment le gouvernement peut-il décider qui va se marier avec qui et quand ? c) Est-ce qu'un référendum municipal a la même valeur qu'un référendum provincial—où est la démocratie dans tout ça ? d) Comment le futur maire de la future grande ville pourra-t-il être à l'écoute des revendications des citoyens ? Pour défendre nos droits et privilèges comme citoyens, nous revendiquons que la ville de Lachine avance au moins 750,000.00 \$ dans un fonds de défense et nous encourageons chaque municipalité du Québec de mettre un fonds suffisant pour leur propre défense d'autonomie.

Arrière
LACHINE

La démocratie.....pas à vendre.

Nous n'acceptons pas la loi 170. Nous n'acceptons
pas le rapport Bernard.

Le gouvernement de monsieur Bouchard n'achètera pas la paix et le silence de nos maires, nos conseillers (ères) et encore moins les citoyens avec des chèques de 10,000 \$ comme il l'a fait avec les médecins de Jonquière.....

LA DEMOCRATIE N'A PAS DE PRIX.

LACHINÉ

Communiqué de presse (28-11-00) révisé

Fusions forcées

Messieurs / Mesdames

Pourquoi cette guerre contre Lucien Bouchard et Louise Harel alors qu'ils veulent tout simplement **devenir propriétaire de nos droits !!!** Sont-ils deux grands incompris ? C'est quoi leur définition de référendum ? C'est quoi leur définition de démocratie ? C'est quoi leur définition d'imposer ?

Pourquoi cette chicane de clocher entre les maires et le gouvernement de Lucien Bouchard qui lui pourtant ne veut que **devenir propriétaire de nos droits !!!**

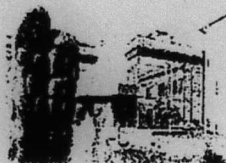
Le gouvernement de Lucien Bouchard se donne le droit absolu de ne pas respecter les référendums malgré le fait que le dictionnaire Larousse nous dit ce qui suit : " Procédure (référendum) qui permet à tous les citoyens d'un pays de manifester par un vote l'approbation ou le rejet d'une mesure proposée par les pouvoirs publics ". Il sait que le peuple québécois (toutes cultures confondues) n'a probablement pas le quotient intellectuel pour faire la part des choses, donc il prend les décisions pour **devenir propriétaire de nos droits !!!**

Le gouvernement de Lucien Bouchard sait parfaitement bien ce que veut dire une Commission consultative (dictionnaire Larousse : "avoir le droit de donner son avis, non celui de voter (par opp. à délibératif)". En bout de ligne, il veut tout simplement **devenir propriétaire de nos droits !!!**

Le gouvernement de Lucien Bouchard se donne le droit absolu sur toutes les lois, les règlements et le zonage dans toutes les municipalités du Québec. Il peut faire changer et/ou modifier un zonage sans au préalable demander l'avis ou l'autorisation des élus (es) municipaux et encore moins des citoyens. C'est tout simplement une autre marque de respect par quelqu'un qui veut **devenir propriétaire de nos droits !!!**

N'est-ce pas que notre désaccord, notre colère et nos manifestations dans les rues est un manque flagrant de respect envers Louise Harel et un gouvernement qui veut **devenir propriétaire de nos droits ???**

Lachine



Travaux publics

Le Service des travaux publics assure l'entretien et la réparation de la voie publique (rues, trottoirs, aqueduc, égout, etc.). Il veille à l'entretien des édifices, des espaces verts et des véhicules appartenant à la Ville. Il procède également à certains travaux de construction d'équipements publics.

Directeur :

Paul Robillard

Téléphone :

634-3471, poste 381

Télécopieur :

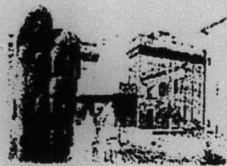
634-8166

Si vous avez des questions ou des
commentaires, contactez-nous par



Retour au menu des services municipaux

Lachine



Relations économiques et publiques

Le Service des relations économiques et publiques voit à l'orientation, à la planification et à la coordination de l'ensemble des activités de communication de la Ville de manière à établir et maintenir de bonnes relations avec les citoyens.

Il a aussi pour mandat d'établir et de maintenir de bonnes relations avec le milieu des affaires (commerces, industries, services) de manière à ce que les points de vue des gens d'affaires s'imbriquent dans la réflexion autour des problématiques qui les concernent ou qui les préoccupent, de même que dans les décisions et les actions de la Ville.

Le Service des relations économiques et publiques est aussi mis à contribution pour ouvrir la municipalité sur l'extérieur et faire en sorte qu'elle en retire des bénéfices tant au niveau économique qu'au niveau social. L'un de ses rôles est donc de déployer des efforts pour mieux faire connaître l'immense potentiel de la Ville auprès d'entreprises, de groupes, de visiteurs ou de touristes.

Directeur :

Pierre Villeneuve

Téléphone :

634-3471, poste 281

Télécopieur :

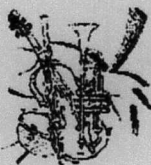
634-8164

Si vous avez des questions ou des commentaires, contactez-nous par **courrier électronique**.



[Retour au menu des services municipaux](#)

Lachine



Services récréatifs et communautaires

Les Services récréatifs et communautaires assurent la mise en place des conditions nécessaires à la prise en charge des activités récréatives, culturelles et communautaires par les groupes de citoyens.

Ils gèrent et coordonnent l'utilisation des équipements récréatifs et communautaires sur le territoire municipal sous sa juridiction.

Ils fournissent aussi le soutien requis auprès des organismes sportifs, culturels et certains groupes communautaires dans l'organisation de leurs activités, assurent l'organisation de certaines activités de loisirs, de fêtes populaires et d'événements spéciaux, et informent les citoyens sur les activités de loisirs, les services offerts et les moyens de participer.

De plus, les Services récréatifs et communautaires réalisent certaines études et recherches sur les besoins des citoyens en matière de services, de programmes et d'équipements de loisirs, assurent, lorsque requis, la consultation des citoyens et matière de développement de programmes, de services et d'équipements de loisirs, et favorisent la concertation entre les différents intervenants locaux et régionaux dans les domaines du loisir.

Directeur :

Serge Poulin

Téléphone :

634-3471, poste 301

Télécopieur :

634-8177

Agora

Agora Accueil

Une île, une ville: le triomphe d'un rêve dépassé

Jean-Claude Marsan

Architecte et urbaniste

Professeur titulaire, école d'architecture

Université de Montréal

Le mardi 21 novembre 2000

La plupart des éditorialistes des journaux francophones de Montréal ont salué triomphalement le dépôt du projet de loi 170 de la ministre Louise Harel proposant la création d'une seule ville sur l'île de Montréal. Enfin, depuis le temps que l'on en parle, depuis la fin des années 1960 plus précisément, quand le maire Drapeau s'était fait le héraut d'un tel projet. Sans doute y a-t-il dans ce projet des perspectives réjouissantes, celle notamment du renouvellement potentiel de la classe politique de l'actuelle ville de Montréal, et celle de voir la fin des privilèges de certaines municipalités qui ont profité grassement de présence de la ville-centre pour maintenir artificiellement leur niveau de vie. Si la réalité était aussi simple, ce serait parfait.

Il reste, cependant, un fait troublant: l'approche de ce projet de fusions forcées sur l'île montréalaise a été critiquée unanimement par l'ensemble des universitaires et chercheurs du Québec, qu'ils soient de l'IRNS Urbanisation, des universités McGill, de Montréal, voire de Laval. Se pourrait-il, comme l'aurait pensé Duplessis dans son temps, que ces intellectuels aient tous tort en même temps? Sans leur accorder le monopole de la vérité, il faut reconnaître qu'ayant accès à des études et des comparaisons qui débordent le cadre étroit de la problématique locale, ils ont le nez moins collé sur la vitre que les commentateurs de l'actualité.

Un des problèmes de la situation actuelle est que le gouvernement n'a jamais expliqué clairement quels étaient les objectifs qu'il poursuivait par ces fusions, ni sur quelles études il s'appuyait pour étayer ses prises de décision. Le Livre blanc sur la réorganisation municipale, intitulé *Changer les façons de faire pour mieux servir les citoyens*,

fournit une vague salade des buts recherchés: économies d'échelle, efficacité, services de meilleure qualité, allégement et rationalisation des organisations, meilleure répartition du fardeau fiscal, création d'entités d'une taille suffisante pour s'imposer sur l'échiquier international, etc.

L'objectif principal qui semble émerger des discours et des articles sur le sujet serait une baisse de taxe pour un bon nombre de citoyens. Or, comme le signale l'économiste François Des Rosiers, «aucune des études et analyses réalisées à ce jour ne permet d'établir que les regroupements municipaux peuvent conduire à des économies d'échelle» pour la bonne raison que plus une entité grossit, plus ses besoins deviennent sophistiqués et plus les organisations deviennent complexes. Toronto commencera d'ailleurs à s'en rendre compte. Il ne s'ensuit pas pour autant que le premier ministre Bouchard ait tort en affirmant que le compte de taxe d'un bon nombre de contribuables pourrait baisser grâce à l'augmentation de celui des autres. Car son approche n'a rien à voir avec le meilleur service au meilleur coût. Si le premier ministre voulait vraiment assurer le meilleur service municipal au meilleur coût il devrait s'attaquer à une réforme du Code du travail de façon à casser le plancher d'emploi en vigueur dans la ville de Montréal et à ramener le salaire de ses cols bleus à des normes moins indécentes. Ce que l'on risque maintenant, c'est que ce plancher et ces normes s'étendent à toute l'île!

Un autre objectif mis en avant est le partage fiscal. Et avec raison car pourquoi des municipalités qui profitent des emplois et des services de la Ville de Montréal ne devraient pas aussi payer les coûts assumés par cette dernière pour des équipements métropolitains et les logements sociaux? Il faut admettre, cependant, que dans ce domaine les grandes profiteuses ne sont pas les municipalités de l'île de Montréal. Car depuis 1969, dans le cadre de la Communauté urbaine, celles-ci partagent les coûts de plusieurs services dont ceux de la lutte contre la pollution de l'air, de l'assainissement des eaux usées, de la sécurité publique, du transport en commun, de la construction du métro, de l'établissement et de l'aménagement des parcs régionaux. Mais pourquoi la personne qui vit à Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue doit-elle payer pour la construction d'un métro dont elle ne verra jamais le bout d'un wagon dans son patelin alors que les citoyens de Longueuil, qui l'empruntent quotidiennement, ne sont pas soumis au même fardeau fiscal? Qu'ils le veuillent ou non, les résidents de la Rive-Sud, de Laval et de la couronne Nord font aussi partie du même espace socio-économique que l'on appelle la métropole.

Comme l'avance l'urbaniste Gérard Beaudet dans son ouvrage *Le pays réel sacrifié*, on peut penser que le gouvernement pourrait avoir «une peur viscérale de voir

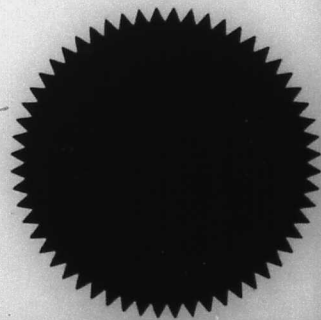
émerger dans le grand Montréal un réel pouvoir politique métropolitain» et qu'il cherche à se contenter d'une vague structure étatique, la Communauté métropolitaine, laquelle constituera un autre nid à chicane (c'est déjà commencé!) n'ayant guère de pouvoir pour planifier comme du monde ni pour réaliser un véritable partage fiscal touchant l'ensemble de la région montréalaise. Pourtant ailleurs, en Europe mais aussi aux États-Unis, là où les citoyens sont farouchement attachés à leurs petites villes (de 3000 habitants en moyenne), il existe diverses formules, fondées globalement sur le principe du Tax Base Sharing, qui permettent le partage régional de la croissance de l'assiette foncière sans le recours aux fusions municipales. Ce type de formule semble davantage approprié à une région métropolitaine comme celle de Montréal, dont l'histoire sur le plan culturel et linguistique n'a d'équivalent en Occident que celle du grand Bruxelles, que les fusions forcées à la Mike Harris pour Toronto et Ottawa.

À moins que, comme en font l'hypothèse Raphaël Fischler et Jeanne Wolfe de l'université McGill, le gouvernement du Parti québécois ait choisi de «circonscrire» l'île de Montréal, cette Babylone où se concentrent les anglophones et les groupes ethniques, s'imaginant que la nouvelle grande ville restera de langue française parce que la loi le veut. S'il a fait ce calcul, c'est, sur le plan géopolitique, une grossière erreur. Car l'île de Montréal a une histoire bien à elle depuis 350 ans, une histoire faite de fronde, de découvertes, d'ouvertures et d'aventures tout azimut, comme le montre bien aujourd'hui son redressement économique, lequel semblait impensable il y a à peine dix ans. Les anglophones sont profondément attachés à ce milieu de vie et vont y rester. Les immigrants vont continuer de s'y fixer en majorité, car c'est là qu'ils peuvent le mieux s'en tirer. Et les francophones vont continuer de faire ce qu'ils font depuis trois décennies, à savoir quitter l'île pour des localités où les taxes sont moins élevées, déséquilibre qui risque de se perpétuer à défaut d'un véritable partage fiscal au plan régional. Qu'est ce que cela donnera dans les faits dans quelques décennies? Un beau clivage entre deux identités culturelles majeures, un clivage clairement délimité par les frontières topographiques du fleuve et de la rivière des Prairies. Quoi de plus souhaitable pour donner naissance à une nouvelle province, celle de l'île de Montréal, dont le nombre d'habitants et le pouvoir économique sera considérablement plus élevé que celui de l'île du Prince Édouard? Et le Québec dans tout cela? Son pouvoir économique et politique coulant à l'eau comme une roche, il se retrouvera dans une situation semblable à celle de Terre-Neuve avec la perte de ses morues.

Quel que soit l'angle sous lequel on analyse le projet proposé d'une île une ville, nous assistons au triomphe d'un rêve dépassé. Il y a trente ans, quand les francophones

étaient dominants par le nombre dans l'île de Montréal et que la population de cette dernière représentait 75 % de celle de la région métropolitaine, ce rêve du Maire Drapeau avait un certain sens bien que les experts de son Service d'urbanisme cherchent déjà, avec leur proposition du Montréal Horizon 2000, à le convaincre que la réalité métropolitaine débordait les limites de l'île. Aujourd'hui, après trente ans d'étalement urbain qui ont drainé principalement les francophones en dehors de l'île, alors que l'on compte désormais sur les immigrants pour assurer la balance démographique, il ne faut pas être un grand vizir pour comprendre qu'il faut tabler sur la région métropolitaine toute entière dans sa capacité économique et sa diversité linguistique et culturelle pour garantir un coeur solide au Québec. Et, à ce niveau, des solutions existent pour assurer l'équité entre les contribuables, et des capacités réelles de gérer et de planifier les grandes agglomérations sans priver les citoyens de leur sens d'appartenance au niveau local. À moins de penser que les formules appliquées à Londres, dans la région de l'Île-de-France, dans celle de Minneapolis/Saint-Paul et d'autres aux États-Unis, ne méritent pas d'être considérées parce que, pour le gouvernement du Parti québécois, le modèle idéal à suivre désormais c'est Ottawa!

©Le Devoir 2000



N^o 1650-JAN 12 15
Document 4 de 76

30 Carleton Street
Dollard des Ormeaux
Que., H9A 2J1

November 29, 2000

M. Pierre Marsan
MNA Robert-Baldwin
3869, boul. des Sources
Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec
H9B 2A2

Dear M. Marsan,

Re: Your letter November 15 concerning Bill 170

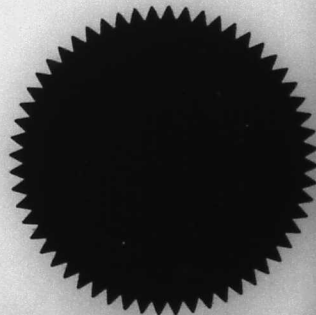
We strongly support the demand that the government consult the citizens concerning amalgamation. The present government does not have a mandate for such drastic re-organization.

Other alternatives to achieve the desired level of inter-municipal cooperation should be studied and considered before giving up so many of the positive aspects of our present municipal organization. The population should be well-informed in order to make the best decision for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mary F. Alexander . David Alexander

Mary and David Alexander





LE GROUPE D'ENTRAIDE DE LA SCLÉROSE EN PLAQUES DE LA
BANLIEUE OUEST

THE WEST ISLAND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SELF-HELP GROUP

M
S P

2, rue TRIANON, DOLLARD DES ORMEAUX, QUEBEC, H9A 2H8, tél: (514) 683-6394

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N° 1650-2000 1315

document 5 de 26

November 28, 2000

M. Pierre Marsan
MNA Robert-Baldwin
3869, boul. des Sources
Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec
H9B 2A2

Dear M. Marsan,

Thank you for your letter expressing concerns about Bill 170
and informing us of actions being taken.

Our organization is a self-help group with almost 100 members
affected by Multiple Sclerosis living for the most part in the
West Island and many volunteers assisting in our various
activities. We are not in a position to consult or to speak on
behalf of the group; however we are urging them to express
their opinions so that their voices may be heard.

We thank you for your efforts in this regard and wish also to
express our appreciation for your support and that of the
community in our endeavours to make life a little easier for
our members.

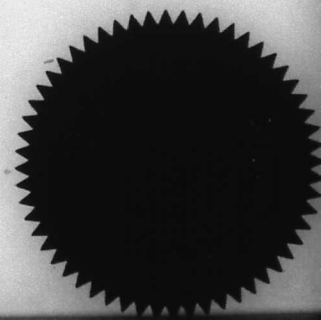
Sincerely,

Mary F. Alexander

Mary F. Alexander
Presidente du Comité exécutif

Madeleine Couillard

Madeleine Couillard
Directrice et Coordonnatrice



Bonjour messrs. & mesdames:

N^o 1650-000 1215
document 6 de 26

Mon nom est Gerard Bourgeois, et je demeure a Dollard des Ormeaux depuis 1968, mais avant cela j'ai vecu a Montreal pour pres de 30 ans, quand la compagnie pour laquel je travaillais m'a demander de demenager au Nouveau Brunswick.

Quand ont m'a demander de revenir ~~de~~ au bureau de Montreal, avec ma femme, nous avons fait des recherches ou nous voulions vivre avec notre petite famille.

Apres avoir visiter plusieurs municipalite, nous avons adopter DDO-et pourquoi vous demandez?

- Proximite des ecoles pour les enfants
- Piscine et terrains de jeux, et activitees sportifs pour la famille
- Chalet auquel les enfants participait aux activitees local avec leurs voisins et amis.
- Train de banlieue qui offre un service pour me rendre a mon travail, et je pourrais continuer avec autre raisons,

Why am I opposed to forced municipal merger?

That question is much like asking why do I prefer democracy to dictatorship. Yes the Govt. has the LEGAL right, but not the DEMOCRATIC right nor is the action legitimate. Forced amalgamation was not part of their political platform, and it is nothing more than intellectual dishonesty on the part of the Bouchard Govt. When does democracy become dictatorship?

When communities vote 90 plus percent against merger, is that not an indication of peoples wishes?

Would I sound cynical in saying that amalgamations are merely a payback for all those "CANADIAN UNITY" resolutions voted by many municipalities?

Why are the amalgamations primarily being imposed in what could be called NO or FEDERALIST areas? Might there be a link between separatism and forced mergers? Why am I so cynical and not prepared to trust Bouchard?

Why is Bill 170 ~~totally different than the Bernard report which offered some basis for reasoning?~~

Why is our Govt. not prepared to share the information which they hold on the costs associated with amalgamations? Is it possible that they show exactly what we fear? Why am I such a cynic?

Is it a wonder that people feel threatened by something about which they have not been consulted or even informed, but simply put to us as a fait accompli?

- I am not a public person, however I feel that there comes a time when we MUST stand up for our democratic rights - and opposing Bouchard and Harel is part of our rights and we should demand respect and democracy.

It is our rights and lifestyle - which we chose- that are on the line.

Are you prepared to accept reduced services, reduced economic growth, as well as increased property taxes? Along with many of my fellow retirees, we are on fixed incomes, and how will this affect us.

Sure as God made little apples - this forced merger will cost us all - not only financially, but also in quality of life.

Our municipalities are being told to become caretakers of parks and libraries - and this at the will of the new Mtl. Administration. It would control costs, thereby allowing our facilities to fall to the lowest denominator - Mtl.

AND DICTATE EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Would you be content to have potholes, lack of snow clearing, lack of street cleaning, and lack of many services such as they have in Mtl?

Montreal has been bled to death by successive Prov. Govts., and totally ruined by successive incompetent city administrations that have bowed to union demands to get elected. It has also lost a large majority of its financial basis and much of its population due to the neverendum referendums. Why should we now be forced to pay for their inefficiencies and mismanagement? Why should we be asked to pay for their stupidity?

As an example of mismanagement I would like to indicate only one point- The Drapeau regime and its successors did not pay into such things as the employee pension fund and this has been carried forward. This debt has now accumulated to 3.3 billion - yes billion dollars, which alone represents 16 percent of the cities expenditures.

Under Bill 170, we will be told to pay for a debt for which we are not responsible. What Bill 170 does, is permit the Govt. to shaft the suburbs for Mtl's debts and inefficiencies, and whether you like it or not, you will also inherit a lousy administration and poor services.

What about the community groups who rely on the municipalities for funding - do you think that Bouchard and Mtl. will be concerned when they already have more on there plate than they can handle?

Bouchard et Harel dit que c'est les maudit Anglais du West Island qui se plaint "encore. Je veux repondre que je ne suis fier d'etre du WI, mais je suis pas un maudis anglais - je suis un Canadien qui demeure dans la prov. de Que., et citoyen de la ville de DDO - et je suis contre la loi 170. Merci pour votre attention - thank you for allowing me to express my views.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

No 1650-2000 1215
document 7 de 26

pHARELized

First it was the tiny eight
Who were served an awful fate
From Senneville to Roxboro
They were told they had to go
They were served with a burn rap
Bouchard wiped them off the map
Harel and her friends agree
They are so much history

Merged, absorbed, incorporated
Destroyed, annulled, obliterated.
Round them up, both big and small
Make them part of Montreal
Take their taxes, take their land,
Make them part of Bourkeland
Go in debt and spend encore
Have the island pay some more

In Quebec democracy
Is based on relativity
If, a fight for town you mount
99% just doesn't count
But when you're breaking up the land
50% plus One is grand
Of one thing please be assured
Your interests will be ignored.

The arrondissement, it will have clout
You can even take the garbage out,
Cut the grass and ask for fees
Go to Bourque and try to please
When you're asked to jump or cry
You may even say, "How high?"
You may not have realized
but you have just been pHARELized

George Boutillier.

Edwin M. Briggs, B.Comm., M.B.A., J.C.A.

59 White Pine Drive
Brossfield, Qc. H2W5E4
(514) 695-6589

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N^o 1650-2001215
document 8 de 26

MONTREAL ISLAND PROPOSED MERGER

2000 November 14

Mr. Peter Stockland, Editor in Chief
The Gazette
250 St. Antoine St. W.
Montréal, QC., H2Y 3R7

Dear Sir,

HOW SOON WE FORGET ! It is almost 31 years to the day that late in November 1969, Dr. Lussier, the then Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Union Nationale Government, decreed the formation of the Communauté Urbaine de Montréal (MUC). This all took place behind closed doors through a scheme conceived with the participation of the late Mayor Jean Drapeau and Lucien Saulnier, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Montréal at that time. Neither the public nor the existing Municipalities were either advised or consulted.

Despite nearly 3 weeks of lobbying and protesting the Act was passed as a fait accompli virtually unchanged, effective January 1, 1970.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CUM/MUC IN BRIEF:

- Montréal bailed out of apparent financial problems
- Taxes in the other Municipalities nearly doubled
- Local policing and property protection was terminated and replaced by a centralized autocratic system controlled by Montréal. As a consequence policing is such that residents now require sophisticated and costly alarm systems for basic protection.
- A whole new bureaucracy created and mainly staffed by Montréal functionaries and then rapidly expanded into new large opulent facilities in Place Desjardins
- A whole new concept of property assessment, now centralized and controlled by Montréal and somewhat skewed
- Local autonomy compromised, regional planning, for example was at the pleasure of Montréal
- Regional transportation was only partially extended by the CTCUM, however, suburbs were required to contribute despite the fact there was no service. The introduction of Rail transportation was blocked for some time until the then Minister of Transport and the V.P. Eastern Region of the C.P.R. interceded.
- The annual budget was a democratic farce, there was no effective debate, changes were not permitted and if not approved, it became law by fiat at midnight December 31st. each year

The most serious consequence was that the democratic system was severely compromised. Representation at the MUC comprised of all 45 Members of the Montréal Council and the 28 Mayors. It is obvious that for nearly a decade the suburbs were always 'out voted' and as well, had no representation on the Executive Committee or any of the other Committees.

Con't

By late 1980 through the persistent and tireless efforts of the Conference of Suburban Mayors some concessions and modest changes were finally agreed to by Québec, and the system marginally improved.

THE PROPOSED MERGER:

If anybody is of the opinion that the citizens will be better off with the NOW PROPOSED MERGER, then guess again. We will be totally at the mercy and whim of the autocratic administration of the City of Montréal. We will not only have forfeited local representation, a fundamental corner stone of our political process, we will have lost it at a horrendous financial and personal cost. The result of the Merger, they declare, is expected to improve efficiency, yet it has been stated categorically that costs and taxes will rise as a result; this is ludicrous. More and more the trend is to encourage and place responsibility, authority and representation, locally.

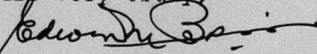
What is the real purpose, the hidden agenda:- power, in fact what appears to be the abuse of power, together with greed, oppression and revenge.

The Province states that this action is within their power. According to the B.N.A. Act this could be so interpreted, however, this same Act GUARANTEES equal rights of both the English and the French language as well as local autonomy, Québec cannot simply pick and chose which articles it wishes to honour, and apply and still pretend they are governing in the best interests and aspirations of the citizens. In the final analysis we are the taxpayers, the citizens, the Government is only our representative.

The majority have solidly stated they are opposed to 'forced mergers' we are the taxpayers, the citizens, this is our society, our homes, our property, not the politicians - we apparently do not have a voice - we are being forced to unwillingly forfeit our responsibility and rights.

Now Minister Louise Harel is placing the final nail in the coffin. WE MUST NOT LET THIS HAPPEN.

Yours very truly,


Edwin M. Briggs F.C.A.

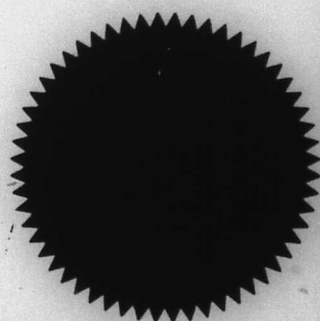
ADDENDUM

Personal Background Information-

- Mayor of City of Beaconsfield 1960 to 1982
- Member of MUC from inception in 1970 to 1982
- Founding Member and Member of Conference of Mayors to 1982
- Board of Directors of Conference of Mayors 1975 to 1982
- Chairman, and representative of the Minister of Transport of Québec, M Michael Clair, MLA, of the Committee of the CTCUM and the Canadian Pacific Railway which resulted in establishing the railway commuter service on the Island in 1982.
- Served on the Committee to revise and redefine the MUC Act to effect the equating of representation and responsibilities between Montréal and the Suburbs within the MUC Council
- Participated in the preparation and submission of a Special Brief to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to ameliorate the inequities in valuation and cost sharing

B3.101

MTL.MER.100



**Association des Citoyens de Pine Beach Inc.
Pine Beach Citizens' Association Inc.**

Le 3 décembre 2000

L'Association des citoyens de Pine Beach est l'une des premières associations à but non lucratif de son genre au Canada.

L'association débuta dans les années 1950 pour combler certains besoins des gens de la région de Pine Beach à Dorval, avec la construction d'une salle communautaire, la création d'activités sportives et socioculturelles pour les jeunes de ce temps telles que des équipes de hockey, l'entretien de la glace, un club de dards, une ligue de quilles et un groupe de Guides et Scouts. Ce dernier existe encore aujourd'hui et est parrainé par l'association.

La première piscine municipale de l'ouest de l'île, celle de Walters à Dorval, était la réalisation d'un rêve de l'association. Aussi, l'ACPB est grandement responsable du projet de la construction du tunnel sous la route 20 pour joindre le nord avec le sud de Dorval permettant ainsi aux piétons de traverser d'un côté à l'autre en toute sécurité. Nous avons mis sur pied le premier programme de surveillance de quartier dans la région, avec l'aide et l'encouragement de la ville et de la police.

Tout ceci pour dire que l'association est là pour non seulement pour les citoyennes et citoyen du quartier de Pine Beach mais pour tous les gens de Dorval. Le rôle de l'association a évolué au long des années, et nous sommes encore très impliqués dans notre communauté :

1. nous parrainons les groupes de Scouts qui participent :
 - à la marche contre la faim
 - au programme des arbres pour le Canada
 - à la collecte pour les paniers de Noël
2. nous participons au carnaval d'hiver
3. nous aidons à la Fête du Canada
4. nous gérons la surveillance de quartier.

Notre groupe Scout participe à la marche contre la faim qui a été créé en honneur de Monsieur Ken Lee, l'un des fondateurs de notre association. Cette collecte de denrée non périssable est distribuée parmi nos citoyens qui ont besoin d'aide par l'intermédiaire de l'Assistance communautaire de Dorval. Le groupe s'implique à planter des arbres sous le

Local Members of the National Assembly for the
West Island.

As a proud member of the Board of Directors of the West Island Volunteer Bureau W.I.V.B. I would like to humanize this debate as others have done before me.

The W.I.V.B. serves 16 municipalities including 3 off the western tip of the island.

We have a mini bus that provides drives ^{cancer} for patients, needing Radio-Therapy treatments, to six downtown hospitals. We must purchase a new mini bus every 3 to 4 years. It holds 22 persons plus a volunteer. In the calendar year April/99 to April 30/00 238 citizens from every community except Seneville took 4991 round trips from home to hospital to home. Imagine the wear and tear on the bus.

This bus is supported financially by most of the municipalities we serve and we cannot serve your citizens without your

generous help.

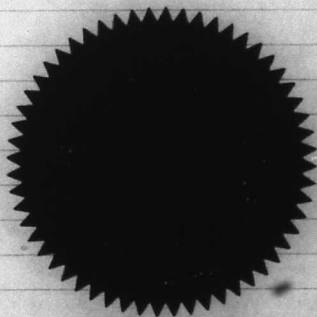
By the way during that same year our volunteers gave 630 residents 7513 drives.

I wonder who will care about these hurting frightened cancer patients should your support disappear if forced municipal mergers happen

Respectfully submitted

Gretchen L. Code

a very concerned citizen
and volunteer



BAIE D'URFE CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN AGENCY INC.

20410 LAKESHORE RD, BAIE D'URFE, QC, H9X 1P7

My name is Ada Colomb.

For the past 10 years, I've served as campaign chairman for BUCCA – the Baie d'Urfe Charitable Campaigns Association – a non-profit, volunteer group that campaigns on behalf of ten regional and national charities.

We are completely volunteer-based. Each year we collect over \$50,000 from the 1300 homes in Baie d'Urfe, and distribute 100% of our collections to the charities for whom we act. I am attaching a report of our 2000 campaign.

Residents allocate their contributions to their preferred charities, and we take care of the bookkeeping. Residents have the convenience of one call at the door, and one tax receipt. The charities benefit from zero collection costs and one of the highest per-capita contribution rates in the country.

BUCCA was founded 43 years ago by forward-thinking members of the community who set the goal of service, and we have provided reliable service to the community ever since. Our success is largely due to the personal touch brought by our campaigners, and by the community's recognition that they will be called on only once in a year.

Each volunteer is assigned a number of neighboring houses to call on, so they are calling on people they know. BUCCA is the only charitable organization that is given permission by the town of Baie d'Urfe to solicit door-to-door. This encourages our volunteers as they are truly offering a service to their neighbours, not just to the charitable organizations we represent. We are generally welcomed by our neighbours, as the campaign is a special annual event.

The Town also provides a permanent address for BUCCA's correspondence, and supports us in many other subtle but important ways.

Our executive is very concerned by the possibility that Baie d'Urfe will disappear. The support we have received over the years is unlikely to continue if we become part of a larger community. Ours will certainly no longer be the only door-to-door campaign, and we will have a much harder time attracting volunteers. The charities whom we support voiced similar concerns at our Annual General Meeting.

This is just one example of the volunteerism and community effort that works most effectively in smaller communities, and that will be destroyed if the Quebec Government insists on carrying through with its ill-considered merger project, despite the clearly expressed opposition of all those affected.

B.U.C.C.A.

BAIE D'URFE CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN AGENCY INC.

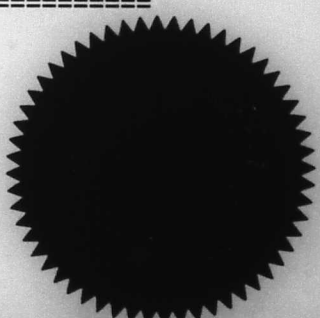
Campaign Chairman's 2000 Report.

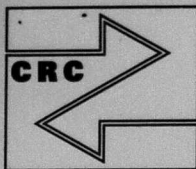
The Campaign raised a Total of \$54,045.50, an increase of \$2,341.63 compared with last year's (1999) campaign. I am happy to be able to report this excellent result, Letters left in the mailboxes by a canvasser.

The **\$54,045.50** was donated to the charities as follows.

	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>Diff.+/-</u>
Can. Cancer	10,414.00	9,970.00	+444.00
Quebec Heart	6,205.70	5,999.87	+205.83
V.O.N.	8,440.00	8,848.00	-408.00
W.I. Women's Shelter	5,896.20	5,400.50	+495.70
R.C.L. (March of Dimes)	2,218.00	1,744.50	+473.50
Disabled Children	4,158.00	3,990.50	+167.50
Salvation Army	4,523.00	4,073.50	+449.50
Alzheimer	5,049.00	4,968.00	+81.00
Mtl. Assoc./Blind	3,759.00	3,545.00	+214.00
S.P.C.A.	<u>3,382.60</u>	<u>3,164.00</u>	<u>+218.60</u>
TOTAL =====	<u>54,045.50</u> =====	<u>51,703.87</u> =====	<u>+2,341.63</u> =====

Submitted by Ada Colomb
Campaign Chairman





Centre des ressources communautaires de l'Ouest de l'île West Island Community Resource Centre

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

no 1650-2000 1215
document 17 de 20

Presentation to Citizens' Forum on Municipal Mergers

December 3, 2000

Kirkland, Quebec

Who is the CRC:

The West Island Community Resource Centre is a non-profit charitable organization serving the entire West Island Territory as well as several communities beyond the West Island limits such as the Presqu'île region and Lachine, Lasalle and Ville St. Pierre. Our mandate is to provide information regarding services in the domain of health and social services including the volunteer and non-profit self-help and support groups, education, recreation, municipal services, legal services, services providing material assistance, religious institutions, and housing programs as well as the day care services. It is our responsibility to help individuals to link with the relevant services so that they can be served in the most effective way... and also to connect the community services with each other so that there could be a closer interactive partnership within the region. We have the privilege of interacting with all the many layers of the West Island Community including the CLSC's, police, schools, hospitals, rehab centres and the many community organizations. Because of the wide spectrum of information that we offer we have the ability to provide a fairly accurate statistical analysis of the needs of our municipalities and the West Island Territory.

The Situation as perceived by the West Island Community Resource Centre:

From this vantage point we can only wonder how these valuable organizations will be able to survive any more cutbacks in their annual budgets. The community organizations invariably are the first of the services to feel any cutbacks. Everyone suffered from the downloading that the Quebec Government imposed on the municipalities several years ago. Many had to reduce the operations to part-time. Some were forced to close until alternative methods of funding could be created. Within the past two years they were hugely affected by the Emploi Quebec crisis. Human resources are now mostly bareboned. The operating ability has been stretched to a maximum thin...

In the West Island we have a nominal amount of organizations who are supported by Centraide. We have been urged to apply for funding through different government programs but few have been successful. Some applied to the Secretariat à l'action communautaire (the Casino funds) but anyone who has gone that route was declined.

Our CLSC.s run on lower budgets than their confreres in other regions....

Minimal financial support comes to us from outside our territory because of the general perception of the wealth in the West Island. What is not understood by the agencies who distribute funding is that we have our own set of very real challenges. And, yes, the poverty/unemployment levels are escalating in the West Island as well.

We continue to survive because of local commitment. It is our mayors and town councils who continue to endorse our collective and individual value and it is them who offer the energy, housing, and a hefty portion of financial support that is required run these organization who serve those people who are so needy. People who are vulnerable.....on a daily basis.....our seniors, our handicapped and intellectually challenged, our friends who suffer from mental health problems.....and our growing single parent/low income families.

The West Island community network is revered by other Montreal sectors.....It could not be the successful model that it is without the dedication and interest of our municipal councils.

The CRC responds to over 6000 people a year who are looking for some kind of help. Over 600 people receive free legal consultation from our lawyer. In our first year of providing budget strategy clinics to individuals we have facilitated over 100 people through our three step process. We are in contact with well over 1000 service providers regularly. I know that the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped serves over 1100 clients. Pointe-Claire Aid for Seniors serves over 600 seniors who would otherwise be unable to cope on their own. Pierrefonds' Aide a domicile and Dorval Community Aid provide similar services. Community Perspectives, Parrainage Civique and Friends for Mental Health, Ensemble, Centre Bienvenue, support thousands of fragile individuals who could not live autonomously without that support. And not to under emphasize those services offered to our thousands of youth and families at risk.

Concerns:

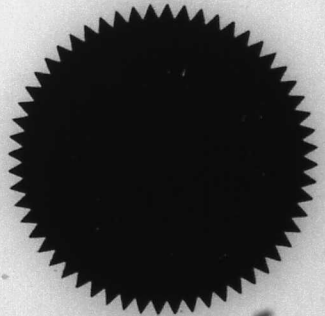
1. Until last week the issues of the future of community organizations had not been included in any formula that had been publicly presented.
2. Without a feasibility study presented to the public we wonder if this recent inclusion is just another afterthought that will eventually be ignored.
3. Will the Community Organizations be guaranteed continued and similar financial support?
4. The long-term social fall-out
5. The CLSC's are already overwhelmed with their demands
6. They would not cope with the load of potentially needy people without the community organizations. An excellent partnership has been developed between most of them.
7. The professionals working in the community organizations earn much lower salaries and have infinitely less benefits than those professionals with the same level of education who work in the CLSC's
8. Will the budgets in the CLSC's be increased in order to accommodate the inevitable increase in demands when the community organizations eventually dissolve?
9. While the hospitals/health care system is already in a fragile state, when our municipal councils will not have control of the fiscal budgets, and when the rest of

Montreal and Quebec perceives us as the land of milk & honey, will the Government of Quebec be willing to take responsibility for all those thousands of vulnerable people in the West Island? Will there continue to be other priorities?

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Davidson

Ann Davidson, Coordinator



1650-20001215
document 12 de 26**FAX FORM**DATE: December 6, 2000

DELIVER TO/LIVRER A:

NOM/NAME: Geoff KelleyCOMPAGNIE/COMPANY: Député Jacques-CartierFAX #: 514 631-270799

IMS Health
8100, route Transcanadienne
Pointe-Claire (Québec)
Canada H9R 1B9
Tél.: (514) 428-0411
Fax: (514) 428-6140

DE/FROM: Mary Jane de KoozeSUJET/SUBJECT: Megacity Impact

NOMBRE TOTAL DE PAGES, INCLUANT CETTE PAGE: 2
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS PAGE:

MESSAGE:

I spoke briefly at the end of the meeting in Kirkland last Sunday but I think I could have said it better as per the attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to make citizens' concerns heard.

Further to what I said on Sunday, would there be a way of going to court for an injunction against the bill by arguing that it is tantamount to putting the cities into receivership? The cities have done nothing to deserve this punishment. If any city deserves receivership it is Montreal.

I fear that marching is not enough; we will have to stop this by legal means.

In the mean time I am marching next Sunday. Good luck!

SI VOUS NE RECEVEZ PAS LA TOTALITE DES PAGES, VEUILLEZ COMMUNIQUER AVEC NOUS DANS LES PLUS BREFS DELAIS.

SHOULD YOU NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE CALL US BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MERCI/THANK YOU!
L'ENVOYEUR/SENDER:

Mary Jane de Kooze

Dec. 4, 2000

Brief submitted to Geoff Kelley, Deputé Jacques-Cartier

From: Mary Jane de Koos, citizen Pointe-Claire, Member Planning Advisory Committee

In Pointe-Claire there are no billboards or fast food restaurants like McDonalds or Wendy's. Car dealers cannot have flapping flags or tinsel. Our by-laws are particular to us and reflect our values; they are there to maintain a certain atmosphere and ambiance of Pointe-Claire.

Homeowners or industries contemplating renovations or expansion must conform to our by-laws and obtain permits for construction. The city inspectors ensure that construction is done in accordance with the permit. They also occasionally find that construction has been done without a permit, prompting the city to review the infraction and take action if necessary.

If my neighbor erects a fence or a swimming pool on my property line I can appeal to the city to inspect it and take action if there is an infringement of the by-law, or I can go to the city to find out what the by-law pertaining to fences and pools states.

The city communicates to all homeowners that the Planning department can help with their permits so that the construction conforms to the zoning, fire regulations and building codes.

In the new megacity homeowners with no loyalty to or faith in the new city will not bother request a permit. Getting a remote city hall to inspect infractions will be difficult and time consuming. I fear that the remote city hall whose councilor represents 20,000 constituents will be unable to uphold zoning by-laws in my area. This could lead to illegal, shoddy or unsafe construction. Uncontrolled zoning without local control will destroy the uniqueness and special atmosphere of Pointe-Claire.

Mary Jane de Koos

BRIEF

by Ron Goes, citizen of Dorval.

1. Introduction

My name is Ron Goes, pilot, web designer and citizen, I am here to put my opposition to the merger. This week I was looking for a theme for this presentation and Mr Bouchard put it right in my lap. M. Bouchard castigated the Education Department for the Report cards. Well, the question I would put to M. Bouchard is: Where were you during the reform process? Didn't you hear the complaints of the parents during the process? Yet M. Bouchard is plowing headlong into this reform. So I have looked at this Bill from 4 angles and will show why it is unnecessary, undemocratic and immoral.

2. Mergers Don't Work

Enough has been written as to why they don't work. The data is in, of the 24 US mergers of the type for the CUM proposed unit cost increased by between 20-40% and in some cases over 100% over the previous regime. Control of expenditure passes to unaccountable bureaucrats and the unions gain a monopoly over municipal work. NYC is a prime example of why they don't work and the current rat situation [more rats than people] can be traced to lack of local control over resources.

3. Denial of Democracy

Our governments tend to forget that the people are sovereign. We do not elect a parliament so that we can have a dictatorship for four years. M. Bouchard: listen to the people. The latest poll says that over 50% of the people of the province are opposed to forced mergers; only 35% are for them. The people are right M. Bouchard. The people that are most affected by them are vehemently opposed to them. Any reform that dilutes democracy cannot be considered a victory for democracy.

4. Destruction of Political Rights

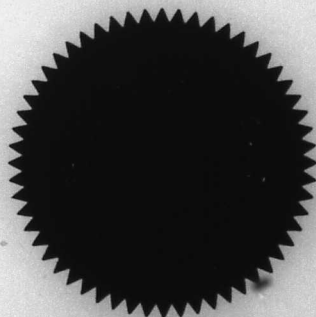
The government did not make the municipalities. They were the embodiment of the will of their founders expressed in the form of a charter. To say otherwise smacks of the absolutism and the priveledge of kings. it is very odd that Ms. Harel cites Cromwell and the supremacy of Parliament as it is that same Cromwell that threw the whores out of that chamber. It is the obligation of parliament to act responsibly and in accordance with the will of the people. The meaning of the division of powers is to assign jurisdiction not tyranny.

5. Breach of the Fiduciary

It is the responsibility of the government to act in a manner consistent with the principles of democracy and sound management. This is the immoral part. The government is committing hundreds of millions of transition costs, costs which are pure consumption, without adequate economic justification. They have substituted soft reasoning for rational planning and because of that they are pushing Montreal to economic destruction.

6. Conclusions

Bill 170 cannot be supported in legally or morally because of the democratic deficit which has been described. That deficit is at the very root of the problems of the city of Montreal. They intend to spread that disease to the suburbs, destroying their competitiveness. The bill as structured gives many avenues of attack to its opponents. I urge the panel to fight or aid in the fight on this bill.



MR. G. KELLEY

MUNA JACQUES CARTIER

475 DUMONT #102

DORVAL H 95 SW 2

Dear Mr. Kelley

NO 1690-2001015

Helen Gorman
document 15 de 2105 Campbell Ave
apt 141 Dorval Que
H9P1L2, Nov 22nd

Thank you for your letter regarding the invitation on Dec. 3rd being held at Kirkland City Hall for the purpose of speaking out as an individual for our rights in this country.

I am very proud to live in Dorval and my hat is off to Mayor Gorman, yourself and all Council ~~members~~ who have worked so hard to make Dorval the wonderful city it is.

This is a situation that should be put before the people THE TAXPAYERS

This is supposed to be a democratic country therefore let the people make these decisions forcing us to do as they say is downright hitlerism.

There are no advantages whatever to this ridiculous proposal, it is solely for their own benefits so I say -

LEAVE MY CITY ALONE

I will do all I can to get as many of my group out, as we like all others are as mad as a bunch of wild hens.

Good luck God bless & keep up the good work

Sorry I could not type, I'm flat

on my back now for 2 wks + could not carry my typewriter

Sincerely,

Helen Gorman



Parrainage Civique de la Banlieue Ouest West Island Citizen Advocacy

68, Prince Edward, Pointe-Claire, Québec H9R 4C7 • Tél.: 694-5850 • Fax: 694-1867
Succursale/Branch Office: 750 Dawson, Suite 111, Dorval, Québec H9S 1X1 • Tél.: 631-9151

November 23, 2000

Mr. Geoff Kelley, MNA
Jacques Cartier
Président de la Commission
de l'administration publique
475 avenue Dumont, bur. 100
Dorval, Quebec
H9S 5W2

29 NOV 2000

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N° 1650-daw 1215
document 16 de 26

Dear Mr. Kelley:

As a community group with almost 25 years of history in the West Island, we were very disturbed to hear that the government is going to force a merger of Montreal area municipalities. This merger will have a detrimental effect on those most vulnerable of citizens: the sick, the handicapped and seniors. This will be either direct, in the form of lost services or higher taxes, or indirect, by diminishing the groups who speak up on their behalf.

As regards direct effects to our proteges, the following probable consequences must be noted.

Loss of local helping services such as gardening, snow removal and painting for the handicapped and seniors.

Loss of local offices for low rent housing which is often run by our local cities.

Loss of local services for furniture pickup and storage in the case of eviction.

Loss of local services for proteges who are trouble with their municipal tax bills.

Loss of local recreational services for those who cannot travel i.e., pools, etc

Loss of local services for shadows for handicapped children attending municipal summer camp.

These are just a few of the many hardships that will be placed on persons who are unable to travel long distances to execute life's many obligations or even to enjoy an outing.

..12

An agency
funded by



Page 2
November 23, 2000
Mr Geoff Kelley

On the level of our own organization, which is a great support for the handicapped, we would stand to have difficulty in the following areas.

Our offices are in a City of Pointe Claire building.

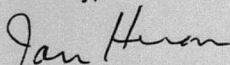
We receive grants from many of the municipalities we serve.

We will find it difficult to attract volunteers if they must go downtown in order to accompany proteges and advocate for them.

Our group is a grass roots organization that is close to the history and people of the West Island. It may be difficult to carry on this relationship with a distant government.

We hope that this merger does not take place as planned. Centralization is not the answer to providing quality care and social services to the population at large. It has not worked in other cities and there is no reason to think it will work in ours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ian Heron".

Mr. Ian Heron, President

Rigazio, Claire

De: Geoffrey Kelley [gkelley@iti.qc.ca]
Envoyé: 5 décembre 2000 13:17
À: crigazio@assnat.qc.ca
Objet: Fw: Public meeting at Kirkland city hall / human-appropriate politicalscale

----- Original Message -----

From: Douglas Frederick Jack <mailto:eco-montreal@mcgill.ca>
To: DEPUTE Thomas Mulcair <mailto:tmulcair@videotron.ca> ; DEPUTE Russell Williams <mailto:russell.williams/depute/pl@assnat.qc.ca> ; DEPUTE Pierre Marsan <mailto:pierre.marsan/depute/pl@assnat.qc.ca> ; DEPUTE Geoff Kelley <mailto:gkelley@iti.qc.ca>
Cc: Jim2 Banks <mailto:jbanks@cae.ca>
Sent: December 4, 2000 2:39 AM
Subject: Public meeting at Kirkland city hall / human-appropriate politicalscale

Geoff Kelly, Russell Williams, Pierre Marsan,

I attended the public meeting on Forced municipal mergers at Kirkland City Hall on Sunday. I appreciate the many perspectives which I heard expressing love and human values in our community. Thank you for your efforts to raise this vital democratic issue in our region.

If you will remember the tone of some of the presentations including one from the north shore (Mascouche? Russell Williams responded) put much emphasis on the leadership of our elected deputies. I am afraid that the presenter did not give you all the credit for the extraordinary work in which you are constantly involved on our behalf in multiple and essential domains. One way to have restructured this meeting to emphasize citizen initiative would have been to have placed the seating in the Kirkland council chambers in concentric circles. The hall is designed for this feature. Circles puts the participants in visual association with each other equal to yourselves as convenors. This visual contact helps participants as well in hearing and associating with the many initiatives presented. This first nation meeting practice puts all citizens in a fundamentally prominent place.

In Australia on this Sunday over 350,000 people in the cities of Adelaide (50,000) and Brisbane (300,000) marched in solidarity for 'Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples'. The nation of Australia is beginning to understand their own sustainability as inextricably linked with First Nations reconciliation.

Here is the written text of my own presentation at Kirkland:

My name is Douglas Jack, coordinator of the Eco-Montreal Tiotiake Green Mapping project. This project is joint between the Sustainable Development Association/ Association du développement durable and the McGill University School of Urban Planning/ Ecole d'urbanisme. In the last six years we have created a computer mapping database for the greater region of Montreal TIOTIAKE. Recently we have produced mapping for the West Island of Montreal in a Coordinated Conservation project. I invite any individuals or groups to participate in expanding this mapping or to use our computer mapping and database tools for presentation of their organization's data geographically. Our goal is to provide green mapping tools for better communication of social and environmental perspectives by groups and communities.

I wish to express my own reservations about continuing with the status quo. As West Islanders we need to take greater responsibility for effects of our lifestyle. To present just two examples, We

are the greatest per capita contributors to air pollution in downtown Montreal which is causing epidemic rates of asthma and allergies on an order similar to Toronto's one billion dollar medical and lost work time expenses. We are the greatest regional per capita domestic garbage producers. We have had a major role in filling our own Meloch quarries and Miron much to the detriment of local communities. We are much greater garbage producers per capita than Montrealers. We can not expect to continue download these costs onto Montreal. It is important that we approach this dialogue with respect for the legitimate concerns of Montrealers and perhaps leave our outrage at the door.

I believe in local democracy and the need for **municipal** sovereignty but that we will achieve this through taking **greater** responsibility for our own and regional affairs. In this light, **we need systematic regional governance and involvement of citizens but within principles of human-appropriate political scales.**

The best examples of systematic governance, which build from the individual to worldwide levels, can be found in First Nation's practices such as the Iroquois league. If you are interested, I will gladly provide research related to indigenous systems of time based community accounting, democracy, communications and other factors relevant to indigenous systematic governance. One of our goals can be to become an indigenous people in our time.

We are living on stolen land with a legacy that will continue to haunt ourselves and future generations. By the end of the seventeenth century, European soldiers accompanied by dogs had systematically hunted down First Nation men, women and children in village after village on the island of Montreal. One of Eco-Montreal's maps includes native village and place names throughout the region. We need to address our roots before we will come to understand sustainability in this greater Montreal region, called "TIOTIAKE" from the Kanienke'haka for "Place where the nations and their rivers unite and divide." We have yet to establish our legitimacy. We have much to learn from first nation communities.

Thank you,

Douglas Jack, eco-montreal@mcgill.ca <<mailto:eco-montreal@mcgill.ca>> 695-3845 and 364-0599

Subject: LOI ANTI-MUNICIPALITE 170
Date: Sat, 25 Nov 2000 13:26:11 -0500
From: Louis Lapierre <lelapierre@sympatico.ca>
Organization: bell retiree
To: pmarsan@www.assnat.qc.ca

MONSIEUR:

SUITE A VOTRE LETTRE DU 15 COURANT JE VOUS SOUMET AU NOM DE NOTRE FAMILLE NOTRE DESACCORD AVEC LE PROJET DE LOI 170.

POUR NOUS IL S'AGIT DE:

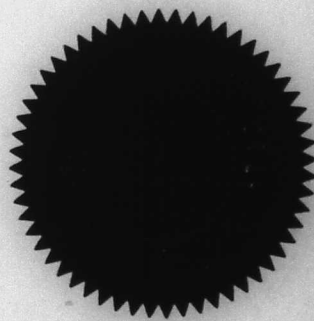
- 1- PERDRE NOTRE IDENTITE COMME RESIDENTS D'UNE MUNICIPALITE BIEN ADMINISTREE, ET OU NOUS CONNAISSONS LES DIRIGEANTS.
- 2- D'ALLER A L'ENCONTRE DE LA DEMOCRATIE FONDAMENTALE, ET DE LA VOLONTE DE LA MAJORITE.
- 3-DE SE VOIR CONTAINTE A DES TAXES SUPPLEMENTAIRES DU A LA MAUVAISE ADMINISTRATION DE MONTREAL.
- 4- NOUS AURONS UNE REPRESENTATION DERISOIRE DANS LE CADRE DES ARRONDISSEMENTS.

NOUS VOUS REMERCIONS DE NOUS AVOIR OFFERT L'OCCASION DE FAIRE VALOIR NOTRE POINT DE VUE.

D.D.O., QC

LOUIS LAPIERRE

(514) 683-7642



Document 19-de 26

December 3, 2000

Mr. Marcel Morin,
Mayor,
Ville de Pierrefonds,
13665, Pierrefonds Blvd.,
Pierrefonds, Quebec H9A 2Z4

Subject: Bill 170

Dear Sir:

I am responding to the circular letter you sent to all citizens of Pierrefonds towards the end of November. It was time for you to communicate with those who elected you to the Office of Mayor. The citizens of Pierrefonds have been extremely frustrated these past few months.

Without consulting with us, you decided to sit alone, to exclude yourself from all other communities on the Island of Montreal while our future was being thrown about. You never gave us any opportunity to tell you what course of **action we wanted you to take**. You have excluded us from public consultation as Premier Bouchard has done. Two peas in a pod... your political affiliation thus quite obvious to the citizens of Pierrefonds. You were obligated by law to respect the opinions of the electorate no matter their political affiliation.

As our elected representative, you were not given a mandate to fly solo on the issue of mergers. Premier Bouchard never received a mandate either. Strange how you both think alike!

How upsetting for citizens like myself who signed a petition in another community because you did not even provide us with that basic democratic right! How upsetting to attend a rally at Fairview and not see one elected official from Pierrefonds to represent us! How did you manage to silence all our City Councillors? Do you run the City of Pierrefonds like Pierre Bourque runs Montreal?

I, and thousands of Pierrefonds citizens disagree with your decision not to consult with us sooner on such an important issue. I am appalled at how you ask us to approve or disapprove the way you have handled the issue on the voters' slip. You ask, 1) "Do you support Pierrefonds Council in our approach?" THE ANSWER IS **NO**, BECAUSE YOU ARE ACTING ALONE; 2) "To see to it that our local powers are maintained, that our territory is not divided and that we can have a stronger representation on the New City's council?" THE ANSWER IS **YES**, BUT WE SHOULD BE STRIVING FOR SUCH A RESULT TOGETHER WITH ALL OTHER SUBURBAN CITIZENS.

You wrote a two-part question as a single question. It is obvious that you were attempting to mislead the citizens of Pierrefonds. The 'question' was written to confuse the citizens to answer YES. This is a very dishonest way of getting approval for the undemocratic path you have chosen in dealing with the Government.

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL! One small municipality cannot change the Government's will to eliminate local democracy. Each community stands to lose so much even if only one of its members decides to bargain alone. You must fight together. Premier Bouchard has divided so many Quebecers since he has been in power. I can't believe that you think you will get a fair settlement from him by going alone.

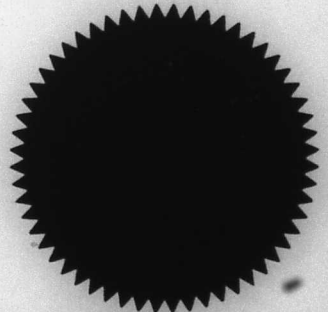
Premier Bouchard has hung his friends out to dry. Do you think he will treat you kindly for desisting yourself from the actions of the majority? He will do the same to you, that's his style, he is morally corrupt!

Yours truly,

PJ

Copy

Paulette Laroche Zielinski
12765 Monk Blvd.
Pierrefonds H8Z 1T9



N^o 1650-2000/215
document 19 de 26**Bill 170 Forced Mergers and Pierrefonds**

The economical objectives of municipal mergers at first glance appear to make sense and for many people provide justification for reducing the number of towns and cities in Quebec. As long as its not happening to the town you live in.

The advantages appear particularly attractive for a city like mine, Pierrefonds.

A city with very little industrial or commercial tax revenues,

A city, dependent on continuous new home developments as its only source of new income.

A city geographically fragmented with unique service problems.

A city with the highest tax rate in the West Island community as a result of these peculiarities.

A city sharing municipal limits with seven other towns, each with their own particular by-laws not necessarily compatible with each other.

Municipal reform could correct some of these challenges.

However Bill 170 WILL DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

Reducing the number of elected representatives in Pierrefonds from 11 to 3, will not increase the effectiveness nor do much to lower overall expenses. In fact, I expect the opposite, as well as a widening gap between the people and their LOCAL government.

With taxation under the full control of the Nouvelle Ville and the fiscal bureaucracy, our elected representatives will have little influence, if any on how much we get to pay for living in a free society.

Reduced representatives and less control on taxes....History records countries revolting for similar abuse.

The proposed legislation can be argumentatively described as bad or very bad, but the strong-arm process being used to push it through is downright undemocratic and disrespectful of the basic principles we embrace as free people.

Ce projet de loi créera, a mon sens, deux classes de citoyens au Quebec; ceux ayant choisi de vivre a l'intérieur d'un grand centre Metropolitain sans appartenance a la communauté ou ayant peu d'influence au politiques locales et les autres qui choisiront de vivre en région éloigné, isole mais libre et écouté par ces élus. C'est triste de penser ainsi mais vous seriez surpris du nombre de personnes qui m'ont dit qu'ils songeraient déménager afin d'éviter a avoir a payer des dettes réalisé par des administrateurs d'une autre ville.

While I find unacceptable the possibilities for my town with this proposed most undemocratic legislation, I am very concerned for our larger community, the West Island.

Reform should improve our life circumstances but not attached to a price tag like BILL 170. We can't afford it nor should we borrow from past and future generations to pay for it.

Past (and current) generations who built the base for the quality of life West Islanders have inherited.

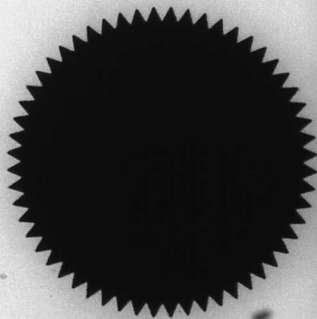
If municipalities couldn't always get along, people did. The spirit of volunteerism is prevalent in our community. Initiatives like "Partage Action\ West Island Share", Resto-vie, and countless others develop and thrive because of an attitude that nurtures it, a community attitude that takes care of its people.

With the current Montreal mayor, Mr. Bourque, the objective is to spread out the richness to more needy communities. I don't expect that West Island will be getting a whole lot of attention for quite a while.

I understand that a Liberal government would offer our towns the choice to go back to current municipal status and I expect that will also bring its share of controversy. Yes I want to keep my town intact. But if I can't, PLEASE FIND A WAY TO PRESERVE OUR LARGER COMMUNITY, THE ONE WITH THE ATTITUDE.

Je rejette le projet de loi 170 et les fusions forcees.
No to forced mergers and BILL 170.

Rene G. LeBlanc
Conseiller / Councillor
District 6
Pierrefonds.



West Island Express COURRIER

Messageries Airway

27 NOV. 2000

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N^o 1650-JAN 1215

document 20 de 26

23/November/2000

Honorable, Deputy GEORGEY KELLY for Jacques-Cartier

Dear Sir,

With this letter, I would like to take the opportunity to express my opinion.

To leave our municipalities as they ^{are} presently, with full control on local matters, services, zoning, recreation, taxes etc and not to be replaced by boroughs across the island of Montreal.

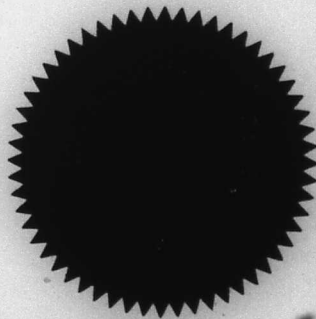
Your help and support on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



EMMANUEL LEYLEM.

LEYLEM.



NOV | 20 | 2000

41 Chester ave

Sainte Claire Quebec

H9R 4J2

29 NOV. 2000

Tel 514-697-0294

Fax 514-697-0294

The Hon Geoffrey Kelley

MNA for Jacques Cartier

475 Ave Duvent

Bureau 100

Dowal Quebec

H9S 5W2

Dear Mr Kelley

There are two things that
made me feel at this P. Q. Government

(2)

Over the past month, and they are
I am a retired Federal government
Employee and we have been fighting
to have our Dental care Program
extended to retired Employees and
we finally got it effective Jan 1/2001
we pay 40% and the Federal government
pay 60% of the Premium and
we have to pay 9% Quebec Sales tax
& Deduct the Amount paid by the Federal
government but there is ~~no~~ GST and
Income tax to the Federal government
this government seems to want to everything
they can get their hands on, the other
thing that we really annoyed me

(3)

Is the P.G. Government's Plan Bill
170 to put all Municipal Governments
On the Island under a Mega City
of Montreal with no say over taxes
& how they are spent & on top
of this run by P.G. Appointed
Administrators what kind of a
Democracy are we living in, taxation
without representation this is totally
unacceptable and the Municipalities
affected have voted 90 or 95% against
this Bill but Mr Bouchard says
He will ignore us and push it
through to the Legislature
we live in a well administered city

(4)

Mr Pointe Claire And we balance
Our Budgets so please explain to
me Why we stand to loose our
Status as an independant City

If the City of Montreal has a financial
problem let them solve ^{it} but why
should we suffer.

we already have an Umbrella Administrator
Called the M. V. C this is as far
I want to go

This government has to be made to
understand they can not continue
loading more taxes & expenditures
on to us we can not take any
more

(5)

I listened to Mr Bowdler speak
to a Bloc Rally on Sunday and
this man scares me He plays
with people's emotions and emotions
are a dangerous thing it is not
a water tap you can turn on or off
My question is How many ridings
on the Island of Montreal & the South
Shore affected by Bill 17C have
P Q M L A 's ? this tells us
something

we never thought of moving to Ontario
but what is happening here is terrible
with this government is making us
think about it very seriously

(6)

The way the Electoral seats are
Arranged in this Province, the
People in the small ridings in
the County have more say than
the ~~majority~~ on the Island of
Montreal and the South Shore
this is the P. Q. strength, so they
do not care what they do to us
I sometimes wonder why we have
a Federal Bill of Rights and Constitution
that permits Provincial governments
to go against the will of the people
what we have is High taxes
an unstable Political situation
Oppressive Language Laws and

⑦

And a Gausing Medicare system
My wife has to have an ultra sound
and the Earliest available is
late February 2001 and a specialist
not available until late January 2001
Hospital Emergency rooms are
overflowing as well as private
clinics, God Help you if you
get Cancer in this Province
we do not mind paying those High
costs if we get services for them
but this is ridiculous

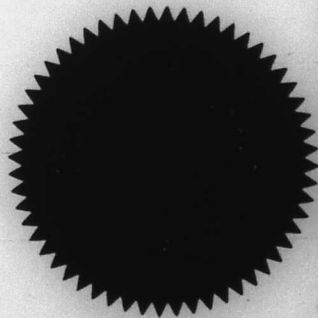
(8)

I am sorry I have the good feelings
about this government on
to you but your party is our only
hope

Please give the P & G's a rough
time on Bill 170 and try to
stop it if you can

Sincerely

John Mc Anulty
JOHN MC ANULTY,





NO 1650-20001815
document 28 de 26

OFFICE MUNICIPAL D'HABITATION DE POINTE-CLAIRE

35 Maywood, Pointe-Claire (Qc) H9R 5A6
Téléphone: (514) 695-7679 Télécopieur: (514) 695-2611

Message aux directeurs des offices municipaux.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Les membres du Conseil d'administration de l'Office municipal de Pointe-Claire, appuyé par la Ville Pointe-Claire désirent vous faire part de leurs intentions en ce qui concerne le volet du logement social à l'intérieur de la réforme municipale et des fusions de notre secteur.

Dans un premier choix,

Nous favorisons un scénario privilégiant la gestion du logement social au niveau de l'arrondissement et ce, sans contrainte reliée à la taille du parc immobilier.

Nous considérons que la gestion du logement social se doit d'être PROCHE pour le besoin du citoyen. Le succès de ce service repose sur la proximité du service offert, donc à l'intérieur de l'arrondissement.

Cependant,

Nous accepterions d'envisager toute forme de regroupement pourvu que cette fusion soit limitée à l'arrondissement de l'Ouest de l'île.

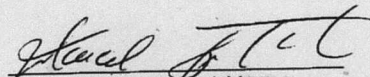
Ainsi nous pourrions demeurer au service de nos concitoyens, maintenir une administration souple, gérée efficacement, et peu coûteuse pour les contribuables de nos arrondissements (Ouest de l'île).

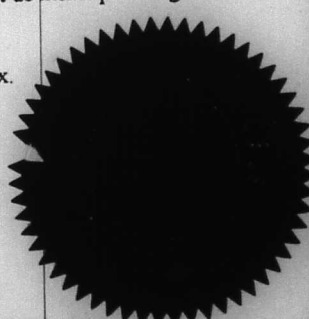
De plus,

Nous tenons à préciser que nous acceptons d'emblée le principe de développer obligatoirement un fonds pour la création de nouvelles unités en logement social car nous considérons ce service indispensable pour assurer un toit à nos concitoyens les plus démunis que ce soit des familles, des personnes âgées ou encore des personnes en perte d'autonomie.

Ainsi, les membres du Conseil d'administration de l'Office municipal de Pointe-Claire appuyé par la direction de la Ville s'associent à votre réflexion visant à créer une structure de logement social propre aux besoins de nos concitoyens de nos arrondissements. Nous croyons que l'atteinte d'une qualité optimale des services est étroitement reliée au milieu où sont dispensés ses services et il en est de même pour la gestion.

Mesdames, Messieurs, recevez l'expression de nos sentiments les plus cordiaux.


Marcel Montpetit, président



**OFFICE MUNICIPAL D'HABITATION DE POINTE-CLAIRE**

35 Maywood, Pointe-Claire (Qc) H9R 5A6
Téléphone: (514) 695-7679 Télécopieur: (514) 695-2611

TÉLÉCOPIE :**DATE :****29 novembre 2000****DESTINATAIRE :**

M. Geoffrey Kelly
Député à l'Assemblée Nationale
631-2799

DE :

Micheline Boyer
directeur

NOMBRE DE PAGE(S) :**12 (incluant celle-ci)****SUJET :**

MÉMOIRE
Directeurs des
Offices municipaux
(l'Île de Montréal).

MESSAGE :

M. Kelly,
Voici la copie du mémoire préparé par les directeurs des offices municipaux dont le logement social réside sur l'île de Montréal. Sous la bannière de « *notre association des directeurs d'offices municipaux du Québec* », il sera acheminé aujourd'hui aux membres de la commission parlementaire.

Merci de votre collaboration.
Micheline Boyer, directeur.



**Association des directeurs
d'offices municipaux
d'habitation du Québec**

O.M.H. de Alma
412, rue Collard ouest, bureau 102
Alma (Québec) G8B 1N2
Téléphone : (418) 662-6640
Télécopieur : (418) 668-8785

Le 29 novembre 2000

Aux membres de la Commission parlementaire

Mesdames,
Messieurs,

L'Association des directeurs d'Offices municipaux d'habitation du Québec existe depuis 1982 et regroupe près de 290 directeurs gérant un parc immobilier de plus 60 000 logements destinés à des familles et personnes âgées à faible revenu.

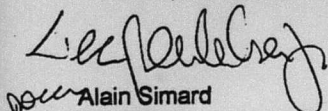
Notre Association, à la demande de ses membres de l'île de Montréal, accepta de mandater ces derniers à vous déposer un mémoire dans le cadre de la réforme municipale touchant l'île de Montréal.

Les directeurs des Offices municipaux d'habitation d'Anjou, Dorval, Lachine, LaSalle, Montréal, Montréal-Nord, Outremont, Pointe-Claire, Saint-Laurent, Saint-Léonard, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Ste-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds et Verdun se sont réunis afin de vous proposer une structure de gestion du logement social pour l'île de Montréal.

L'expertise de ces gestionnaires facilitera, nous l'espérons, la tâche des élus dans leur prise de décision quant à l'avenir de la gestion du logement social sur l'île de Montréal.

Je laisse place à mes collègues de l'île afin qu'ils puissent vous faire part de leur consensus.

Recevez, Mesdames et Messieurs, l'expression de mes meilleurs sentiments.


pour Alain Simard
Président
Directeur, O.M.H. de Alma

**PROJET DE LOI
PORTANT RÉFORME DE
L'ORGANISATION TERRITORIALE MUNICIPALE
DES RÉGIONS MÉTROPOLITAINES
DE MONTRÉAL, DE QUÉBEC ET DE L'OUTAOUAIS**

MÉMOIRE

**ASSOCIATION DES DIRECTEURS
D'OFFICES MUNICIPAUX
D'HABITATION DU QUÉBEC**

Le 29 novembre 2000

Mesdames,
Messieurs,

Il existe sur l'île de Montréal près de 24 000 logements sociaux destinés à des familles et personnes âgées à faible revenu.

Ces locataires sont issus d'un milieu économique défavorisé. La pauvreté économique est rarement seule, elle s'accompagne souvent de différents maux. Ces citoyens ont besoin d'un toit mais également de services, dispensés par des groupes communautaires et CLSC, pour espérer une amélioration de leur qualité de vie.

Les directeurs des OMH de l'île de Montréal sont fort conscients de cette situation et ont su tisser des liens étroits avec leurs associations de locataires, groupes communautaires et CLSC de leur milieu pour pallier aux problèmes sociaux engendrés par la pauvreté.

Les directeurs des OMH de l'île de Montréal, dans le cadre du projet de loi 170, vous font part de leur proposition quant à la nouvelle structure de gestion du logement social sur leur île. Cette structure se fonde sur l'obligation d'offrir un service de qualité qui, par sa nature, se doit d'être près du citoyen. Un service de qualité proche du citoyen mais également acceptable en terme de coûts financiers aux différents paliers gouvernementaux qui seront appelés à financer les déficits d'exploitation des logements sociaux.

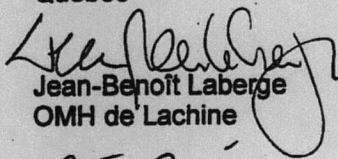
.../2

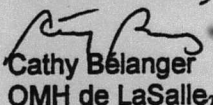
/2

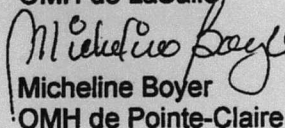
Les prochaines pages de notre mémoire vous décriront cette structure de gestion. Nous espérons que celle-ci saura recueillir un large consensus auprès des autres intervenants en logement social.

Bonne lecture.

Pour l'Association des directeurs d'Offices municipaux d'habitation du Québec


Jean-Benoît Laberge
OMH de Lachine


Cathy Bélanger
OMH de LaSalle


Micheline Boyer
OMH de Pointe-Claire

OMH Lachine
1830, rue Duff Court, app. 103
Lachine (Québec) H8S 1C8
Téléphone : (514) 634-7289
Télécopieur : (514) 634-2986

OMH LaSalle
760, rue Gamelin
LaSalle (Québec) H8P 3L6
Téléphone : (514) 384-2382
Télécopieur : (514) 384-6026

OMH Pointe-Claire
35, avenue Maywood
Pointe-Claire (Québec) H9R 5A6
Téléphone : (514) 695-7879
Télécopieur : (514) 695-2611

NOTRE CLIENTÈLE, LES CENTRES DE SERVICES, UN OMH-UNE VILLE, UNE ÎLE!

Les directeurs des OMH n'ont pas le mandat de remettre en question la démarche politique du regroupement des municipalités. Notre mandat est de gérer du logement social en conformité avec les lois qui régissent notre secteur d'activités. Cela sous-entend également de mettre à profit nos connaissances de gestion aux bénéfices des décideurs publics. Ce que nous vous proposons est le fruit d'un très large consensus entre collègues directeurs de l'île de Montréal.

Nous débuterons l'explication de notre scénario par sa base et progresserons dans l'organigramme de gestion.

NOTRE CLIENTÈLE

Nous gérons l'habitat de plus de 20 000 ménages locataires, familles et personnes retraitées. La population que nous desservons doit bien équivaloir à la population d'une ville de la taille de Trois-Rivières, voire plus. Ajoutons à ces plus de 20 000 ménages, la gestion de près de 10 000 demandes de familles et personnes âgées en attente d'un logement à loyer modique.

L'ensemble de cette population nécessite un logement à loyer modique et des services de soutien pour lutter contre les affres de la pauvreté. Au cours des ans, nous avons facilité et implanté des services de support pour la lutte contre la pauvreté, tels que repas gratuits aux jeunes écoliers, support aux devoirs et leçons, repas communautaires pour les personnes âgées, ententes de services avec des groupes communautaires œuvrant en santé, physique et mentale, etc. La liste pourrait s'allonger indéfiniment.

Nous croyons profondément que les services reliés au logement et les inévitables services communautaires qui se greffent à la vie quotidienne de nos locataires et requérants doivent se donner au niveau le plus près du citoyen, dans le cas présent, au niveau de l'arrondissement.

LES CENTRES DE SERVICES

Pour que nous puissions demeurer près de notre monde, être toujours à l'écoute de leurs besoins et continuer à tisser des liens privilégiés avec les différents groupes communautaires pour faciliter la juste distribution de services, il doit y avoir plusieurs centres de services. A l'aide de l'organigramme annexé, le lecteur peut prendre connaissance des fonctions qu'auront à assumer ces centres.

Un centre de services, niveau II dans l'organigramme, dessert le territoire d'un arrondissement.

Taille minimale des centres de services

Fort conscients qu'il est nécessaire d'avoir une structure permettant des économies d'échelle de gestion et une masse critique de logements afin d'offrir plus de services, il y a lieu que ces centres de services aient à administrer un parc immobilier d'une taille minimale de 1000 logements. Conséquemment, certains centres de services de niveau II pourront desservir plus d'un arrondissement. Il est fort probable qu'il existera, compte tenu de notre parc immobilier et des territoires des arrondissements, environ une dizaine de centres de services à la grandeur de l'île de Montréal.

Comité consultatif

Chaque centre de services de niveau II devra être doté d'un conseil consultatif formé de gestionnaires, de locataires et d'organismes socio-communautaires issus du milieu. Ainsi, en plus de s'assurer de la qualité de gestion, ce comité pourra favoriser un accroissement de liens plus étroits entre les organismes communautaires et le centre de services. Il pourra ainsi faciliter une juste distribution de services dans le milieu pour mieux lutter contre les symptômes reliés à la pauvreté.

Le comité de sélection des locataires et les territoires de sélection

Chaque centre de services est doté d'un comité de sélection des locataires dont le mandat est le même que celui que nous retrouvons actuellement dans les offices municipaux d'habitation.

Le logement social étant un service de proximité, le dépôt d'une demande de logement à loyer modique se fera dans le centre de services du territoire de résidence du demandeur. Le centre de services informera le requérant de la pondération de son dossier.

Si le demandeur désire habiter dans un autre arrondissement que le sien ou encore dans une autre ville de la Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, son centre de services prendra la demande de logement du demandeur et l'acheminera au centre de services du territoire choisi ou à l'office municipal d'habitation de la ville concernée. Ce sera un de ces derniers qui évaluera alors la demande de logement du demandeur et l'informerá de la pondération de son dossier.

La performance financière

La création de ces centres de services, en plus de favoriser une meilleure réponse aux besoins de nos locataires et requérants en attente de logement, permettra d'évaluer plus facilement notre performance financière.

En effet, la création d'environ une dizaine de centres de services sur l'île de Montréal fera en sorte que ceux-ci seront appelés à gérer un parc immobilier dont la taille sera similaire à celles de Québec, Longueuil, Hull-Gatineau, Laval, Trois-Rivières et Sherbrooke.

Ainsi, tant l'office municipal d'habitation que ses mandataires pourront mieux analyser la performance financière de chacun et voir, s'il y a lieu, à apporter les correctifs nécessaires.

UN OFFICE MUNICIPAL D'HABITATION, UNE VILLE

Il devra exister un OMH pour la Ville de Montréal qui sera l'employeur de tous les employés travaillant dans les centres de services.

Cet office sera doté d'un conseil d'administration composé de représentants municipaux, de locataires et de représentants issus des groupes socioéconomiques.

Les fonctions de cet OMH seront bien sûr l'élaboration des grandes politiques de gestion afin d'assurer à ses mandataires qu'il remplit adéquatement son mandat.

L'office devra jouer un rôle de support pour les centres de services de niveau II. C'est au niveau I de l'organigramme que nous retrouvons ces différentes fonctions de support. Celles-ci regroupent, entre autres, les services suivants :

- les ressources humaines : dotation, formation, négociation de conventions collectives, etc.;
- les supports techniques : informatique et améliorations majeures aux immeubles;
- les finances : élaboration des normes budgétaires globales, vérification, regroupement d'achats;
- développement : élaboration de politique de gestion, développement de nouveaux programmes d'habitation en logement social, etc.

Bref, le niveau I de notre organigramme correspondra à la maison mère du logement social sur l'île.

UNE ÎLE

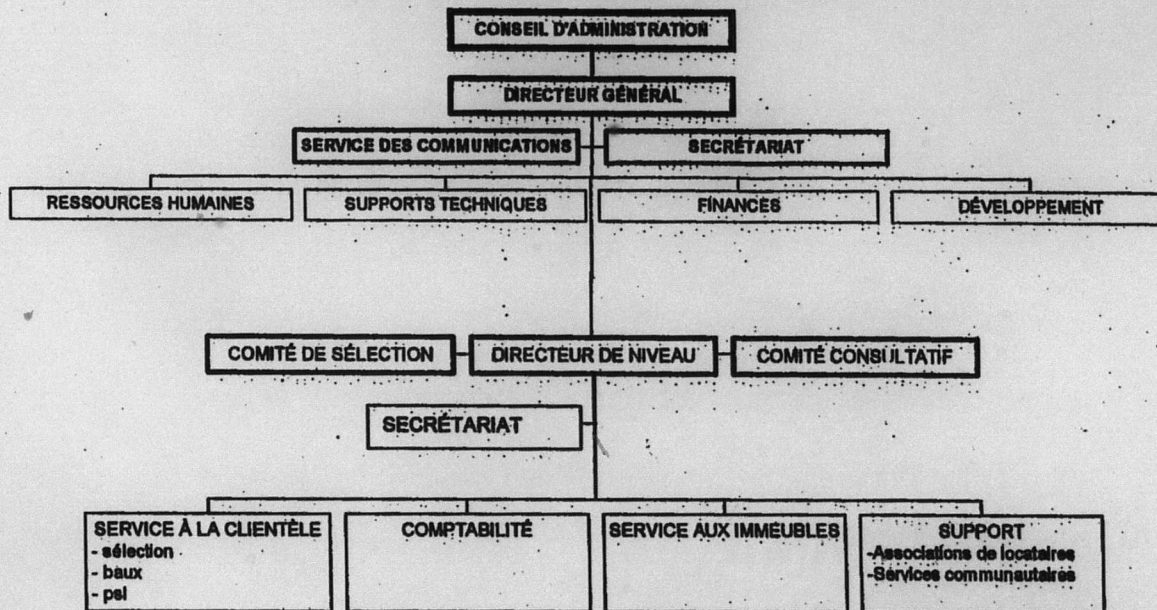
Les directeurs des offices municipaux d'habitation de l'île de Montréal n'ont pas le mandat de se prononcer sur le regroupement des villes. La politique municipale relève des élus et nous, nous sommes des gestionnaires.

Toutefois, nous sommes conscients que le contenu de la loi, que l'État adoptera à la fin de ce processus de consultation, aura des conséquences sur la gestion du logement social et la clientèle que nous desservons.

Veuillez être assurés que les directeurs des offices municipaux d'habitation de l'île de Montréal seront présents pour assurer une transition en douceur et travailleront de bonne foi à ce que la solution retenue soit la meilleure.

OFFICE MUNICIPAL D'HABITATION DE MONTRÉAL

NIVEAU
I



NIVEAU
II *

* Le centre de services de niveau II sera présent dans tous les arrondissements ou groupe d'arrondissements ayant au moins 1000 unités de logement.

NO 1650-2001/215
document 23 de 21

The Town of Baie d'Urfé had its beginnings in 1686 when François Saturnin Lascaris d'Urfé de Baugé, a French missionary of the Sulpician order, established a mission on what is known today as Caron Point. Few towns in the whole of North America can trace their beginnings back so far.

Looking at Baie d'Urfé today, it's difficult to realize that once dense forest covered the area, friendly Indians camped on the lakeshore and unfriendly Indians slaughtered Baie d'Urfé's first residents down where the Coop or Red Barn now stands.

With the last war whoop of the Iroquois, peace and quiet came to the area and the forest gradually disappeared - Morgan Arboretum is the only remnant of any size left.

Now, with one stroke of the pen - and with no public consultation nor citizen involvement, Bill 170 will put an end to the town of Baie d'Urfé

One of the most glaring shortcomings of the plan for reorganizing Montreal is its failure to give any logical reason for abolishing the island's eight smallest towns.

The Bernard Report candidly acknowledged that we (as one of the huit petites) contain no intrinsic defects. The argument is that our small size deserves no place in the proposed megacity on Montreal Island.

Well, we don't agree. We deserve a place and we're going to do whatever it takes to fight for that place.

No one has been able to explain to us how the disappearance of Baie d'Urfé, a community founded in 1686, would contribute to the enhancement of the City of Montreal.

No one, at least to my knowledge, questions the quality of life and services in Baie d'Urfé – So, why wipe us off the map with just one stroke of the pen? We believe that the government of Québec should protect the communities that are well run – instead of steamrolling them out of existence.

Madame Harel argues that we don't pay our share for services provided by the City of Montreal. Rubbish. What about the \$400 million the suburbs contribute to the M.U.C.? For that \$400 million we, collectively, the suburbs that is, receive \$250 million in services rendered – (police, water purification, evaluation, etc.). The other \$150 million goes to the City of Montreal.

Baie d'Urfé residents, on average, pay \$1,756 on their tax bill to the M.U.C. and Montreal residents contribute \$433.

Baie d'Urfé today covers roughly nine square miles. Our population numbers 3,971, still under the 4,100 in the early 70's. But, we're not just a bedroom community. We have a rapidly

(3)

expanding Industrial Park which employs 4,000 (more than our population). Total number of residences is 1,300. Each house in town is by law, built on a 15,000 square foot lot. This, and the town's zoning by-laws have a lot to do with establishing and maintaining the character of Baie d'Urfé. The zoning by-law, for instance, doesn't allow the same type of house to be built within five hundred feet of each other. The law even goes so far as to prohibit the same style or color of roof from appearing on adjacent houses. This has prevented tract development from marring Baie d'Urfé as so often happens.

Our town is a community that is essentially run by volunteers. We have a small, capable administration and public works' department (22 only) whose members belong to our 33-member strong, Volunteer Fire Department – but "volunteer" does not mean they're not professionals – I'd put them up against any paid group any time – in fact we have, and in a province-wide competition, they were top winners. In an international worldwide competition, our firefighters placed 8th – the only "volunteers" to be ranked in the top ten.

The library is staffed by volunteers – 6 days/evenings per week.

Our recreation activities are also based mainly on the contributions of our volunteers. Citizens of the town have always been public minded and donate much of their time and energies to the activities of the community – which include

(4)

tennis, swimming, soccer, baseball and hockey. And then there's the Baie d'Urfé Yacht Club which runs a Junior Squadron to teach children and teenagers to sail. The oldest continuing regatta in Canada had its start in 1887, when three boats raced off Beaurepaire. This event became the Baie d'Urfé-Beaurepaire Regatta and continues today as the Ishkooda Cup race.

And that's how we manage to keep our tax rate the lowest in the M.U.C.

Our volunteers have been closely involved in the development of Baie d'Urfé so feel an ownership pride in the Town. It's their town in every sense.

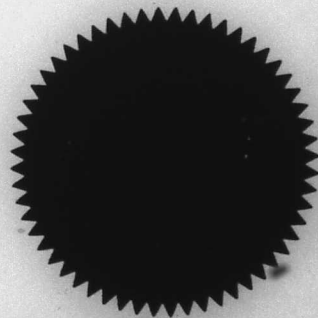
With all that history and background it is quite obvious that Baie d'Urfé is vehemently opposed to any form of amalgamation, fusion or "one island, one city" concept. In fact, we believe we already have amalgamation with the 28 municipalities which make up the M.U.C. Through the M.U.C., we provide and pay for police services, public transportation, sewage disposal, evaluation and air quality control. Forty-seven percent (47%) of our \$7.5 million budget this year went to the M.U.C. to pay for these services. More amalgamation we don't need - we can't afford it.

A journalist once wrote, as a heading for an article on Baie d'Urfé - "Small, charming and sophisticated". For once, I felt the

press got it right! I think he should have added - "Baie d'Urfé -
the jewel of the West Island".

Anne Myles

November 30, 2000



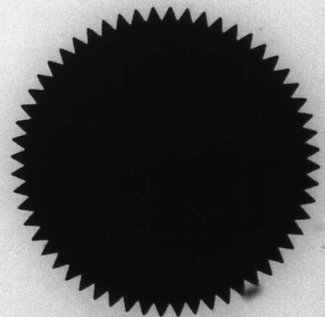
Brief on Bill 170

**An act to reform the municipal territorial organization of the
metropolitan regions of Montreal, Quebec and Outaouais**

Submitted by:

**alliance
quebec**

December 2000



Alliance Quebec Brief on Bill 170

Introduction

Alliance Quebec welcomes the opportunity to present our concerns on Bill 170 – *An act to reform the municipal territorial organization of the metropolitan regions of Montreal, Quebec and Outaouais*. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Quebec Liberal MNA's for undertaking this initiative to ensure that all Quebecers have an opportunity to publicly express their views on Bill 170. We would note that we have made an effort to be included in the hearings before the National Assembly commission studying the law and like so many others who oppose the Bill, have not been accepted to be heard.

The Parti Quebecois and the Nationalist movement in general, takes great pains to demonstrate that Quebec is a democratic society, and that democracy and the rule of law are paramount here. In our view the current Government of Quebec never ran on a platform advocating municipal mergers. And while the PQ does hold a majority of seats in the National Assembly, it is also a fact that they did not even obtain a plurality of votes in the last election. In fact if we look at the voting patterns of the municipalities affected by Bill 170, the PQ was beaten soundly in most of them. That is certainly the case on the Island of Montreal, and in the Outaouais region. If they even thought that they had any semblance of support in the Quebec City region, that argument was firmly put to rest last Monday with the defeat of Bloc candidates in Quebec City suburbs. Furthermore, they have held no meaningful public consultation on the issue. Indeed the same government that believes that Quebec should be able to secede from Canada on a 50% plus one vote on a nebulous question is now refusing to respect the over 95% votes against forced mergers held in many Quebec municipalities such as Montreal West, Hampstead, Westmount, Baie d'Urfe and Anjou. And they are refusing demands by many others to hold local referenda, because they know that they would lose by similar margins. **THAT IS THEIR VERSION OF DEMOCRACY BUT IT IS NOT OURS!**

We are convinced that an important part of the government's motivation for this undemocratic legislation, is to diminish the political voice of regions and populations that have voted against it consistently in the past. These regions are sure to continue voting against it in the future. Many of these same municipalities have also dared to declare their desires to remain Canadian – among the most bitter of pills that the separatists have had to swallow, and a driving force behind the federal government's Clarity Act. And so the best word that we can use to describe this legislation is **vindictive**.

The PQ government's intention to impose these mergers on municipalities where mayors, councillors and residents have openly and publicly objected to them as outlined in Bill 170 is cause for great concern to all Quebecers. We must ensure that the concerns of the residents who live in affected areas **are** addressed, that their needs **are** met and that their voices **are heard**.

Let me state from the outset that the *only* version of Bill 170 that would be acceptable to **Alliance Quebec** is one where the legislation is withdrawn completely. That being said however, we must be realistic enough to realise that the PQ does not appear to have any interest in listening to its population. I would warn them that any government,

anywhere in the world, which ignores the kinds of public manifestations that have already taken place, that are happening even as we speak this afternoon on the South Shore, and what we expect will occur next week downtown, does so at its own peril.

Areas of Particular Concern

The Bernard Report suggested that local communities would survive in the Bouchard/Bourque island-wide city. This quickly dissipated with Bill 170. Rather than the quasi-municipalities that the Bernard report envisaged, the boroughs outlined in Bill 170 would be no more than districts of the City of Montreal. The smallest eight municipalities will be completely eliminated as they are merged with neighboring towns. Years of history, community spirit and pride, volunteerism and the "village-like" atmosphere of those municipalities will disappear completely.

The limited powers envisioned for these boroughs are limited still further by subjecting them to plans developed by the City of Montreal. This is the case when it comes to economic development or fire prevention. The local borough would have power of local parks and local roads... unless the central City decides that they are under its jurisdiction. In addition, local boroughs would have no taxation powers. Therefore they would be dependant on the City of Montreal for transfer payments to fund local services. Most likely, less money would be made available to buy more books for suburban libraries or equipment for suburban facilities since they are now so much better equipped than those in the City of Montreal. Road repair and snow clearing services would also deteriorate to levels resembling the Lowest Common Denominator i.e. The current City of Montreal. And since taxation is run by the City, tax bills and documentation will no longer be bilingual. We believe that only by allowing some taxation authority to remain with the boroughs can we be assured that sufficient levels of funding will be in place to maintain a proper level of municipal services locally.

There will be a lack of local elected representatives to address residents' issues. For example, when the cities Dollard and Roxboro are merged into one borough, the number of City Councillors will be drastically reduced from 14 to 3, and there will be no Mayor for the area. Put another way, the average population per elected municipal official will go from an average of 3,000 to over 15,000.

M. Ouimet, a couple of weeks ago you and I participated in a televised discussion of this issue, with the leader of the opposition from Laval, an avowed sovereignist. During that program he went out of his way to state that the rest of Quebec had much to learn from the West Island communities in the way that their elected municipal officials dealt with their constituents, both from the perspective of ratios, and the ability to deal personally with issues that those ratios afforded them. We would therefore suggest that as you debate this legislation in the National Assembly, on the issue of borough councils, the number of elected councilors be significantly increased.

Also of great concern is the transition committee named by the PQ minister which will have enormous powers to name all the senior bureaucrats in the city. This seems to be a way for the PQ to take control of the new city without waiting for an election to take place. Over the next year elected mayors and councillors will be relegated to following orders from officials who were not elected. This again is the PQ's version of democracy!

With respect to bilingual services, we believe that the reality is that those boroughs accorded bilingual status would be in a position to provide only a limited number of services. There are for example no guarantees that municipal employees, all of whom would be hired by the central city, would have to be bilingual if they were to work in a bilingual borough. Moreover, what will happen to the many services currently provided by the bilingual municipalities which would accrue to the Central City under Bill 170? Will we have to argue our traffic tickets in French only? Will we have to obtain permits for various things by filling out unilingual forms? What will happen if we have to consult with a municipal official or civil servant? Remember that it will be the Transition Committee, appointed entirely by the PQ who will determine entirely the upper echelons of the new city's civil service. What comfort can anglophones draw from such a scenario?

We therefore suggest that provisions be added to the law that would guarantee that the hiring practices for municipal employees designated to serve the bilingual boroughs be such that they be qualified to serve the public in both English and French.

The Charter of the French Language presently maintains that in order for a municipality to be eligible for bilingual status, it must have a population that is at least 50 percent non-francophone. However, the PQ government is attempting to make it even more difficult for a borough to acquire bilingual status by introducing Bill 171 to amend the Charter. They would change that requirement to where English is spoken as a *mother tongue* by 50% of the population. This will reduce the English-speaking community to its lowest possible numbers. By changing the requirements for bilingual status and gerrymandering the boundaries of districts, the PQ will manage to avoid according bilingual status to the residents of NDG, Snowdon, Cote des Neiges and Ville Marie. Imagine that we will then have two classes of boroughs with two classes of citizens – those entitled to a limited number of bilingual services, and those entitled to none at all, even though their numbers clearly warrant such services. As a result, we ask that you also speak out against the discriminatory nature of Bill 171.

Conclusion:

It is clear that the residents of our cities will pay the ultimate price for municipal mergers in the form of higher taxes for a lower standard of services. Bilingual services will be lost and municipal institutions, which once offered bilingual services, will gradually erode. We urge you to seriously consider the impact of the municipal mergers on bilingual services and ultimately on the well-being of all who reside here. It is imperative that our communities' needs be met if we are to continue to grow and flourish in our municipalities.

It must be reiterated that the PQ government's intention to impose these mergers on municipalities where mayors, councillors and residents have openly and publicly objected to them is cause for great concern to all Quebecers. The fact that the PQ government should choose to impose such legislation against the wishes of the people concerned with no political or moral mandate to do so clearly demonstrates the PQ government's unwillingness to recognize the democratic rights of all Quebecers. Alliance Quebec wishes to continue to work with the Liberal Party, mayors and councillors and indeed all Quebecers English and French speaking to oppose these mergers in every way possible. We thank you for your time and attention.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

N° 1650-7000 1815
document 25 de 26

JEAN ET MICHELIN RACICOT, 2842 SAINT-JOSEPH, LACHINE QUÉBEC

BÉNÉVOLES DEPUIS LES 40 DERNIÈRES ANNÉES DANS LA COMMUNAUTÉ DE LACHINE.

PRÉSENTEMENT : PRÉSIDENTE DE LA FÊTE DU CANADA À LACHINE ET PRÉSIDENTE DE L'ASSOCIATION CONSULTATIVE DES ACTIVITÉS DE LACHINE.

LACHINE A PRÈS DE 350 ANS D'HISTOIRE, LACHINE A UNE ÂME, LACHINE A UNE IDENTITÉ, LACHINE A UN PASSÉ, UN PRÉSENT QUE VEUT-ON FAIRE DE SON AVENIR?

TOUTE ASSOCIATION COMMUNAUTAIRE A UNE ATTACHE PROFONDE AVEC LES CITOYENS DE LACHINE.

LA MAJORITÉ DES ORGANISMES A SOIT UN LOCAL FOURNI PAR LA VILLE OU UNE SUBVENTION DE LA VILLE.

LA FUSION FORCÉE VEUT DIRE : LA PERTE D'APPARTENANCE PROFONDE À NOTRE VILLE : CHAQUE FOIS QUE NOUS ALLONS VOULOIR FAIRE QUELQUE CHOSE POUR NOS CITOYENS, NOUS AURONS À ALLER NOUS BATTRE AVEC LA GRANDE VILLE? C'EST IMPENSABLE.

NOTRE CONSEIL MUNICIPAL NOUS L'AVONS ET NOUS VOULONS LE GARDER.

IL Y A 4 ANS, NOUS NOUS SOMMES BATTUS POUR CONSERVER NOTRE HÔPITAL GÉNÉRAL. LE GOUVERNEMENT PÉQUISTE NE NOUS A JAMAIS ÉCOUTÉS. LE 17 AVRIL 1996, IL A FERMÉ L'HÔPITAL. ET MAINTENANT IL VEUT FAIRE LA MÊME CHOSE AVEC NOTRE VILLE.

NOUS SOMMES CONTRE LES FUSIONS FORCÉES!

MERCI.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

1650-Jow 1215
document de de de**RPT**RATCLIFFE
PRODUCTION
TECHNOLOGY,
RPT INC.INDUSTRIAL
AUTOMATION
COMPONENTS1460 HYNUS BOULEVARD
DORVAL, QUEBEC, CANADA H9P 1J6
TELEPHONE: (514) 683-1612
TOLL FREE: 1-(800) 363-2822
FAX: (514) 684-0080

November 22, 2000

Mr. Geoffrey Kelley
M.N.A. for Jacques Cartier
475, avenue Dumont
Bureau 100
Dorval, Quebec
H9S 5W2

VIA FACSIMILE 631-2799 Two pages No Cover Original NOT Mailed

Dear Mr. Kelley;

Thank you for your letter received today concerning Bill 170. While I will likely be unable to attend the December 3 public forum I would like to submit this letter expressing my absolute opposition to both the spirit and the method of implementation of Bill 170. You may use this document and my name and position in part or entirety in any way you see fit in your opposition to Bill 170.

The PQ government has, in the implementation of Bill 170 ignored the principles of democracy it speaks so strongly about, when it suits the PQ purpose. Unfortunately, the parliamentary system with an unresponsive majority rule has the potential for dictatorship like abuses of power.

I have a number of negative points to express on Bill 170, which I think are each significant but I present them in no specific order of priority or importance:

- 1) We cannot simply allow a government without a clear mandate for this action to undo and unilaterally revise the centuries of collective history and rights of municipalities to develop and govern locally. It would be my hope that, should the government follow through on Bill 170, it will be punished out of power in the next election. I appreciate the Liberal party commitment to UNDO these changes.
- 2) We will lose parts of the distinct characters of each of the communities. Bill 170 effectively takes many communities of many different characters and style and trashes them in a blender. Without local control of services and taxation there will be no way to maintain the specific local characteristics that each of us value in our chosen community.
- 3) Merging municipalities will lose comparative figures and results from the past. This will make future evaluations of relative success or failure impossible. By merging these municipalities, we will no longer have a history of financial comparison. We undo the ability to understand what we pay, in each community, for specific services. We will again be blended to the common denominator even if the local wishes differ. We will pay new taxes to new authorities without clear understanding of where the money is going. Many of us are in the suburbs because we don't want the follies of the Olympic debts and the money losing BioDome and Big-O. Big cities can and have made Big Mistakes that we are still paying for. We'll never know, in the future, if we're paying more than before for any specific service or what percent of our current taxes go to finance the past mistakes of other communities.
- 4) We have no explanation or proof of the projected cost savings as a result of Bill 170. No clear picture has been put forth as to the REASONS we need this amalgamation. It appears that we will be rewarding the badly managed and weak communities by rolling the assets and tax base of the successful ones into the mix. Montreal lost its vibrancy and growth not due to the suburbs, but due to its own lack of vision and management. Now the PQ wants to take back what Montreal lost, effectively rewarding it for years of poor decisions and decline. Where's business plan proving the management savings?



None of our municipalities are bankrupt or requiring trusteeship, so why the draconian elimination of the rights of a municipality to continue to exist.

- 5) We will likely live with the worst of the collective agreements becoming the norm. Montreal, as the largest component of the new municipality has the least productive and highest cost union contracts with the most potential for job action. Witness the regular transit problems. It is logical to assume that these worst-case contracts will become the norm for the new municipality. Based on past actions with mergers of school boards, I would expect the PQ to guarantee all union jobs, so we will have no saving in manpower costs. The net results will be that the efficient lower cost services will be replaced by less efficient higher cost services. Again, this will represent a net loss for the suburbs.
- 6) Industrial development may suffer. I know that the stated goal of the PQ is to merge the Industrial development efforts for the entire region. I believe that competition between community and regional development is essential and beneficial. Efforts at Social Engineering like the E-Commerce center actually shift more jobs and tax incentive dollars from area to area rather than create new ones. The net result of this is questionable when all costs are evaluated. Competition between cities like Dorval and Ville St. Laurent have established competitive, dynamic and growing industrial centers. Again, the city of Montreal has been behind and is now jealous of the success of the suburbs. Again, we are punishing the success of the suburbs for the failures of Montreal.
- 7) The stated position of the PQ to ignore the referendums being held is reason in itself to resist this effort. When a supposedly democratic government announces in advance of tabling a law that it will ignore the democratic process of local referendums, we need to be worried and resist. We elect governments and pay taxes to execute our will. If the government cannot logically explain reasons and benefits to the satisfaction of the majority of the people affected, then they have no right to proceed. If they ignore that basic principle of democracy they have no right to continue to lead. Are we too stupid to understand the reasons? Or, do they not want us to understand the real reasons? A democratic government that will ignore the wishes of the majority of the people is no longer democratic and must be changed. The PQ should call an election to seek a mandate for such sweeping changes.
- 8) I believe that smaller local government is more efficient and that centralization of authority can be less efficient and less responsive. It is the job of the Provincial government to ensure equal access to opportunity and funding for every municipality. The local decisions of how best to use that opportunity are more efficient than large cumbersome bureaucracies. Bill 170 will eliminate the power and effectiveness of local government that has served us well over centuries.

I appreciate your efforts and hope you find success in defeating Bill 170. I will watch your efforts with great interest.

Yours very truly;
Ratcliffe Production Technology RPT inc.

Peter H. Ratcliffe

