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MOUNT ROYAL MP HOUSEFATHER REGAINS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY STATUS



Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather has been named Parliamentary Secretary to Treasury Board President Anita Anand, who apparently enjoys KitKat bars.

Photo: Courtesy Anthony Housefather and Facebook

MARTIN C. BARRY

Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather became a Parliamentary Secretary again earlier this week, just four months after being demoted by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Last May, Housefather was the only MP in the House of Commons to vote against Bill C-13.

The fact that Housefather voted against the controversial bill modernizing the Official Languages Act (a law which stirred objections among members of the English-speaking Quebec minority), may have been a factor in his eventually losing the appointment.

Addressing a gathering of constituents during a town hall meeting in TMR's Schofield Hall in July last year, Housefather said then that his voting decision had almost no impact on him.

"I still am a parliamentary secretary," he said. "I appreciate the fact that so far no action was taken against me." However, Trudeau subsequently demoted Housefather to backbench MP status, before giving him the new appointment last week.

On his Facebook page last week, Housefather posted a photo of himself and the cabinet minister he now serves, Treasury Board President Anita Anand, while holding a KitKat chocolate bar and jesting that he wanted "to get on the good side of my Minister" since "I understand that Kit Kats are her favorite candy bar."

Last year, Housefather objected strenuously to Quebec's Charter of the French Language being mentioned in Bill C-13. Several other Liberal MPs also expressed reservations, but eventually fell into line or abstained when it came time to vote.

Housefather told journalists in Ottawa last

week that he didn't know what motivated the Prime Minister's decisions to remove him as parliamentary secretary and then give it back.

In its press release announcement on Jan. 30, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) also said that Sherbrooke QC-area Liberal MP Élisabeth Brière becomes Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health.

At the same time, the PMO announced that Ottawa-area Liberal MP Yasir Naqvi becomes Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.

"They will help advance new legislation, engage directly with Canadians on key initiatives and represent the government at home and abroad," said the PMO, adding that their appointments are effective immediately.

- Parliamentary secretaries are chosen by the Prime Minister to assist ministers.

- The responsibilities of parliamentary secretaries generally fall into two broad categories: House of Commons business and department-related duties.
- Parliamentary secretaries are not members of Cabinet and do not play a formal role in the Cabinet decision-making process. They support their ministers, but overall responsibility and accountability remains with the minister.

Résumé

Le député libéral pour Mont-Royal Anthony Housefather est de nouveau le secrétaire parlementaire d'un ministre dans le cabinet de Justin Trudeau. À peine il y a quatre mois, le premier ministre l'avait destitué comme secrétaire parlementaire quelque temps après que M. Housefather avait voté contre la loi C-13, révisant la Loi sur les langues officielles.

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LE DIRECTEUR DU PROJET CENTRE SPORTIF EST EN POSTE DEPUIS LA MI-JANVIER

MARTIN C. BARRY

Dans un sommaire mensuel qu'il livrait au cours de la séance du conseil de ville du 23 janvier, le maire Peter Malouf révélait que Jean-Pierre Richard, directeur de projet pour le futur Centre sportif et communautaire, est entré en poste en mi-janvier et il est à la tâche d'exécuter les débuts pour ce projet dont la valeur estimée a augmenté au fil des ans.

En décembre dernier, au moment de la présentation du Programme triennal d'immobilisation (PTI) pour 2024-25-26, les chiffres de la ville indiquaient qu'une nouvelle évaluation dépassait de plus de 11\$ millions de dollars les nombres fournis par le conseil pendant des séances de consultation en février 2023, au cours desquels ils avaient prévu un coût de 62\$ millions.

Selon le maire Malouf, M. Richard travaille déjà avec les professionnels de l'administration de la ville pour finaliser le PFT [programme fonctionnel et technique] révisé et mettre en place les actions requises pour les prochaines étapes du projet.

« Jean-Pierre nous vient avec une vaste expérience en conception construction, avec des projets pour la STM [Société de transport de Montréal] et [la Ville de] Brossard », ajoutait le maire Malouf, en soulignant que M.



Le maire Peter Malouf annonçait au cours de la séance du conseil municipal du 23 janvier qu'un nouveau directeur pour le projet du Centre sportif et communautaire est entré en poste le mois dernier, et apporte avec lui une expérience acquise dans la construction du centre aquatique de Brossard.

Photo : Martin C. Barry, La Poste de VMR

Richard avait acquis de l'expérience dans la construction du centre aquatique de Brossard.

Par rapport au projet de réaménagement du site de l'ancienne synagogue Beth-El (un autre dossier sur lequel le conseil se penche depuis longtemps), le maire annonçait qu'à la suite d'une séance d'information pour résidents en novembre l'an dernier, les membres du

conseil de ville ont discuté le dossier en profondeur et ont réussi à parvenir à un consensus.

Ceci étant dit, ils ont décidé de procéder avec les prochaines étapes, disait le maire, pour ainsi avancer le dossier, c'est-à-dire « d'engager des discussions avec Montréal sur le schéma d'aménagement de l'agglomération,

afin de débiter les changements requis aux statuts municipaux de VMR, permettant ainsi le réaménagement du site ».

Le maire donnait ses assurances qu'il fournirait des informations supplémentaires en ce qui a trait à ce projet aux citoyens de la ville dès qu'elles seraient disponibles.

Au cours de cette même séance du conseil, le maire expliquait les raisons pour lesquelles l'administration avait décidé d'utiliser des fonds provenant des surplus de la ville pour défrayer l'impact de l'inflation.

« Les études récentes ont montré que l'indice des prix à la consommation a augmenté en moyenne de 18,7 % entre février 2020 et octobre 2023 », disait-il, en mentionnant qu'en conséquence, la ville prévoit utiliser 4,4\$ millions de ses réserves pour alléger le fardeau fiscal.

Summary

In his monthly report delivered during the Jan. 23 meeting of town council, Mayor Peter Malouf said that Jean-Pierre Richard, who has been hired by the town to oversee construction of the Sports and Community Centre, started work in mid-January and has been active since then dealing with some of the initial stages for the project whose estimated cost has steadily risen since it was first announced.

EXEC LEAGUE'S CAPITALS RETAIN FIRST-PLACE, WITH FOUR-WIN LEAD



Capitals 2023-2024 season recruit Anthony Gifuni (No. 17) skates away from the Senators net after successfully delivering the puck past Sens goaltender Michael Gathercole in the TMR Executive Hockey League match at the town arena last Wednesday evening.

Photo: TMR Poste



Capitals No. 17 Anthony Gifuni didn't manage to get this shot past the Senators defence and goaltender.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

MARTIN C. BARRY

In TMR Executive Hockey League play this week, the Capitals are holding onto their first-place position with an impressive four-win lead over their two nearest contenders, after managing to keep the Senators confined in third-place following a 6-4 rout at the town arena last Wednesday evening.

Although the Royals were continuing to hold onto their second-place standing this week with 15 wins out of 31 matches played this season, the Senators were tied with them with just 30 games under their belts.

The Royals and the Senators had lost 11 and 13 matches respectively, according to some of the most recent standings.

The first match of last Wednesday evening's

double-bill, between the Caps and the Sens (the Royals and the Jets played right after), was a fairly typical see-saw affair between two well-matched teams, the lower-ranked one burning with ambition, but ultimately outshot by the more powerful team.

The Capitals set the pace, scoring twice within the first eight minutes. Veteran team centre Marcel Martin (the league's current number three of its Top 10 Scorers with 32 goals and 32 assists) first lit up the scoreboard with a goal against Senators netkeeper Michael Gathercole at 03:19.

He was assisted by Caps right-wing Nicolas Gagnon-Oosterwaal and his left-wing counterpart Renaud Tilquin. At 07:59 also during the first period, the Caps demonstrated that they weren't kidding, when their 2023-2024 right-wing recruit Anthony Gifuni slipped the puck past Gathercole, raising the score to 2-0 for the Caps, with no answer yet from the Sens.

Finally, with less than three minutes left in the first third, Senators No. 19 Pierre Poitevin finally delivered, taking his team to within a point of equalizing the tally, with help from teammate Luc Ouellet and centre Robert Kelly.

(Although Kelly withdrew from regular league play more than a decade ago, he was playing as a substitute last Wednesday and got in quite a bit of ice time while performing admirably.)

The Senators opened the scoring in the second period when Chris Mandelos evened things with the Caps at 2-2, with assistance from the feisty Takao Shibata (on his best behavior last week) and Martin Lacroix, one of the Sens' defencemen.

Not to be outdone and with a seeming surplus of manpower to show it, the Capitals came back within two minutes. Caps centre Vincent Bédard was assisted by Vincent Gifuni and

Arthur Wang.

Around four minutes before the second period had expired, Robert Kelly proved his worth as a Senators sub when he evened the score at 3-3, assisted by teammates Louis Samuel and Carl Belhumeur.

However, during the final period, the Capitals were able to demonstrate why they are presently in first place, scoring a knockout three times, compared to the Senators' single goal.

Résumé

Les Capitals de la Ligue exécutive de hockey de Ville Mont-Royal ont réussi à défaire les Senators 6-4 dans un match à l'aréna municipal de VMR mercredi soir dernier. Les Capitals sont actuellement en première place, tandis que les Senators demeurent en troisième.

RESISTING THE URGE TO QUIT

Men and women, experiencing failure or depression, feel that life has lost all meaning for them and, out of their despair, seek to quit in a variety of ways. Dr. Karl Menninger, noted psychiatrist, stated: "People do not break down because they are defeated, but only because they think they are."

Angelo Patri, journalist in the United States, wrote "In you, before birth, was stored all the power you will ever need to meet all the difficulties you will ever face. Draw on it. Encourage it, for if you do not use it, you will lose it. Instead of cursing life when things go wrong, we need to realize that these difficulties of ours have a propulsive power."

Channing Pollock, the playwright, once said, "People and cars go forwards by a series of explosions. A beautiful car cannot fulfill its function until it has a series of internal explosions. Just so, the human being with conflicts and difficulties to overcome gets somewhere and becomes someone."

We can never really make anything out of ourselves until we get a few explosions into the "mixing chamber" of our lives: crises, difficulties, despair, hardships, pain, suffering, opposition. These test whether there is anything to us or not. If these explosions tear us to pieces, we are simply not drawing on that power which God promises to flow into our lives at the time of trial.

The famous violinist Paganini was once performing before a very distinguished audience when a string on his violin snapped. The audience was startled, but the master musician, unruffled, continued to play on the three remaining strings. Suddenly another string broke. Still Paganini played without hesitation. Then, with a sharp crack, the third string snapped. For a brief moment the artist stopped, raised his beautiful Stradivarius violin high in one hand and announced, "One string and Paganini."

There may be times in our lives when one string after another will snap, and we want to quit under that pressure. We may lose the passion to persist but in confident faith we affirm: "One string - and God!" It's at those times when we are tempted to quit that we need to listen to the rough, rasping, determined words of Canadian poet Robert Service's poem THE QUITTER:

"It's easy to cry that you're beaten and die.
It's easy to crawfish and crawl.
But to fight and to fight, when hope's out of sight,
Why that's the best game of them all.
And though you come out of each grueling bout,

All broken and beaten and scarred,
Just have one more try.
It's dead easy to die -
It's the keeping on living that's hard!"

It's a tragic fact - things can get worse, no matter how tough our present losses may be. Life can throw even more negatives our way, with the demonic aim of grinding us into the ground of despair. We can lose "one string" after another, with the possibility of the final string snapping too, leaving us completely destitute. But, when you think "It's the end!", remember

IT'S NEVER THE END!
There's always the promise of God's powerful presence and He says:
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Rocky Balboa, the fictional folk hero boxer from Philadelphia, illustrates this point. Born into what others would call "nothing" and having little going for him, Rocky begins his climb from the bottom to becoming heavyweight champion, fighting against the odds all the way. He teaches us a lesson of passion solely from the human point. In the last movie of the series, Rocky has returned to his old neighborhood, his wife has died, he's lost his money, and the respect of his peers. Trying to regain something of his old identity, he opens and operates his old boxing gym and gives this advice to his son:

"The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place and I don't care how tough you are, it'll beat you to your knees and keep you there if you let it. Nobody is going to hit us as hard as life, but it ain't about how hard you're hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done.

"Now if you know what you're worth, go out and get what you're worth. But you got to be willing to take the hits and stop pointing fingers that you're not there because of him, or her, or anybody. Cowards do that, and that ain't you. You're better than that. Until you start believing in yourself you ain't going to have a life!"

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ARTTRAM Barbara Lapointe

ARTISTE DE LA SEMAINE - *THIS WEEK'S ARTIST*



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TMR Mayor attempts to silence 3 Councilors

The Mayor's expulsion of all 3 women Unis pour VMR Councilors from Caucus deprives TMR of full democratic representation and runs counter to the Towns historical cooperative approach at Council. This cannot be beneficial to the community.

Why now? Why choose to kick-us out now? Is it because of our dissenting vote back in December on the budget where renters were taxed at a higher mil rate, or is it because the Mayor wants to make decisions on big files in the next few weeks without our valuable input especially at a critical time for our community? Or both?

Reasons behind joining the Mayor's Caucus

Our original decision to join the Mayor's Caucus was rooted in a sincere desire to collaborate with our fellow Council members for the betterment of our community. However, it appears that the Mayor was simply looking to have "unanimous" support for each of his ideas. To date we have been subject to a lack of transparency as files presented in the caucus often arrived as "fait accompli", leaving little room for meaningful discussion or alternative perspectives. The Mayor appears to believe our role in Caucus is to simply agree with him for "speed" rather than engage in constructive dialogue. Unfortunately, this has fueled a very hostile environment over the last two years. In spite of the Mayor's approach, we have continued to push for dialogue and positively impacted key projects.

Good governance requires good analysis

The Mayor's characterization of our actions as obstructive is a misrepresentation of our commitment to due diligence. Our insistence on rigorous analysis is not indecision, but a dedication to appropriate governance. The reality is we all want to move files forward! Us through analysis, discussion and alignment vs. the Mayor through an authoritarian approach with limited debate. This expulsion from Caucus seems designed to silence us for daring to challenge his "proposed" solution..

Again, we ask;

Is this exclusion for the benefit of the community?

Is this what proper governance looks like?

Is it proper leadership to deprive the community from a democratic dialogue?

Maya Chammas, councilor district 4

Julie Halde, councilor district 5

Caroline Decaluwe, councilor district 6

Le maire de TMR tente de faire taire 3 conseillères

En expulsant du caucus les 3 conseillères Unis pour VMR, le maire prive la communauté d'une représentation démocratique complète et adéquate et va à l'encontre de l'approche collaborative traditionnelle au Conseil de Ville. Cela ne peut aucunement être bénéfique pour la communauté.

Pourquoi maintenant? Pourquoi choisir de nous exclure du caucus maintenant? Est-ce en raison de notre vote dissident sur le budget en décembre dont le taux de taxe impacte trop durement les locataires, ou est-ce parce que le maire souhaite prendre des décisions sur des dossiers importants dans les prochaines semaines sans notre précieuse contribution, à un moment critique pour notre communauté ? Ou les deux ?

Le caucus du maire

Suite à notre élection, notre décision initiale de rejoindre le caucus du maire était motivée par le désir sincère de collaborer avec nos collègues pour le bien de notre communauté. Cependant, il semble que le maire cherche simplement à obtenir un soutien "inconditionnel" à chacune de ses idées. Jusqu'à présent, nous avons été confrontées à un manque de transparence. Les dossiers présentés au caucus arrivent souvent comme un "fait accompli", laissant peu de place à une discussion significative ou à des perspectives alternatives. Le maire semble penser que le rôle des conseillers au sein du caucus est simplement de lui donner raison pour "gagner du temps" plutôt que de participer à un dialogue constructif. Malheureusement, cela a alimenté un environnement très hostile au cours des deux dernières années. Mais malgré l'approche du maire, nous avons continué à promouvoir le dialogue et à influencer positivement des projets clés.

Une bonne gouvernance nécessite une bonne analyse

Nos actions ne peuvent aucunement être interprétées comme étant obstructives, car nos actions sont empreintes de rigueur et de diligence. Une analyse rigoureuse n'est pas de l'indécision, mais une nécessité pour une bonne gouvernance. La réalité est que nous voulons tous faire avancer les dossiers! Nous, par le biais de l'analyse et de la discussion versus le maire, par une approche autoritaire laissant peu de place au débat. Cette expulsion du caucus vise à nous faire taire, car nous osons questionner ses "solutions proposées".

Encore une fois, nous demandons :

Cette exclusion est-elle dans l'intérêt de la communauté ?

Est-ce ainsi faire preuve de bonne gouvernance collaborative ?

Est-ce faire preuve de leadership de priver la communauté d'un sain dialogue démocratique?

Maya Chammas, conseillères district 4

Julie Halde, conseillères district 5

Caroline Decaluwe, conseillères district 6