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TOWN TAKES FIRST STEPS TO BUILD A 'GREEN SCREEN' ALONG REM RAIL LINE



Town of Mount Royal council approved the first measures last week to begin construction of a "green screen" along the REM railway line to help deter visual pollution as well as some noise when the trains begin running as early as next year.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste



"I don't think it's going to be a complete solution," Mayor Peter Malouf said last week regarding the green screen, noting that the town is counting on REM developer CDPQ Infra to take measures of its own to attenuate train noise.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

MARTIN C. BARRY

During the March town council meeting last week, the members of TMR town council unanimously passed a resolution to hire a consultant to develop plans for a "green screen" wall along the REM railway corridor to help alleviate visual pollution when the trains start running as early as next year.

In an exclusive interview with the TMR Post following the meeting, Mayor Peter Malouf confirmed the town's commitment to the project, while at the same time expressing

some skepticism over whether it will solve all problems related to the REM.

"I don't think it's going to be a complete solution because we're counting on the REM to do the noise attenuation – it is their responsibility," said Malouf. "What we're trying to do is reduce the visual pollution that we're going to have with the movement of the trains.

"There are going to be so many trains," he continued. "What we're trying to do is to put vegetation and this green screen to be able to embellish the area and provide a visual block for all the trains that will be passing by."

According to the mayor, planning work for the green screen should begin as soon as this

summer. Despite his doubts about the wall's abilities to substantially reduce noise from the REM, town manager Ava Couch maintained it will have at least some impact.

"It will help with the sound, but it's not a solution," she said, adding that the contract approved by council last week was for professional planning services to prepare documents and concepts, although it was not for construction. She said the project will enter into a tendering phase for construction at a later date.

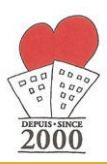
According to Couch, the green screen will extend along both sides of the Canora/Dunkirk REM right-of-way next to some fencing.

She said the administration's ultimate goal is

to build a screen the full length of the rail line, from Jean Talon St. in the south up to Côte de Liesse Rd. and Autoroute 40 at TMR's northern limits.


Résumé

Au cours de la séance du 19 Mars du conseil municipal de Ville Mont-Royal, les membres du conseil ont approuvé un contrat pour la planification d'un « écran végétalisé » le long de la ligne ferroviaire REM afin d'améliorer l'aspect visuel des trains passants, mais aussi pour atténuer la pollution sonore.



On a tous besoin d'aide

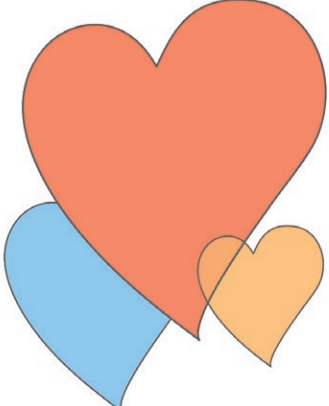
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BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE

Speaking at his brother, Robert's, funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 1968, the late Senator Ted Kennedy said to all of us, "It is a revolutionary world we live in; and this generation at home and around the world has had thrust upon it a greater burden of responsibility than any generation that has ever lived.

"Some believe there is nothing that one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills. Yet many of the world's great movements, of thought and action, have flowed from the work of a single person.

A young monk began the Protestant Reformation.

A young general extended an empire from Macedonia to the borders of the world.

A young woman reclaimed the territory of France,

And it was a young Italian explorer who discovered the New World.

"These people moved the world and so can we all. Few of us will have the greatness to bend

history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portions of events, and in the total of all those events will be written the history of this generation. Each time a person stands for an ideal, or acts to improve the condition of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other form a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep the mightiest walls of oppression and injustice.

"Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is that one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change. I believe that in this generation those with the courage to enter the moral; conflict will find themselves with companions in every corner of the globe."

These are prophetic words for us in this 21st century!

"For the fortunate among us," said Kennedy, "there is the temptation to follow the easy and familiar paths of personal ambition and

financial success. But that is not the road history has marked out for us. Like it or not, we live in times of danger and uncertainty. But they are more open to the creative energy of men and women than any other time in history. All of us will ultimately be judged, and as the years pass by we will surely judge ourselves, on the effort we have contributed to building a new world society and the extent to which our ideals and goals have shaped that effort.

"The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow men alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who blend vision, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals and great enterprises of society.

"The future lies beyond our vision, but it is not completely beyond our control. It is the shaping impulse of America that neither fate nor nature nor the irresistible tides of history, but the work of our own hands, matched to reason and principle, that will determine our destiny. This is the only way we can live.

Kennedy concluded, "This is the way my

brother lived. My brother needs not be idealized, or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life, but to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it."

With our passionate faith is that "WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!" we seek to transform ourselves into something of the likeness of Christ, and our communities into places of justice, equality and love. These are unrealistic and naïve goals, say the cynical and the self-centered. But, for us, this is the dynamic that fuels our lives. So, we advance into the challenges of our times with the confidence of the Living Christ's words: "In this world you shall have tribulation, but be of good courage, for I have overcome the world."

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L'OPPOSITION LIBÉRALE DEMANDE UN MANDAT D'INITIATIVE SUR LES INCIVILITÉS SUBIES PAR LES ÉLUS MUNICIPAUX

Les porte-paroles de l'opposition officielle en matière d'affaires municipales, Michelle Setlakwe, et de lutte contre l'intimidation, Enrico Ciccone, ont fait parvenir une demande de mandat d'initiative, au président de la Commission de l'aménagement du territoire, sur la civilité au sein des conseils municipaux et, plus largement, sur la dégradation du respect envers les élus de tous les paliers de gouvernement et les enjeux liés au harcèlement et aux menaces envers ceux-ci.

Les deux élus libéraux estiment que les difficultés vécues par les élus, notamment au palier municipal, qui exercent une pression constante et les forcent à évoluer dans un climat délétère qui mine leur santé mentale et physique, les poussant à l'épuisement professionnel et, trop souvent, à la démission, sont inadmissibles.

Depuis les élections municipales de 2021, ce sont près de 800 élus qui ont démissionné de

leur poste, un phénomène inquiétant d'autant plus qu'il existe d'importants enjeux liés au manque de candidatures pour plusieurs postes électifs dans nos municipalités, rappellent Mme Setlakwe et M. Ciccone.

Ils souhaitent donc, à l'occasion d'une commission parlementaire, que les parlementaires puissent avoir un portrait complet de la situation actuelle, connaître les initiatives en cours du gouvernement pour contrer ces phénomènes, s'informer des meilleures pratiques en la matière et proposer des actions supplémentaires.

Citations :

« En tant qu'élue et ancienne conseillère municipale, la succession de révélations d'incivilités vécues par de nombreux élus municipaux me préoccupe énormément. La vague de démissions qui en découle fragilise notre

démocratie municipale, sans parler des torts psychologiques sur les personnes victimes de harcèlement et de menaces. Le gouvernement du Québec a la responsabilité de prendre tous les moyens nécessaires pour protéger les élus municipaux. C'est pourquoi nous demandons que les parlementaires puissent entendre les différents acteurs du milieu en commission parlementaire afin de trouver, ensemble, des solutions concrètes à ce fléau. »

- **Michelle Setlakwe, députée de Mont-Royal-Outremont et porte-parole de l'opposition officielle en matière d'affaires municipales**

« Alors que nous faisons des efforts pour attirer une diversité de nouvelles candidatures aux postes électifs, notamment des jeunes et des femmes, les menaces envers les élus de tous les paliers de gouvernement et la toxicité véhiculée sur les médias sociaux doivent être dénoncées. Trop souvent, la ligne entre le désaccord politique et le harcèlement et la

violence verbale est franchie, au détriment de notre démocratie. Il faut que ça cesse! »

- **Enrico Ciccone, député de Marquette et porte-parole de l'opposition officielle en matière de lutte contre l'intimidation**

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