

Courriel d'opinion

Mme Kate Wyatt

To whom it may concern,

Here are my preoccupations concerning the PVM Bellechasse plans.

1. The expropriation of a family who has lived in their home for 42 years. This is absolutely unacceptable for several reasons:

- this is not a necessary expropriation (in fact there are many other viable sites that do not necessitate expropriation),
- we are in the midst of a housing crisis,
- these are elders who have lived in our community for decades and who are depending on this home to live out the rest of their days with their children as caregivers.

I find it absolutely deplorable that the STM has labeled their home "insalubre" (as seen in documents received through the access to information act), and it is clear to me that this immigrant low-income family is seen as an easy target. I find the STM is taking advantage of the recent changes to the Quebec law on expropriation in an absolutely heartless manner, casting people from their home without providing the means to relocate in the same neighbourhood. This is shameful behaviour with ZERO social acceptability.

2. This is a densely populated family neighbourhood. The STM is proposing to put a major worksite right in the middle of a busy school route, blocking a ruelle where dozens and dozens of children live and play every day. They propose to have hundreds of large trucks driving down residential streets that are in no way designed to carry that type of traffic, through a pedestrian- and bike-rich area. They propose to dynamite through brittle rock a handful of meters from dozens of residences. The clear solution is to move this site to the STM owned land on the corner of Bellechasse and St Denis. There is NO acceptable work-around to any of these problems if the site were to be located (as they propose) at 530-532 rue de Bellechasse.

3. The STM consultation process needs a complete overhaul. Citizens need to be brought into the process at a much earlier stage. They need the opportunity to receive full and complete information about projects, have time to research and digest this information, and then the opportunity to ask further questions of the STM. The STM should be mandated to respond to these questions. I also believe that for the public to trust that the commission is working only in the interest of citizens would require that they be truly independent of the STM (not hired by the STM).

I look forward to reading your final report.

Sincerely,

Kate Wyatt