

John Symon
candidate in Peter McGill district, Coalition Montréal
[514.582.5759](tel:514.582.5759)

1. The current administration of Montreal promised to preserve 10 % of the Island as natural space. Currently less than 6 % is preserved. Each percentage point represents about 500 hectares.

- a. Do you believe it is important to preserve at least 10% of the land on the Island?
yes
- b. If so, what will you do to achieve this goal?
necessary funds must be found, possibly there would be land swaps for brownfield terrains. This is important for human health as much as protecting wildlife

2. The only remaining unprotected large natural space is in Pierrefonds West, about 245 ha, and it is owned by developers who propose to build 5,500 residences on it. No infrastructure currently serves the area.

- a. Will you oppose any development of these 245 hectares?
yes
- b. Will you support the creation of a regional park encompassing all 245 hectares?
yes
- c. If you support the development of this area, what measures would you support to mitigate the traffic congestion resulting from 10,000 more cars (Congestion is already notoriously heavy on the main arteries of the West Island and the local norm is for of 2 cars per residence.)?
as per above, am opposed to residential development on this land. This being said, I am in favour of measures to boost public transit and active transit across Montreal Island

3. The 245 hectares in Pierrefonds West is part of the *Corridor écoforestier de la Rivière à l'Orme* (as defined by Montreal's *Politique de protection et mise en valeur des milieux naturels*) a green belt which includes Cap St-Jacques to the north, through the North Sector of Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue to Angell Woods in the south. Scientific studies show that preserving the integrity of the whole Corridor significantly enhances biodiversity in each of its parts.

- a. Do you support protecting all the *Corridor écoforestier* from development?
yes
- b. Do you support protecting all Ste-Anne-de Bellevue's North Sector from development?
yes
- c. Do you support protecting the entire Angell Woods from development?
yes

4. Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook fought for over 25 years to prevent the development of Meadowbrook. Their mission is to create a park open and accessible to all Montrealers.

- a. Do you support the creation of Meadowbrook Park?
yes, but there must be access from Lachine
- b. If so, what would you do to ensure the creation of the park, including measures to provide universal access to it for all Montrealers?
access corridors may have to be negotiated with CP, CN, Montreal West, and the MTQ

5. The Falaise St-Jacques is one of Montreal's ecoterritories. Despite all promises from the City of Montreal and the Ministry of Transport, the current reconstruction of the Turcot interchange has already destroyed significant portions of the Falaise.

- a. Do you support the protection of the whole of the Falaise St-Jacques?
yes
- b. If so, what would you do to ensure its protection?
turn it into a park with paths open 12 months a year while discouraging people from steeper parts of it, encourage natural vegetation, stop dumping from businesses on St. Jacques
- c. The Turcot interchange and Autoroute 20 constitute an impenetrable north-south barrier to pedestrians and cyclists alike. The City of Montreal and the Ministry of transport undertook to incorporate a north-south link to remedy this, the "Dalle Parc", but they are reneging on this undertaking. Do you support the creation of the Dalle Parc and, if so, how do you propose to ensure it is built?
Yes, I support the Dalle Parc, but this falls mainly under provincial jurisdiction. Montreal has already passed unanimous motion in favour of Dalle Parc and would presumably be responsible for north and south approaches to this bicycle/pedestrian bridge

6. Do you believe that Montreal should act to reduce carbon emissions and, if so, what do you propose to achieve this objective?

We should strive for a carbon neutral city. Climate tests on many municipal operations—as proposed by Coalition Montréal—are crucial steps towards achieving this goal. Geothermal power for new residential developments has huge potential, not only to reduce our carbon footprint, but also to create an important new revenue stream for the city. Proper funding of public transit and active transit. Allowing mixed zoning in apartment buildings to facilitate offices there will cut down on commuter traffic.

7. The City of Montreal and the borough of St-Laurent are promoting the construction of the "Eco-Campus Hubert Reeves" in the Technoparc area. The Technoparc wetlands are home to over 182 bird species, including the endangered Least Bittern and many other migratory species, and

has the second greatest diversity of birds in the whole of Quebec. Notwithstanding this, destruction of these precious wetlands is ongoing despite popular and scientific opposition.

a. Do you support the protection of the whole of the Technoparc wetlands?

yes

b. If so, what would you do to ensure its protection?

immediate halt to Hubert Reeves Eco-Campus construction on present location, conducting proper environmental studies there, restoring site to more natural state, working to find alternate site for Eco-Campus in less environmentally sensitive area. Pressuring ADM/federal gov. to rent their lands for park or wildlife refuge

8. Do you support the adoption of the status of *Paysage humanisé* for l'Île-Bizard and the protection of all the remaining natural spaces on l'Île-Bizard?

Yes