



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

NOV 06 2007

Mr. Paul Wilkinson for
the Green Coalition
391 Touzin Avenue
Dorval, Québec H9S 2N3

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

This is in response to your environmental petition no. 212 of June 15, 2007, addressed to the Interim Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

In your petition, you raised issues about the Golf Dorval.

I am pleased to provide you with the enclosed joint Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada response to your petition. I understand that the Ministers of the Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Transport, Infrastructure and Communities will be responding to your other questions covered by their respective departments.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter, and I hope you will find the information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Clement', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tony Clement

Enclosure

c.c. The Honourable John Baird, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Loyola Hearn, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.
Mr. Ronald C. Thompson, Interim Commissioner of the
Environment and Sustainable Development

Health Canada (HC) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Response to Environmental Petition No. 212: Golf Dorval

Question 17: Given that the Department of Health has budgeted considerable sums of money to promote health and fitness activities, will the Minister intercede to prevent a marvellous recreational venue from being destroyed? Using a Kyoto-like analogy, when some industries cannot fully comply with its objectives because of their type of operations, said industries can “purchase” credits from sources that are below Kyoto norms. Conceptually, keeping a significant part of Golf Dorval in perpetuity would be like a “credit” in favour of the airport. Why don’t Transport Canada and Health Canada work together to “purchase credits” in favour of the airport, to recognize the fact that it will always remain a significant source of noise and air pollution for neighbouring residents? It would further promote one of ADM’s three basic missions: “to coexist in harmony with the surrounding environment, particularly in matters of environmental protection”.

With regards to your suggestion around offset credits, Health Canada does not currently have such mechanisms.

This project is the responsibility of Aéroports de Montréal under the terms of a lease between ADM and Transport Canada. As you have stated, however, within the federal health portfolio there are programs and policies to encourage physical activity. Specifically, the Public Health Agency of Canada promotes the awareness and engagement of Canadians in active transportation as an important element of a mix on integrated strategies to increase physical activity and improve the health of Canadians while contributing to more liveable communities. Active transportation also supports public health objectives of reduced air pollution.

The Public Health Agency of Canada works in close collaboration with non-governmental organizations to further advance physical activity and the health of Canadians. Two such organizations that have an environmental aspect to their mandate is Go for Green and the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association.

Go for Green is a national organization dedicated to promoting outdoor physical activity and enhancing, protecting and restoring the environment. It employs environmental change strategies to make both natural and built environments (neighbourhoods, communities, trails, parks, and greenways) more supportive of physical activity.

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association is a national voluntary-sector organization dedicated to realizing the full potential of parks and recreation services as a major contributor to community health and vibrancy. They work closely with 13 provincial and territorial parks and recreation associations and collaborate with a host of other national organizations operating in the recreation, physical activity, environmental, facilities, sports, public health, crime prevention and social services arenas.

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting policies and programs that help improve the health of Canadians through regular physical activity and healthy eating and recognizes the important role that the parks and recreation community plays in helping Canadians to be physically active and live healthy lifestyles.