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Question

Dear Mayor Tremblay,

Last Thursday, August 31, I incurred considerable time and cost by leaving work early in order sign up to ask a question at the agglomeration council meeting.

To my surprise and great disappointment, and after hours of waiting for my opportunity, I was told (along with at least a dozen other citizens) that question period was over.

I feel especially bitter about this because you warmly welcomed Sylvia Oljemark, acknowledged the presence of the Green Coalition members, and encouraged us to keep coming to city hall.

The question I had wanted to ask you, Mayor Tremblay, is: What is happening with the pool of municipal, provincial, and federal properties that was supposed to have been created under the City contract signed in January 2003?

My understanding is that unused publicly-owned land was to have been made available to be used for land-swapping in order to conserve natural spaces.

Has this land bank been created? Can we find out what properties are included in it? How much land is in it? Who administers it, and how are decisions made regarding land swaps?

Another question I have for you, Mayor Tremblay, is why the Office de la Consultation Public de Montréal's recommendation to place a moratorium on land development in the ecoterritories was not followed.

Finally, Mayor Tremblay: I ardently believe in the democratic process. I am requesting that you, right now, improve the system for asking questions at city hall meetings.

I suggest that the question period for the agglomeration council meetings be longer. For regular council meetings, make it easier to register to ask questions (not three hours before the meeting — it's too long!).

Make it easier for citizens to participate in the democratic process.

Make sure we can ask our questions.

Alison Hackney
via e-mail

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