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OLMSTED
PARKS

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September 14, 2015

Madame Hélène David
Députée d'Outremont et Ministre de la Culture et des Communications
5450, chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, bureau 115
Montréal (Québec) H3T 1Y6

Monsieur Denis Coderre
Maire de Montréal
Hôtel de Ville
275, rue Notre-Dame Est
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1C6

Dear Madame Ministre and Maire Coderre:

The National Association for Olmsted Parks supports the position of Les Amis de La Montagne regarding the redevelopment of Rutherford Park. We believe that Les Amis has clearly, conscientiously, and comprehensively set forth a compelling argument for adhering to a vision that respects Montreal's extraordinary Mount Royal Park.

As stated by Dr. Charles Beveridge, editor of *The Olmsted Papers*, in a report entitled, *Mount Royal in the Works of Frederick Law Olmsted, Entente Sur Le Developpement Culturel de Montreal*, prepared in collaboration with Montreal landscape architects Daniel Chartier (one of our board members) and Wendy Graham and Le Bureau du Mont Royal, "Mount Royal is one of seven urban parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted that constitute his major contribution to that form of landscape and social institution." With each of these great park designs, Olmsted took his inspiration from "the genius of the place." Again, Dr. Beveridge: "For Olmsted, the great treasure of Mount Royal was the scenery it possessed in the vistas it provided and the landscape experience it could provide with judicious and imaginative management of its vegetation."

The City of Montreal's plan for an urban promenade "Fleuve-Montagne" fits in with Olmsted's vision for Mount Royal Park. An active soccer field with synthetic surface and large light towers at the base of Mount Royal does not. Such a development detracts from the view and vista – day and night – from and toward the Mountain.

In our "Declaration" of 2002 on Mount Royal Park during a board visit to Montreal, we included this statement which we re-iterate today:

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His concept of creating a series of landscape poems along a winding road that gradually ascends the mountain is still relevant today and should remain as the structuring element and guiding principle for the park and some areas adjacent to it." Rutherford Park with its location within the fine view and vista of the downtown from the Mountain is such an area.

We urge the City and the Ministry of Culture to continue its fine record of appropriate planning and restoration of the elements of Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for Mount Royal by considering an alternative site for the soccer field and developing Rutherford Park as an appropriate complement for the Mountain.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Ethan Carr
Co-Chair
National Association for Olmsted Parks



Patrice Kish
Co-Chair
National Association for Olmsted Parks

Copy:

Peter A. Howlett, President and Chairman
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