

By-elections in the Outremont borough

LES AMIS DE LA MONTAGNE RESTATE THE PROTECTION PRINCIPLES FOR THE NORTHERN SUMMIT OF MOUNT ROYAL

MONTREAL, 15 December 2007 – In light of the by-elections in the Outremont borough this Sunday, December 16, Les Amis de la montagne invited the candidates to provide responses to three major protection challenges for the mountain in their sector. The candidates' responses may be found on Les Amis' website at www.lemontroyal.qc.ca/lesdossiers (in French).

Les Amis de la montagne, an organization dedicated to the mountain's protection and enhancement, restate the principles for the protection of the heritage of the mountain's northern summit.

Foremost, the densification of the mountain must stop. In the case of the Université de Montréal, several new pavilions were constructed on the mountain in accordance with the development plan signed in 1995 between the university and the Ville de Montréal. Les Amis de la montagne believe that any new construction must now cease and the expansion of existing structures must be limited.

The Mount Royal Historic and Natural District decreed in 2005 aims, but is not limited to, the protection of the mountain's emblematic landscapes that remain threatened by the densification of the built environment. Rules to protect Mount Royal's landscapes are still being studied. In the interim, it is essential that the principle of precaution be applied towards any further institutional development.

As one of the largest Francophone institutions of higher learning, the Université de Montréal must assume responsibility for its existing buildings on the mountain and rationalize to the greatest extent its existing built spaces, particularly the building located at 1420 Boulevard Mont-Royal, at the same time as it plans the construction of its new site in Outremont.

Finally, Outremont must play a leadership role in the planning and protection of the northern summit, an otherwise forgotten and hidden treasure of the mountain.

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Information:

Gabrielle Korn
Director of Communications
Les Amis de la montagne
514 843-8240 ext. 237
gkorn@lemontroyal.qc.ca