



## News Release for immediate release

Montreal, October 23, 2006

### **Condos planned on “protected” ecoterritory lands Land-swap deal at Rapides du Cheval Blanc flouts Québec Cabinet decree**

A December 2005 Québec Cabinet decree proscribes the sale or swap of publicly-owned ecoterritory lands on Montreal Island. These lands, defined in the decree on a “liste d’équipements et infrastructures d’intérêt collectif”, including Rapides du Cheval Blanc explicitly, cannot be sold or swapped. (See attached document on the government decree; Annexe, article 37)

Despite the decree, on May 23, Montreal city council approved a land-swap of publicly-owned Cheval Blanc ecoterritory lands in Pierrefonds-Roxboro so that a developer could build a large-scale residential project there.

Then, in an unusual move on August 31, the Agglomeration council voted to delete part of the Cheval Blanc lands proscribed from swap or sale from the Government Decree’s “liste d’équipements d’intérêt collectif” (agenda item 42.07). In effect, the vote removed a portion of ‘protected’ green spaces from the Rapides du Cheval Blanc Ecoterritory, handing it over for Pierrefonds-Roxboro’s proposed development project, despite the government decree.

Very concerned by this apparent disregard for a Québec government decree, the Green Coalition asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs for an opinion on the legality of these votes that resulted in the swapping of lands that are part of an ecoterritory. (See link below for copy of letter to Mme Normandeau). A formal response addressing the issues raised still has not arrived from the minister.

Meanwhile the Green Coalition is also waiting for the Ombudsman of Montreal’s response to their major submission of last Aug 1<sup>st</sup> in which a number of points related to Cheval Blanc were raised for the ombudsman to investigate. Among these points - the city is fast-tracking the development plans for the ‘protected’ ecoterritory without any prior consultation whatsoever.

(Go to [www.greencoalitionverte.ca/issues.htm](http://www.greencoalitionverte.ca/issues.htm) for submission documents).

#### **Contacts:**

David Fletcher      514) 683-7864;    514) 502-5341 (cell)  
Sylvia Oljemark     514) 332-9146  
Lewis Poulin        514) 332-9146

#### **Additional helpful links:**

To view the August 31 Agglomeration Council agenda, go to this link and search for item 42.07:

[http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/page/portail\\_fr/media/documents/Conseil\\_agglo\\_060831.pdf](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/page/portail_fr/media/documents/Conseil_agglo_060831.pdf)

To access a copy of the Green Coalition letter to the minister of municipal affairs go to:

<http://www.greencoalitionverte.ca/documents/20060914%20Lettre%20Ministre%20Affaires%20Municipales%20Coalition%20Verte%20fr.pdf>