Montreal, August 1, 2006

Montreal trades away publicly-owned green spaces for private profit at Rapides du Cheval Blanc Ecoterritory. Green Coalition appeals to the Ombudsman.

The Green Coalition respectfully requests the Ombudsman to examine the evidence that citizens' rights have been violated by the Montreal City Council vote *(Agenda item 20.16)* to approve a land exchange permitting the realization of a large-scale residential development project at Rapides du Cheval Blanc West. Citizens have called for the conservation of this shoreline green space for forty years.

It is our strong belief that the vote at Montreal City Council on May 23, 2006 contradicts many of the policy directions adopted by this City; namely, Politique de consultation et de participation publique, Plan stratégique de développement durable, Politique de protection et mise en valeur des milieux naturels, Plan de Transport, Politique de l'arbre, and Charte Montréalaise des droits et responsabilités.

It is our strong belief that the vote on May 23 has set in motion a large-scale development project at Rapides du Cheval Blanc Ecoterritory without any prior public consultation whatsoever. Our only recourse is to appeal to the Ombudsman.

The Green Coalition formally requests the Ombudsman to overturn the May 23 vote or to facilitate an inquiry into events leading up to that vote, so that the history of public clamour to have the Rapides du Cheval Blanc waterfront land preserved, going back to the 1960s, will not have been denied. The Green Coalition also requests the Ombudsman to investigate irregularities in the procedures of the vote itself at Montreal City Council on May 23, 2006.

Attached please find the Green Coalition's submission to the Ombudsman. Also attached is an Appendix of more than 100 supporting documents that chronicle citizens demands to preserve natural green spaces in general, and Cheval Blanc in particular.

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