

FACT #2- NOISE IS NOT ABOUT MONEY

Money, money and money “it will cost 60 Million”, “we will pay more taxes” we will double our debt” arrrgh! I'm afraid. Mom.... So let's talk about money.

The MTQ offers a grant of up to \$45 million

The MTQ has transformed a boulevard into a noisy highway. The MTQ is responsible. That's why it made us the best offer in the province: 75% of the costs, or up to \$45 million in subsidy. Can we afford to reject so much money?

The city has its share of responsibility

For some, the city is not responsible for the situation. But the city was informed in 1987 and in 2010 of the existence of dangerous zones (>65 dBA). Despite this, the city has issued building permits in these red¹ zones WITHOUT REQUIRING MANDATORY NOISE PROTECTION. The city is therefore partly responsible for the current health situation. The Minister also criticized the mayor for this during the September 2015 meeting.

PROBLEMS WITH CITY “CONSULTATION”

In its “consultations²” the city spoke only about money. It only proposed two options:

- We all pay equally, or
- We only tax those who suffer,

Pay everything with debt?

Under both of these options, our entire share will be paid with debt. Why not put money aside to pay for what we want?

Immoral tax for those who suffer

The second option is based on an immoral principle: **the more you suffer, the more you are taxed**. We know the user-pays and the polluter-pays. But here it is the **polluted-pays**. As if the residents along the highway were responsible for the situation!

Community or individual?

A public health problem is a community problem, not an individual one.

A third of our city's citizens suffer daily from highway and train noise, Dr. Kaiser, Chief Medical Officer at the DSP, says there are known and documented dangerous noise levels on both sides of the 20 and rails. So, protecting more than 6,000 residents of Beaconsfield is a collective priority, not an individual issue.

¹ Incomplete list of residences built in the red zone since 2000. Approximate construction dates: 80 to 94 Beurepaire (2017?), 172-174 Beurepaire (2002-06), 185 to 199 Beurepaire (2014), 248 Beurepaire (2015?), 79 Elm - (2020) Adamus Project/West Hill, 85-99 Highridge (2011), 70-84 Wildtree (2009-13), 109-110-1-2-3 Celtic (2011-2), St Michael (2006)

² May 31 and June 6

- The residents living on the lake chose to reside there, despite the risks. In the event of a flood, we all pay to protect these citizens. The same is true for people living near the highway. Or you can vote to create a special tax for residents in the event of flooding.
- Are neighboring park residents required to pay for the construction of new chalets or the installation of new games? Yet, they are the only ones to benefit from it.
- Will parents of school and daycare students be taxed? Their children also benefit from the noise barrier.

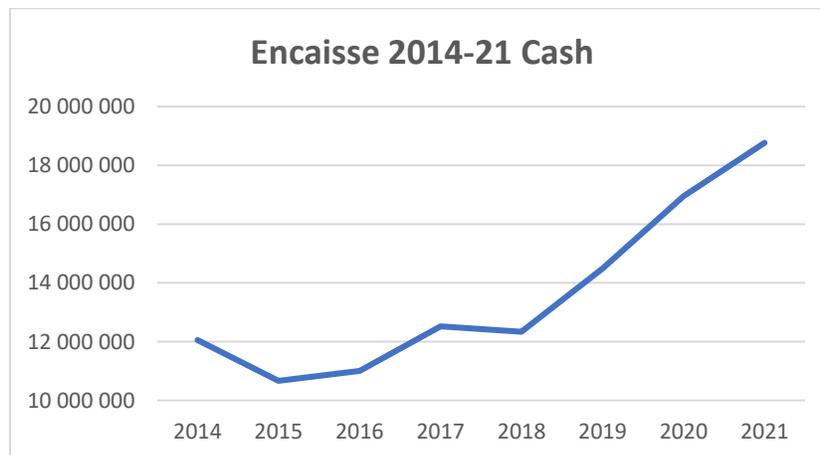
THE SOLUTION: CREATE A HEALTH RESERVE

The building will only start in 6+ years, so the city can constitute a reserve

The city has 6 years to dramatically reduce the financial burden of building the noise barrier. Creating a reserve simply means putting money aside.

The city has a lot of money in the bank

The financial situation of the city is excellent. \$18.7 million in the bank³, up nearly \$2 million from 2020. It was \$10.6 million in 2015. Wow! An increase of \$8 million in 6 years!



The welcome tax is a very important external source of income

The bank account is full because the city collects a lot of welcome tax. This tax brought⁴ in \$30.5 million over 7 years, including \$6.7 million in 2021 and \$5.7 million in 2020.

On average, the “welcome tax” has therefore brought in more than \$6.2 million per year for 2 years, and \$4.35 million over 7 years. This explains a lot of the growth of the city's cash.

³ See city's financial statements as of December 31, 2021, page 4: "Trésorerie" (cash bank deposits) = \$18.7 million

⁴ See city's financial statements as of December 31, 2021, page 44: " Droits de mutation immobilière " (welcome tax) = \$6.7 million



THE KEY: Let's use the welcome tax to create a health reserve

The welcome tax is not a fad, it's a heavy trend. Beaconsfield is attractive: a beautiful environment on the island and large lots to build mansions. Let's use some of that money from the new owners to pay for more than half the noise barrier without additional taxes.

Let's move \$3 million today from the bank account to the "Health Reserve". Then, each year, we add \$1 million to this reserve, again from the new welcome taxes. In 6 years (or more, if the project is postponed), we will have at least \$9 million in cash, without any particular effort from the citizens.

Other sources of income

With our 4.8 km noise barrier we get a loooooong surface on which we can, for example, install solar panels. This will generate a lot of electricity for decades to come and we will then have two options: sell the energy to Hydro-Québec, or use it to reduce our energy bill and finance the noise barrier.

The real fight is against agglo taxes and not against the protection of our public health

In 2022, the increase in the agglo tax was \$334 on the average residence. That's \$673 in total over 3 years. And NO additional services to Beaconsfield residents. It is with the Agglo that we can control taxes, NOT by taxing those who suffered for too long.