

### **FACT #3- DEMOCRACY IS A VALUE SYSTEM, NOT JUST VOTING**

Democracy is not just about voting.

Democracy is based on certain values, attitudes and practices that take different forms. Thus, justice, solidarity, respect and equity are essential values of democracy. These values are also the basis of human rights.

Taxing the residents of the 20 who suffer from noise is unfair, it is a lack of solidarity and respect for those who suffer every day. In this sense, wouldn't it be fair to tax the residents of the lake for all the costs following future floods?

#### **Solidarity vs individualism**

The opposite of solidarity is individualism. Some try to associate the impact of the noise barrier with an individual benefit. NO. Reducing noise in certain areas is a collective health priority.

#### **Appearance of democracy**

No need to wrap yourself in a false "democratic virtue". Some claim that the proposed "surveys", "consultations", and "referendums" are "proof" of democracy. But when only one side is explained, when only one opinion is presented in these "consultations", then all this is only an appearance. It is not an honest process.

#### **Lack of political courage and leadership**

Elected officials do not need a referendum to decide to protect the health of more than 6,000 of their constituents. The law<sup>1</sup> allows them to decide by themselves. But when, despite this authority, some elected officials try to push a decision into the hands of the voters, it is a lack of political courage.

What would have happened if Premier Legault had held a referendum over health measures and confinement in March 2020? What if he had lost it? What would have been the consequences? THIS is political courage. A great Man<sup>2</sup> knows how to make these unpopular decisions despite the limited opinion of some.

Remember the blocking of the city of Ottawa for the so-called "libArty"? The government was slow to move. The situation complexified.

A great leader knows that public health is more important than anything and that he must do what it takes to protect it.

#### **Who can vote about my health?**

NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE ABOUT MY HEALTH OR THAT OF MY FAMILY. This not democratic!

---

<sup>1</sup> Cities and Towns Act, Art. 556: "A loan by-law is only subject to the approval of the Minister [without a referendum] when the purpose of the work is to eliminate a health risk"

<sup>2</sup> Man in the generic sense, with a capital M

A father notices a fever in his youngest. Does he need a family referendum to decide if he goes to the hospital? No. He has an obligation to protect the health of his child. Even if it costs him a taxi, even if it is 4 am. He MUST go. Likewise, a Council has an obligation to protect the health of ALL his citizens when there is a solution. He swore<sup>3</sup> to be honest in protecting them. No need for a referendum to put on your pants and do the right thing.

### **Democracy or stubbornness?**

For 35 years, successive administrations in Beaconsfield have persisted in deliberately blinding themselves, in dividing citizens by making it a question of money. That's stubbornness.

This is the third time that the Ministry of Transport has knocked on our door with a proposal filled with compassion and humanity.

It is the best solution to protect thousands of citizens, our 2,000 young people at home, at school and in daycare and all those elderly people who have chosen to live in Beaconsfield.

Refusing to protect them is a bit like betraying their trust.

You have the power. Dare a little empathy. Accept the construction and reasonable financing of the noise barrier without taxing those who have suffered for so long.

Thank you.

---

<sup>3</sup> Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, Art 313, the mayor's oath is thus specified: "I (XXX), declare under oath that I will exercise my functions as mayor with honesty and justice"