



Initiative du corridor pollué de Beaconsfield (ICPB)  
Beaconsfield Polluted Corridor Initiative (BPCI)

Beaconsfield, August 4, 2022

The Honorable Omar Alghabra, P.Eng.,  
Minister of Transport of Canada  
Transport Canada  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

**Please help us solve an environmental disaster in Beaconsfield  
Grant application to study solutions for a noise barrier**

Dear Minister,

The Beaconsfield Polluted Corridor Initiative (BPCI) is a citizens association from Beaconsfield, Qc, a city of 20,000 residents located on the island of Montreal. For more than 13 years, we have been calling for the construction of noise barriers south of Highway 20 in the center of our city, and for a study of possible solutions for the north side, along the train tracks.

A third of our population, 6,000 + residents, plus 2,000 children in four schools and a kindergarten are located in a polluted corridor<sup>1</sup>, 300 meters on either side of the highway and trains tracks.

We have collected over 2,000 signatures from residents of the City of Beaconsfield over the age of 18. This represents 14% of registered voters in Beaconsfield at the November 2021 election.

**Growing and intolerable noise pollution**

A highway and railway lines run right through our town. Traffic on these routes has more than doubled in recent years. The noise level has therefore also increased dramatically.

In 2010, noise level measurements<sup>2</sup> showed that one-third of the population of Beaconsfield lives in noise pollution that exceeds acceptable levels according to the WHO<sup>3</sup>. The Montreal Public Health Department confirmed this dire situation in writing<sup>4</sup> in 2022.

This ever-increasing noise pollution is intolerable and dangerous to our health.

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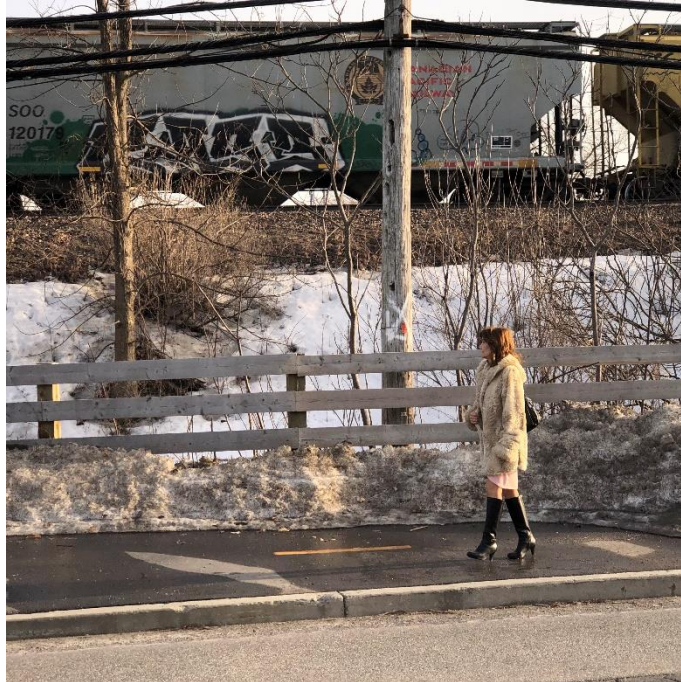
<sup>1</sup> As defined by the WHO in 1999

<sup>2</sup> See [https://www.beaconsfield.ca/images/stories/municipal-fields/rapport\\_etude\\_a20\\_beaconsfield.pdf](https://www.beaconsfield.ca/images/stories/municipal-fields/rapport_etude_a20_beaconsfield.pdf) by Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) October 2010

<sup>3</sup> See many studies by the WHO since 1999, including :  
[https://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/136466/e94888.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/136466/e94888.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> See attached letter by Dr David Kaiser, May 31, 2022

In 2019, the ICPB made a voluntary call for testimonials. We identified 22 residents<sup>5</sup> living along the 20 and the rails and presenting symptoms similar to those described by the WHO and the INSPQ<sup>6</sup> (tinnitus, difficulty sleeping, concentrating, hearing, irritability, fatigue, etc.).



Elm St. Beaconsfield, Qc.

### **The solution: a noise barrier**

The solution proposed by the authorities<sup>7</sup>, in May 2022, is to build a noise barrier over 4.8 km south of Highway 20. This is the first real proposal in 35 years to resolve this noise pollution, and the health situation which ensues and worsens.

No solution has been studied for the north side yet, close to the railway tracks.

### **The crux of the problem: money**

In Beaconsfield, the municipal administration is extremely reluctant to this project. It does not even make the effort to seek outside help!

Yet it is a public health problem for our community. We citizens are left to our own devices. If we want a noise barrier, do we have to build it and find funding? What a sad precedent!

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<sup>5</sup> See attached « Étude 2019 – Residents with Health issues 2.DPF »

<sup>6</sup> See many Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (INSPQ) studies, including : [https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2450\\_meilleures\\_pratiques\\_aménagement\\_effets\\_bruit\\_environmental.pdf](https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2450_meilleures_pratiques_aménagement_effets_bruit_environmental.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> The MTQ feasibility study is not publicly available, but a presentation is available here : <https://www.beaconsfield.ca/fr/antibruit> , MTQ, May 2022.

The mayor of the city even recommended<sup>8</sup> that we apply for this grant ourselves. That's why we're asking for your help here and now.

### **Our grant application**

"Who wants, can and who dares, does"<sup>9</sup> says the French proverb.

So we want and we dare. And, if you want, you will find the money and guide us to the appropriate grant programs for our cause.

**We are asking here that the Ministry of Transport of Canada funds a preliminary study on the possible solutions, including the opportunity to build a noise barrier on the north side of the railway tracks in Beaconsfield.**

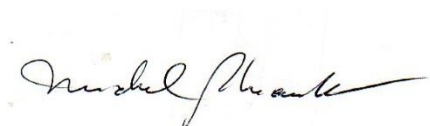
The south side study only did cost \$200,000. This is an essential project for the health of our families, otherwise all this noise will continue to deafen the thousands of children and residents near these transport routes.

Your support will reduce municipal resistance and help accelerate the resolution of this growing urban ecological disaster.

We are confident that you will respond positively and with your usual diligence.

We thank you in advance for all your attention to our cause and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michel Rheault  
President  
Beaconsfield Noise Pollution Initiative (ICPB)  
<http://www.beaconsfieldsoundwall.ca/>

PJ Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, Deputy for Lac Saint-Louis,

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<sup>8</sup> See the video of the June 2022 Council meeting, minute 21 :37 : <http://webtv.coop/group/video/Ville-de-Beaconsfield-Seance-ordinaire-du-conseil-du-20-juin-2022/1ee0a9c6047f3d3b559d2c2fe3ac7034/d0d75b0724808712b39ad1a91712fbd7>

<sup>9</sup> « Qui veut, peut et qui ose, fait »