

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Show your concern about the redevelopment of the Montreal Children's Hospital Site

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Writing a letter to the editor of your preferred publication is a great way to take action by starting a dialogue with the general public via the media. It will also help put pressure on elected officials, such as Mayor Denis Coderre, to listen to constituent need. Below is a short summary of ideas that could be included in your letter. This list is by no means exhaustive – be creative and make it your own! The more people who participate, the louder and stronger our message will be.

### 1. Basic information

- State your relationship to the Peter-McGill neighbourhood – what is your interest in the site? Are you a resident, a member of an organisation, a student based there?
- Refer to previous articles written about the site by the publication, or point out if they have not yet covered the issue.
- Keep your letter short and to the point! We recommend around 250 words.

### 2. Useful facts about the Peter-McGill neighbourhood:

- No social housing has been built in the neighbourhood for 15 years, and there is a serious lack of affordable housing for families despite 42% of the population living under the low-income threshold.
- There is 3x less green space in Peter-McGill than the Montreal average
- There is no public francophone primary school in the neighbourhood.

### 3. The Office de Consultation Publique de Montréal (OCPM) recommended that the redeveloped site:

- Offer more affordable family housing
- Expand the proposed on-site park
- Make room to build a primary school
- Reduce the number of the proposed towers to make room for more green space.

### 4. Three reasons why Mayor Denis Coderre should adhere to the OCPM's recommendations:

- He has introduced Bill 122 which removes residents' rights to hold referendums on municipal projects. This puts more power in the hands of the OCPM, and he should thus take their recommendations seriously.
- There is a municipal election coming up soon. The Mayor needs to show residents of downtown that he will put the needs of his constituents before those of private developers.
- The redevelopment does not meet municipal standards found in the Stratégie Centre-Ville or in the Grands Jardins Special Planning Project.

### 5. Ready to send? Here's a short list of places you can e-mail your letter to:

- The Montreal Gazette (EN) – [letters@montrealgazette.com](mailto:letters@montrealgazette.com)
- La Presse (FR) – [debats@lapresse.ca](mailto:debats@lapresse.ca)
- Le Devoir (FR) - [lettres@ledevoir.com](mailto:lettres@ledevoir.com)
- Journal de Montréal : [opinions@quebecormedia.com](mailto:opinions@quebecormedia.com)

### Student Papers:

- The McGill Daily (EN) – [commentary@mcgilldaily.com](mailto:commentary@mcgilldaily.com)
- The Link (Concordia) (EN) - [letters@thelinknewspaper.ca](mailto:letters@thelinknewspaper.ca) (include your student ID number)
- If you want to go the extra mile, you can tweak your letter and send it as a letter of concern to Mayor Denis Coderre's office, or other elected city official. Contact information can be found [here](#).

**6. Need some inspiration? Take a look at the Letter to the Editor written by resident Lucy Fellowes below:**

*Thanks to the Montreal Gazette for continuing to report on development of the former Montreal Children's Hospital site. (Marian Scott, June 2, 2017).*

*Peter-McGill Community Council member Stéphane Febbrari and resident Ann-Ross Robinson voice concerns shared by many about the scale and density of Devimco's proposal. Office de Consultation Publique (OCPM) heard from over 300 people during the sessions, and received 58 oral and written opinions.*

*The OCPM report accurately reflects our recommendations. Too bad it is not binding.*

*Richard Bergeron's remarks are not reassuring, and not respectful of the communities his party claims to represent. And he knows full well that local residents' input was not "integrated into the plan."*

*No, such is our flawed process that residents' can review and comment AFTER the developers launch their plans, with all the weight of their publicists and photo shop renderings. No shade or wind studies. No sign of architects and urban planners here to signal professional skill, experience, and sensitivity in developing this prime site.*

*The OCPM provides neighbourhood residents and businesses a chance to offer their practical and real-time perspective on the massive, faceless elevations--the highest at 32 floors--proposed for right next door.*

*The OCPM report was available to the cities involved--Ville de Montréal and Westmount--before it was released to the public. Let's hope that whoever is in charge of approvals has had time to realize that we can do better. Everyone knows the value of this site: insist that the developers come up with a plan worthy of the treasure they have. Citizens are watching.*

*Lucy Fellowes*