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Association des municipalités de banlieue
Association of Suburban Municipalities

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THE ASM MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AND SYSTEMATICALLY VOTES AGAINST 3 PROPOSALS AT THE AGGLOMERATION COUNCIL

Montreal West, March 27, 2024 – On March 21st, for a third consecutive meeting of the Montreal Agglomeration Council, the mayors of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) maintained a steady position by once again systematically voting against three proposals that did not meet the legitimate expectations of the demerged municipalities.

The proposals, to which the mayors of the ASM unanimously opposed, involved investments in the new bicycle network, refecton work along the Jean-Talon corridor between Pie-IX Boulevard in the east and Cavendish Boulevard in the west, and the implementation of cloud computing solutions, totalling an expenditure of nearly \$152 million for the agglomeration.

When the time came to vote on each of the three proposals, Mayors Christina Smith of Westmount and Marc Doret of Dorval, as well as Deputy Mayor Dida Berku of Côte-Saint-Luc, justified this opposition by insisting, among other things, that "*The legislative and regulatory context establishing the sharing of the Agglomeration's expenses allows the City of Montreal to impose the sharing of the costs set out for this project. Nevertheless, the fact remains that in the absence of a convincing demonstration of the allocation and the real sharing of human and material resources between the needs of the City of Montreal, those of the boroughs, and those of the other demerged cities, we must consider the current distribution to be financially inequitable for the demerged cities and consequently must be the subject of an opposition vote by all the mayors of the ASM .*"

Following the Agglomeration Council meeting, Beny Masella, President of the ASM and Mayor of Montreal West, reminded that "*The approach taken by the elected officials of the ASM is unfortunately necessary if we want to move toward the resolution of this issue, which has been ongoing for far too long. The City of Montreal's lack of willingness to find viable solutions for the equitable sharing of the agglomeration's expenses forces us to take increasingly firm positions. We do so to defend the interests of all our citizens. The City of Montreal and the Government of Quebec should have the same concern.*"

The ASM recalls that this approach was initiated during a meeting of the Agglomeration Council held on January 25, 2024, following the opposition already expressed in December 2023 during the adoption of the 2024 budget of the agglomeration. To date, although the 15 demerged cities represent only 12% of the total population of the Island of Montréal and 18% of the fiscal capacity according to the rules established by the Government of Quebec in 2023, they bear 38% of the total increase in the

agglomeration's expenses for 2024. This means that the citizens of demerged cities pay on average 65% more than the citizens of the city of Montreal.

Metropolitan Land Use and Development Plan

The Montreal Agglomeration Council also voted on the first draft of the Metropolitan Land Use and Development Plan related to the Act Respecting Land Use Planning and Development (CQLR, c. A-19.1). The Mayor of Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Alex Bottausci, pointed out that the City of Montreal "*forgot*" to include the demerged cities in the first, essential steps of the discussions, contrary to the sharing of information made from the beginning by the MRCs included in the territory of the CMM with their respective municipalities. By omitting the demerged municipalities in this first step and thus limiting the period for reviewing the documents, Montreal has limited their capacity to analyze and intervene in this process, an essential one for the entire population of the Island of Montreal.

In addition, Mayor Bottausci also denounced the fact that Saint-Jean, Des Sources, and St-Charles boulevards in the West Island of Montreal are not considered by the City of Montreal to be essential for public transit, particularly to allow a more efficient access to the new REM facilities and to ensure the safety of north-south travel for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. To denounce this unacceptable situation, the mayors of Kirkland, Pointe-Claire and Dollard-des-Ormeaux voted against the adoption of this first notice from the Agglomeration of Montreal to the CMM. "*I do NOT understand how a city can achieve densification on its territory WITHOUT integrating public transit. It's a contradictory statement*", concluded Mayor Bottausci.

About the Association of Suburban Municipalities

The Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) is an association of the fifteen demerged cities of the agglomeration of Montreal, each autonomous in its municipal management and its voice. Together, they have some 250,000 citizens. These municipalities are Baie-d'Urfé, Beaconsfield, Côte-Saint-Luc, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Dorval, L'Île-Dorval, Hampstead, Kirkland, Montreal East, Montreal West, Mount Royal, Pointe-Claire, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Senneville, and Westmount.

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Source: Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM)

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