



Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I am writing to you today to ask you to take concrete action to protect one of Montreal's most precious biodiversity treasures, the Technoparc wetlands.

Located just north of Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau Airport, 215 hectares of wetlands and woods offer one of the last large unprotected and unfragmented green spaces on the island of Montreal. This area is equal in size to Mount Royal Park. It is the place in Montreal where we find the largest number of bird species, including several threatened species. It is also a place frequented by a growing number of people who enjoy its many attractions. These lands are managed by the federal government, the City of Montreal, and private developers, with approximately 60 ha falling directly under municipal control.

It is widely known that wetlands have an important role to play in the natural and urban ecosystem. They help control flooding, capture CO₂ that contributes to greenhouse gases, reduce the effect of heat islands, and enrich biodiversity by providing a variety of habitats. Despite these recognized benefits, wetlands continue to disappear. In six years (2011-2017), more than 100 ha of wetlands have disappeared on the island of Montreal. During this same period, the province of Quebec authorized the destruction of nearly 4,000 ha of wetlands.

The political will to protect this space, sadly, has been lacking. In 2016-2017, in complicity with the previous municipal administration, two-thirds of the wetlands in the Hubert-Reeves Eco-Campus sector were drained, without public consultation. City officials continue to claim the right to build parking lots and industrial buildings over the drained areas, and have justified drying out the wetlands as a way to save them. In reality, this destruction has resulted in a significant decline in several species.

To date, none of the lots under municipal control has been protected. For the past nine years, the City of Montreal has stated that it is in the process of creating Parc-Nature des Sources, which would protect only ten hectares in the Eco-Campus sector (out of 60 ha in the municipal sector). However, the City has never established a concrete budget for this project, a fact that was recently publicly acknowledged.

For all these reasons, I support the requests of the citizens' group Technoparc Oiseaux and I ask you to act quickly to protect these wetlands.

Technoparc Oiseaux asks that the City of Montreal protect, as soon as possible and in perpetuity, the 60 ha under its control and that it clearly ask the federal government to do the same for the 155 ha under its responsibility, in consultation with respective Indigenous leaders, so that this last non-fragmented greenspace on the island of Montreal can finally be protected to the benefit of all Montrealers.

(Your name here)