



**The collective *À nous la Malting!* demands a clear commitment from Denis Coderre and Valérie Plante regarding the futur of the Canada Malting site in Saint-Henri**

**Montreal, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017** – Members and allies of the collective “À nous la Malting!” have just arrived at the election offices of Valérie Plante (**1316 de Maisonneuve East**) and Équipe Denis Coderre (**1837 B Ste-Catherine Ouest**) in the hopes of getting both mayoral candidates to commit to removing the abandoned Canada Malting industrial site from the real estate market and to contributing to a land trust for a future community project on the lot, situated next to the Lachine Canal in Saint-Henri.

Residents and community organizations from the low-income neighbourhood have been mobilizing to prevent condominium development on the lot since 2013 and formed the collective last February. With the support of Solidarité Saint-Henri, a coalition of local community groups and institutions, the collective is developing a project for the site in order to ensure that the land will be used by and for the community. “Low-income residents are increasingly left behind by the new development in our neighbourhood. A 100% community-driven project at the Malting site would allow us to meet the needs of people who are being forced out of the neighbourhood”, explained Shannon Franssen, coordinator of Solidarité Saint-Henri and spokesperson for the collective.

The collective presented a proposal with their vision for the site, developed after numerous community planning workshops with local residents, to city councillors at an action at City Hall in May and posted the proposal on their website, lamalting.org. Members of the collective have questioned Denis Coderre and Projet Montreal at several city council meetings about adopting a motion to remove the site from the real estate market, but neither Mayor Coderre nor Valérie Plante responded favourably to their request. “We have the support of our borough council for our project, but without a motion from City Hall to remove the site from the real estate market, we can’t move forward”, added Ms. Franssen.

The collective believes that the city urgently needs to adopt the motion in order to spare the site from land speculation before Montreal’s real estate market is inundated by the wave of foreign investment affecting other large Canadian cities. The city also needs to play a role in the encouraging other levels of government to invest public funds to purchase the privately-owned site.

The abandoned factory, once an icon of Saint-Henri’s industrial past, had become a symbol of the neighbourhood’s fight against luxury condominium developments and the resulting displacement of long-time residents. “The parents and grandparents of my neighbours and friends worked at the Canada Malting Factory. They built this neighbourhood and we will not accept to be pushed out by private developers who want to profit now that our home is considered trendy by higher income people. We want to play an active role in developing our neighbourhood – not for profit, but to meet the needs of local families and to ensure that we can continue to live here, where we belong”, explained Fred Burrill, member of the collective and a resident of Saint-Henri.

The collective plans to stay in the election offices until Projet Montreal and Équipe Denis Coderre commit to removing the site from the real estate market.

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