

Dear Paul Kenton,

Please see below your survey (your version 2) with all my answers and any extra comments “qualifying” my answer (in yellow highlight).

Some questions to the survey needed to be explained/clarified in more detail.

All my answers and comments in its entirety and exactly in the same format (including links) must be published. Nothing must be changed, altered or modified.

Thank you for your active role for this survey,

Philippe Bergeron

Candidate for Montreal West Town councillor, seat #4

Proud Montreal Wester since 2006

Candidate Survey on Resident Priorities

WELCOME TO THE SURVEY.

There are seventeen statements grouped in 3 sections dealing with PAC, Urban Planning Bylaws & the Permits Process, Transparency, and Communication which reflect general resident concern expressed in the Town of Montreal West Residents Facebook group. Please indicate whether you agree, disagree, are undecided, or don't wish to answer.

If you wish to qualify an answer, don't hesitate to respond in an email: paulkenton48@gmail.com

Once you've submitted your survey from the last page, you will be offered the option to "Edit your response". Clicking on that link will bring you back to your survey.

You can either make changes to specific answers, or click on the black box at the bottom to "OPEN BLANK FORM" and start a fresh survey. However, you'll have to re-enter your email address.

Only your last submitted survey is collected.

PAC, URBAN PLANNING BYLAWS & THE PERMITS PROCESS

The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was only created as a provincial government requirement around 2005, and many urban planning bylaws were only created in the 2010s. For approximately 110 years before PAC, residents enjoyed greater freedom to produce the many fine examples of architecture in the Town.

1a. Bylaws should be reviewed and overhauled, and the permits process simplified making it more user-friendly with greater trust in residents' judgement.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

1b. The review committee of part 1a should consist of some “ordinary” citizens in addition to interested PAC and council members.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment: This “review committee” should consist of citizens (property owners) that represent ALL the diverse segments of our community (gender, age, location within the city, etc) to get a complete understanding of the community’s needs.

2. Reduce the number of projects that require permits.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

3. Establish a well-defined appeals/review process occurring *before* any PAC decision is formally accepted at a council meeting at which time it becomes a legal obligation.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

4. Create an online table of common household projects indicating whether they require permits and/or approval.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment:

<https://montreal-ouest.ca/en/resident-services/urban-planning/permits-authorizations/>

5a. When PAC is deliberating on a project, if a consensus is not possible, a majority vote should be taken.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

5b. PAC should abandon the time-consuming process of achieving consensus and adopt much simpler majority decision-making.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

6. PAC membership should be open to “ordinary” residents other than those who are architects, urban planners, or in construction – which is the current composition.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment: This is already the case as not all current PAC members are architects, urban planners or in construction.

7. Emergency repairs need to be defined which do not require approval and/or permits.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

8. In a town where so many homes are plagued with water issues, permits should not be required for installation of French drains in *detached* houses.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment: There needs to be some sort of city involvement for such a large project. A possible idea, a permit, flat rate fee, without approval from the PAC that you can pick up instantly from the city (no delays).

9. Planning department and PAC decisions need to be made as quickly as possible so that residents don't lose their priority with their contractor.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

TRANSPARENCY

Residents would welcome access to studies, recommendations, and committee memberships as a way of being more connected to Town affairs and promoting civic engagement.

1. Publish the annual Infrastructure Priority List on the Town website.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

2. Publish all studies and reports subject to Access to Information legislation so that residents don't have to make an Access to Information request.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

3. Publish all other studies and reports *not* covered by Access to Information legislation; this would include things such as speed bump studies and Traffic Safety Committee recommendations.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

4a. Committees and committee membership are established through council resolutions, which are public documents. For awareness and to encourage participation, the Town should publish membership of all committees except PAC on the Town website. Non-official committees such as the CRA and the Horticultural society should be encouraged to publish their memberships.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment:

1-

This is already public knowledge (published on the town's website). Please see following links for members on the PAC, EAC, Safety and MADA committees.

PAC: <https://montreal-ouest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024-07-11-special-minutes.pdf>

EAC: <https://montreal-ouest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024-05-27-minutes.pdf>

Safety: <https://montreal-ouest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024-04-25-minutes.pdf>

MADA: https://montreal-ouest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/5979_MADA_2025-Eng.pdf

2-

I agree that the names of all board members of other organisations that benefit from and offer services in Montreal West ie MWCRA, libraries, Horticultural society, etc, be published within the proper communication channel within the organisation and the town.

I'm against publishing via social media unless with clear consent from the individual.

4b. A *review* should be made whether to make PAC membership public. On the one hand it might make PAC members the target of disgruntled homeowners, on the other hand it would lead to greater accountability. Once the permit process and bylaws are overhauled, this may no longer be a concern.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment: Names of PAC are already published on the town's website. See link below on page 2.

<https://montreal-ouest.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2024-07-11-special-minutes.pdf>

5. PAC should publish statistics detailing how many projects are accepted outright, how many are accepted with conditions, the number of appeals, and the number of outright refusals.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

COMMUNICATION

A. RESPONSE & FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLORS AND TOWN CIVIL SERVANTS.

1. Town officials/staff should be encouraged to reply to residents within 5-7 working days.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

2. Council, including the mayor, should reply to residents within 3-5 working days.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

B. INFORMAL SURVEYS

It's time to start making use of social media for non-binding surveys of resident opinions.

3. The Town should experiment with using informal online surveys to gauge public opinion and promote engagement.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer

Comment: Not everyone uses social media or the same social media platform. Informal surveys can be done through many other channels: ie good old paper version, email surveys (google forms or other), using the town's website, etc.

Everyone should have the same fair chance to access and answer any Town survey. This will increase participation by all segments of the community. That being said, it doesn't stop the town to inform/promote the survey via various social media platforms.

C. PERIODIC OPEN FORUMS

Create opportunities for discussing important issues beyond what is currently possible during council meeting question periods.

4. Hold public meetings, perhaps 3 a year, to encourage discussion, debate and feedback.

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Don't wish to answer