

Outdoor skating in Longueuil under threat this winter

Longueuil, November 27, 2020 - In the last few days, the elected officials of the Official Opposition of the City of Longueuil have learned that nearly half of the normally equipped outdoor rinks may not be installed this year due to related circumstances to COVID-19. The Borough Presidents of Greenfield Park, Robert Myles, and of Vieux-Longueuil, Benoit L'Écuyer, wanted to react.

According to the information obtained by the elected officials of the Opposition, the City is still awaiting instructions from the Santé Publique de la Montérégie on the modalities that will allow the winter facilities to open. Nevertheless, a lack of manpower in the organizations responsible for the maintenance of outdoor rinks could well deprive the citizens of Longueuil of nearly half of the usual ice rinks.

The Borough President of Greenfield Park, Mr. Robert Myles, is worried that the City does not seem to intend to provide, despite everything, all the normal installations. A decision that will be irreversible in the coming months.

“To make an outdoor rink, the City has to put signs in the ground while it is not completely frozen and covered in snow. Fortunately, very mild weather is still forecasted for the next few days, but if we don't act now, it will be too late. For 10 months, the instructions of Public Health have changed many times and manpower could be found in the coming weeks. I would not want us in February to regret a decision taken in November. I therefore ask the Mayor to authorize, as of now, the blue collar workers to install all the panels necessary for the opening of all the rinks normally planned in Longueuil. In the worst case scenario, the panels will not be used this winter, in the best case, citizens will be able to go skating normally”, said Robert Myles.

For his part, the Borough President of Vieux-Longueuil, Mr. Benoit L'Écuyer, invites the Mayor to be more proactive and to imitate her colleagues from other large cities in Quebec in their desire to make the most of the pleasures of winter for their citizens.

“Winter sports will be particularly important this year for our physical and mental health. It is unthinkable that we will put aside half of our rinks without doing anything. I am convinced that if we appeal to everyone, we will find the necessary arms to maintain all the rinks. I myself will be the first to volunteer. I have done this as a volunteer for years. I am ready to give training if necessary. Let's stop being afraid of finding solutions that are outside the box. It would be a shame if the citizens of Longueuil have to go to other cities to go skating”, said Benoit L'Écuyer.