

**OUTDOOR WOOD FIRES IN GREENFIELD PARK**

**In favour of restrictions pending a genuine consultation**

**Longueuil, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021** — Recognizing the lack of consensus in Greenfield Park to ban outdoor wood fires, borough councillors have nevertheless proposed reasonable restrictions to address the nuisance problem.

"We have a real nuisance problem in Greenfield Park related to outdoor wood fires. We see unsafe fires lit in barrels or wheelbarrows, it's intolerable! Some neighbors burn wood every day and at all hours of the day and that's unreasonable! We never like to have to add rules, but minimum rules are needed to avoid abuse. That's what we are proposing", said borough president Robert Myles.

Councillor Wade Wilson, indicating that views on outdoor wood fires are quite divided among the citizens of the borough, called for a broad written public consultation at Greenfield Park. "A survey or a petition is no substitute for a real consultation. It's only through this consultation that we will be able to exchange with all citizens on the relevant facts and science and thus build the necessary consensus", added Borough Councillor Wade Wilson.

For Borough Councillor Peter Doonan, "our most important mandates are to protect our citizens and listen to their needs. We feel that we have gone as far as we could without prior consultation. The directions we send to the mayor are responsible. They should allow her to find a balanced approach that will represent a significant gain from the status quo."

**A call for tolerance and respect**

Robert Myles seized the opportunity of the Borough Council meeting to address incidents of intimidation some citizens have reportedly been victims of because of their position in the current debate. While acknowledging the emotional nature of the debate, he nevertheless reiterated the importance of acting with tolerance and respect. "The truth is in the strength of our arguments, not in the strength of our insults. The community of Greenfield Park is founded on diversity and respect. Times are tough for everyone, but let's remember that after family and friends, our neighbors are the most valuable people we have", Robert Myles concluded.