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## **The Vaudreuil-Dorion Municipal Council adopts a resolution asking the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to review its intention to build a 5.7-hectare surface parking lot for the future hospital**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, June 6, 2023** – During its regular meeting on June 5th, 2023, the City's council unanimously adopted a resolution asking the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to provide for the addition of a budgetary envelope to build an elevated or underground parking structure instead of a surface parking lot for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital, as had originally been included in the plans accepted by the City, the whole in accordance with the sustainable development goals announced by the former Minister on February 1st, 2019, as well as the regional and municipal planning and regulatory documents.

This resolution is based on numerous facts proving beyond any doubt that the Quebec government's decision to build a surface parking lot goes against existing environmental policies at the municipal, regional and provincial levels. In fact, the plans provide for 1,869 parking spaces, representing 5.7 hectares of paved area, the equivalent of more than 5 football fields and 23% of the total size of the area where the future Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital will sit.

"Creating such a heat island on the site of the hospital is completely illogical. In 2021, when the government announced funding for urban greening initiatives, Minister of Health and Social Services Christian Dubé mentioned, and I quote: 'In cities, because of the urban heat island phenomenon, it gets even hotter during heat waves, and the health risks are greater. We need more green spaces in our urban areas if we are to act effectively against this danger.' Furthermore, a press release from the same Ministry on February 1st, 2019, announcing the location selected for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital, emphasized that the design criteria for the new hospital would introduce best practices with regard to sustainable development, in order to minimize the ecological footprint of the new infrastructure, and that a LEED certification would be among the criteria," explains Mayor Guy Pilon.

The government points to project cost reduction as the reason to justify its choice to abandon the construction of an elevated or underground parking structure. The construction of the hospital represents an amount of \$ 2,595 billion and a parking structure would involve an increase of approximately 3% of the planned budget.

"We are aware that it costs more to build an elevated or underground parking structure. Yet this is the choice the City made for the municipal hub, in accordance with its regulations and to respect the best practices in terms of sustainable development. It is also the choice that is required for new multi-unit buildings. At the time of issuing the permits, the government had made a commitment to develop sce-

narios for an elevated parking structure. This about-face is inconceivable and unacceptable," added Mayor Guy Pilon.

Recently, ReNew Canada released its annual report outlining Canada's 100 largest infrastructure projects currently underway in the country. The future Vaudreuil-Dorion hospital ranked 29th among the projects according to their construction budget. According to the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's municipal council, building a large, paved surface parking lot without any environmental vision is unacceptable for a project of this magnitude.