

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Presentation of a petition at the National Assembly **Mayor Guy Pilon calls on the government to respect its commitments regarding parking at the future Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital**

Vaudreuil-Dorion, November 21, 2023 – At the National Assembly today, the Mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion participated in a press conference organized by Marie-Claude Nichols, MNA for Vaudreuil, which was also attended by Mathieu Miljours, Director General of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This media event was related to the presentation of the petition initiated by the organization Mères au front and sponsored by the MNA for Vaudreuil. The petition, signed by 2,362 people, calls for the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to build a multi-level or underground parking area instead of a surface parking lot for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital centre, as was originally the plan.

Mayor Guy Pilon was in Quebec City to reiterate the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's commitment to ensure that the terms agreed upon by the government will be respected. He also took the opportunity to make representations to the political community in Quebec City. In his opinion, the issue is not only one of public health, but also one of environmental coherence with the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion and the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), both of which are in favour of multi-level parking.

The government justifies its decision to abandon the development of an underground or multi-level parking garage by claiming it is a matter of reducing project costs. Hence, the construction of the hospital represents an amount of \$2,595 billion and parking would imply an increase of approximately 3% of the allocated budget.

"We are aware that multi-level or underground parking is more expensive. It is, however, the choice that was made by the City for the construction of its municipal hub, in accordance with its by-laws and to respect best practices in terms of sustainable development. This requirement also applies to all new multi-unit buildings on the territory of Vaudreuil-Dorion. At the time of issuing the permits, the government had committed to developing scenarios for the construction of a multi-storey parking garage. This about-face is incomprehensible and unacceptable. There is still time to act, and we are asking the government to meet its commitment," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

The City is of the opinion that, far from delaying construction or jeopardizing the project, a multi-level parking garage would avoid the creation of one of the largest heat islands in the region and would promote the use of the spaces freed up for the development of gardening plots for the benefit of the community.

At its regular meeting on June 5th, 2023, the Municipal Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to provide an additional budgetary envelope

for the construction of a multi-level or underground parking structure instead of a surface parking area to serve the Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital centre. This had initially been provided for 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, and with regional and municipal planning and regulatory documents. On June 15th, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, which comprises 82 municipalities, or 4.1 million people, passed a resolution in support of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's request. Other socio-economic and local leaders in the region have publicly demonstrated their support for the City, including the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Chamber of Commerce and Industry