



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR – FEBRUARY 2007

Dear fellow citizens of Baie d'Urfé :

I have spent much of the last year trying to correct an abusive tax situation. The City of Montreal, through the agglomeration, is taxing our citizens for services we do not receive or need; double taxing us for some services we do receive and taxing us for services that are clearly not agglomeration in nature.

They do this under the powers set out in the agglomeration structure established by the Liberal government. This abuse happens to many other municipalities in Quebec. Last year, I, along with the Mayors of 15 demerged municipalities on the Island of Montreal, challenged the agglomeration budget. We maintained that a significant part of the charges claimed by Montreal as agglomeration expenses, were in fact Montreal's expenses. The government of Quebec agreed. In November, the Minister of Municipal Affairs promised us that \$41 million of expenses in the 2006 Agglomeration budget would be returned to our citizens as a credit in the 2007 tax bill. When the City of Montreal recently brought in the 2007 Agglomeration budget, we received no credit.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. My colleagues and I have tried, to no avail, to have Mr. Charest's government correct this situation and we have been ignored. As Mayor, it would be irresponsible of me to sit idly by and allow this situation to continue, without trying to correct it. So it is with careful consideration that I have decided to bring this abuse to the attention of the electorate.

Already Mario Dumont of the Action démocratique du Québec, has recognized this abuse and pledged to address it. By making this an issue in the upcoming election, I hope we can bring about a fair and equitable resolution to this abuse. With your support, we can be successful.

Sincerely

Maria Tutino  
Mayor