



Hear Entendre Québec

7000 Rue Sherbrooke West/Ouest, Montréal, Québec H4B 1R3

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L'honorable Mairesse Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montreal
275 Rue Notre Dame Est
Montreal QC

Chère Mairesse Plante,

My name is Abby Stonehouse, and I am a former employee of Hear Entendre Québec who now sits on the board of directors.

This is my second letter to you, and I am writing to follow up on and continue the call to action I began with my previous letter surrounding accessibility in Montreal for the hard of hearing community. I have yet to hear about your vision moving forward and how you plan to make the city more accessible to people with disabilities in this current climate. I am severely disappointed with your office for the lack of response to a dire need in the hard of hearing community despite the assurance that we would be given a proper response. As someone who lives with hearing loss, accessibility is an important issue for me and thousands of other people in the Montreal community.

In March of 2020, I attended a conference about Montreal's plans to make the city more accessible to all people with disabilities, a conference you yourself attended. However, even after members of Hear Québec expressed their interest in learning more about what the city is doing to make it more accessible for the hard of hearing and to make it more inclusive, your response is still wanting.

As you are aware, the use of cloth masks has made it more difficult for those living with hearing loss to effectively communicate. Katrina Tarondo, a former Hear Québec board member who also wrote to you, myself, and the many people living with hearing loss in Montreal still insist that you highlight the importance of clear masks.

Hear Québec and I would still love an opportunity to speak with you about both the importance of accessible masks with transparent windows for the hard of hearing community and Montreal's plans for accessibility as a whole.



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The hard of hearing community would like to know: if you continue to be mayor, how will you address our accessibility needs? We ask you to make a public statement to address this issue that is central to the lives of many members of the Montreal community.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abby Stonehouse", written in a cursive style.

Abby Stonehouse