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## **Vaudreuil-Soulanges Hospital parking lot: Mayor Guy Pilon disappointed with the government's decision to maintain their position**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, January 23, 2024** – Mayor Guy Pilon, along with the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Director General Olivier Van Neste, regional MNAs Marie-Claude Nichols and Marilynne Picard, as well as community stakeholders, met last Friday with health minister Christian Dubé on the site of the future Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital centre for an update on the parking issue. Despite all the efforts made to counter the surface parking project, the government persists in maintaining their position on this option.

"Minister Dubé was very honest with us, informing us that because of the budget, a surface parking lot is the option that will be carried out. A return to the original plan is not being taken into consideration. The government has set a figure for this project and is not prepared to invest the additional amount for the development of an underground parking lot. I am extremely disappointed, as this parking lot will become one of the largest heat islands in the region. We have done everything we can to persuade the government to reconsider its decision, but unfortunately, we now must face the fact that this will not happen," said Mayor Guy Pilon, following his meeting with the Minister.

Let us recall that during its regular meeting on June 5th, 2023, the municipal council unanimously adopted a resolution asking the Ministry of Health and Social Services to provide for the addition of a budgetary envelope towards the construction of a multi-level or underground parking lot instead of a surface parking lot for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital centre, as initially provided for in the plans accepted by the City, all in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals announced by the former Minister on February 1st, 2019, and regional and municipal planning and regulatory documents. On June 15th, the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*, which comprises 82 municipalities, or 4.1 million people, adopted a resolution in support of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's request. Other socio-economic and local leaders in the region had publicly demonstrated their support for the City, including the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The mayor thanked all the partners for their efforts: "I salute the work done by the MNA for Vaudreuil, Marie-Claude Nichols, as well as the group *Mères au Front*, who initiated the petition signed by 2,362 people, which was presented last November at the National Assembly."