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Pointe Claire puts development freeze back on CF Phase 1

By Chelsey St-Pierre
The Suburban

Following hours of debate at Tuesday's council meeting, there was a near-unanimous consensus to adopt the development freeze that was tabled in February and to again include Cadillac Fairview's proposed project in the interim control resolution (RCI) without excluding the residential phase 1. One councillor abstained and another was absent.

The temporary RCI applies, in particular, to the City Centre, large shopping centres, Pointe-Claire Village and Valois Village. It is applicable for certain types of projects that are specified in the interim control resolution as no permits can be issued for the construction or conversion of a multi-residential building in the City Centre sector for the duration of the freeze. Also, no permits can be issued for the construction of a new main building on the site of identified shopping centres,

Though the freeze is temporary, the city can renew the freeze should any delays occur in its process. Pointe-Claire Mayor Tim Thomas assures that his staff have a plan and timeline in place. "City council will meet every week to discuss the RCI. We want to move this process along," Thomas told *The Suburban*.

See PHASE 1, page A13



Israel rally makes triumphant return

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Some 6,500 Montrealers turned out in perfect spring weather May 5 to dance, sing and celebrate Israel's 74th anniversary of independence. The event, organized by The Partnership, returned to downtown Montreal for the first time since 2019, as the COVID pandemic meant this and other events had to be held online in the past two years.

The rally began at Cabot Square at Atwater and Ste. Catherine West, and a colourful pa-

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B'nai Brith, Senator demand deportation of PFLP operative

PART 1 OF 2


By Beryl Wajzman, Editor
The Suburban

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian is listed by Canada as a terrorist organization. It has taken responsibility for airplane hijackings, suicide bombings, the 2001 assassination of Israeli cabinet minister Rehavam Zeevi and the 2014 massacre at a Jerusalem synagogue that left five worshippers dead, including Toronto-born rabbi Howie Rothman, and several severely injured. Yet Khaled Barakat, a highly-placed PFLP operative, resides in Canada and easily and casually splits his time between Vancouver and Montreal. Israeli intelligence agencies have described the 51-year-old Barakat as a "high-ranking member" of the PFLP. Yet Barakat has lived in Canada off and on for nearly 20 years, currently residing in Vancouver, even though he has been deported from

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PFLP

Cont'd from page A1

the United States and Germany. Last week B'nai Brith Canada demanded that the Trudeau government answer why there has been no action on Barakat even after the national advocacy organization provided extensive documentation on him to the government since January 2020 with no response. Sen. Leo Housakos raised the same questions in the Senate. Under privacy protection legislation no one can even get information on how Barakat got into Canada in the first place.

Sen. Housakos asked Sen. Marc Gold, government leader in the Senate, "Why does your government allow him to remain in the country? He has been barred from the United States and Germany, yet the Trudeau government

still allows this individual to remain despite Canadian laws that forbid any individual with connections to terrorist organizations from entering our country or receiving Canadian citizenship."

Sen. Gold answered that he is aware of Barakat and that, "Canada has a robust system for dealing with those who seek admission to Canada or those in Canada who may be judged or thought to be inadmissible to remain in Canada. Indeed, in that regard, Canada is well recognized — and has been regularly recognized — by the United Nations for its system, whether it's that of welcoming refugees or otherwise dealing with those who find themselves within our borders. The CBSA has a legal obligation to remove inadmissible individuals as soon as possible when that determination has been made. I can-

not comment on specific cases, such as the one you've identified, but everyone who may be ordered removed remains entitled under our system of justice to due process and is subject to many levels of review and appeal."

Sen. Housakos responded that the Canadian government should be made aware of the "inherent dangers of this individual. How is the Jewish community in Canada supposed to take your government's claim to be committed to fighting anti-Semitism seriously if it allows this man to remain in Canada? Will your government do the right thing and order Barakat out of Canada? It's not right. We have laws. Individuals of this nature should not be admitted into our country."

Sen. Gold replied that the Canadian government, the Canadian Jewish community and Israel, "have longstanding, fruitful, friendly and mutually beneficial relationships. I can also speak with some confidence, given my own past before I arrived here, that the Government of Canada takes the question of anti-Semitism and all forms of hate very seriously, and it has demonstrated that through its actions. Again, I cannot comment on a specific case or what steps may or may not be taken to investigate or to determine the steps that may be taken with this or any other individual, but Canadians should remain satisfied that this government takes allegations and situations of this kind most seriously."

Barakat's actions and allies

Barakat has refused all queries from media including those from Vancouver-based award-winning journalist Terry Glavin, who offered him a chance to respond to the charges. Yet 10 days ago, from Vancouver, he appeared on the Iranian funded propaganda channel Press TV. Israeli internal security service Shin Bet has unequivocally described Barakat as "an active and senior member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a listed terrorist organization in North America, the European Union, Japan and Australia."

Aside from Shin Bet, Barakat has been described in several Palestinian news websites as either a "leader of the PFLP" or a member of the PFLP's governing central committee. Israeli intelligence agencies say they have intercepted PFLP documents that also identify him as a "key operative" in the organization. All this has been made known to Canadian intelligence agencies, law-enforcement authorities and senior federal politicians by the Israelis and by B'nai Brith Canada. Yet for years Barakat has appeared at rallies and meetings across Canada, and openly travelled to and from Europe as well.

Germany imposed a four-year ban on Barakat's entry after he was detained in Berlin in 2019, and later deported, owing to what the German Interior Ministry called Barakat's "violent, antisemitic rhetoric."

In December, 2015, Barakat was in Brussels appearing for the Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat, the PFLP secretary-general currently serving a 30-year jail term in Israel arising from his 2008 conviction on a variety of terrorism offences. Last October, Barakat travelled from Vancouver to Madrid to help organize the "Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path Movement" conference, bringing together militants devoted to a rejection of the Palestinian Authority's cooperation with Israel and the "resistance by any means necessary" position stated by the PFLP. The PFLP's main financial and political backers are Bashar Assad's regime in Damascus, Khomeinist Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Barakat's residency status in Canada is unclear. An online Arab news site that interviewed him in November 2020 reported that Barakat was born in the village of Dahiyat al-Barid on the outskirts of Jerusalem in 1971, and went on to live in several Arab and European countries, and later the United States, until his residency permit was revoked and he was deported in 2003. Around that time, Barakat started showing up in Vancouver. The "No One Is Illegal" organization lists Barakat as a founding member, and Barakat showed up as a Palestinian student activist at the University of British Columbia in 2004.

His wife, Charlotte Lynne Kates status is similarly unclear. An American citizen, Kates had already become something of a radical in New Jersey when she was a teenager. She was involved with Palestinian activists at Rutgers University, where she completed a law degree before coming to Vancouver about a decade ago.

The Jewish community's concern

After the Housakos-Gold Senate debate, B'nai Brith responded that, "The government needs to act immediately and deport Khaled Barakat. Samidoun also needs to be decertified as a corporation immediately, and it should never have been certified in the first place. We're glad that Senator Gold acknowledged today that the Government is aware of this national security concern, but Canadians are still waiting for a substantive response."

B'nai Brith CEO Mostyn added, "We have given the Government every chance to do the right thing, but we can no longer stay silent. The Government's reckless disregard of this matter severely undermines its claim to be committed to the fight against antisemitism." ■

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“The whole world is watching!”

Personal remarks by McGill Dean of Law Robert Leckey at the Anti-Bill 96 Rally

By Dean Robert Leckey
Special to The Suburban

I am honoured to be invited here today. Thank you. Though the McGill Faculty of Law has been deeply involved in building the Quebec legal order as vibrant, bilingual, and pluralistic for nearly two centuries, today I speak solely in my name as a concerned and engaged Quebecer. I shall touch on two themes.

The first is the risks to effective public services. The second is the compromise and prejudice of legal and constitutional standards and protections.

D’abord, les services publics efficaces. On y a déjà touché.

Le projet de loi 96 mettra en place des obstacles à la diplomation. L’effet négatif sera particulièrement ressenti par les jeunes Autochtones qui maîtrisent mieux l’anglais que le français. Est-ce opportun?

De plus, le projet de loi 96 fera obstacle à la communication entre les professionnels de la santé et leurs patients, même dans le contex-

te intime. La défense du français exige-t-elle vraiment de miner ainsi la prestation des services publics?

Second, the legal and constitutional issues. Anyone may use English or French in the courts of this province. It’s hardwired into the constitution. And using English in Quebec’s courts involves having a judge who understands English.

Our constitution also protects judicial independence. Bill 96 may run roughshod over these constitutional constraints – and make the administration of justice much heavier and slower. It will require French translations of pleadings and judgments. That’s a problem because English-language court services, including translation, are already underfunded and inadequate. Bill 96 will also interfere with the appointment of bilingual judges to the Court of Québec.

Some of these changes will likely be struck down as unconstitutional – but only after lengthy, expensive litigation. Should our elected lawmakers be passing laws they know

to be unconstitutional?

The other constitutional concern relates to fundamental rights. Bill 96 shields itself, pre-emptively, by using the notwithstanding or derogation clauses in the Canadian Charter and Quebec Charter, to the maximum extent possible. The government thus signals that defending the French language isn’t a political project to be done by respecting fundamental rights and freedoms – but in opposition to them.

Crucially, Bill 96 isn’t a short-term fix to a temporary problem. It’s a permanent new regime, being entrenched as potentially overriding fundamental rights and freedoms.

One plain example is Bill 96’s search-and-seizure or enforcement measures. Government will no longer be limited by the individual’s right to freedom from unreasonable search and seizure. That cannot be justified and is not necessary.

Protecting the French language as a precious heritage in a plural, tolerant, inclusive and free Quebec does not need to be done



in opposition to our fundamental rights and freedoms. Respecting the Quebec Charter – which was once a source of pride for all lawmakers in the province – and internationally recognized human rights is good for Quebec.

Finally, we here today stand in witness to remind the government that the whole world is watching. ■

B’nai Brith, Senator demand deportation of PFLP operative

PART 2 OF 2

By Beryl Wajzman, Editor
The Suburban

Last week we reported on the calls in Parliament and from organizations led by B’nai Brith for the commencement of deportation hearings on Vancouver and Montreal based PFLP operative Khaled Barakat. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian is listed by Canada as a terrorist organization. It has taken responsibility for airplane hijackings, suicide bombings, the 2001 assassination of Israeli cabinet minister Rehavam Zeevi and the 2014 massacre at a Jerusalem synagogue that left five worshippers dead including Toronto-born rabbi Howie Rothman and several severely injured. Yet Barakat, a highly-placed PFLP

associate, has resided in Canada for some twenty years and travels in and out with impunity even though he has been deported from Germany and the United States. Last week’s demands related to the fact that the Trudeau government has not answered why there has been no action on Barakat even after B’nai Brith and Israeli intelligence services have briefed the highest levels of the Canadian government and provided extensive documentation on Barakat since January 2020. We encourage you to read last week’s first part of the Barakat story.

As much as we outlined his activities, there is another curious aspect to Barakat. Aside from the PFLP, he is also associated with an organization called the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, an organization Israeli intelligence agencies

call a PFLP “proxy” that functions as the terror group’s overseas recruitment, fundraising and propaganda arm. Barakat’s wife, Charlotte Lynne Kates of Vancouver, is one of Samidoun’s three listed directors. On February 28 last year, Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Gantz signed an order designating Samidoun a terrorist organization. In announcing the order, Israel’s National Bureau for Counter-Terror Financing stated that Barakat is central to Samidoun’s operations: “Representatives of the organization are active in many countries in Europe and North America, led by Khaled Barakat, who is part of the leadership of PFLP abroad. Barakat is involved with establishing militant cells and motivating terrorist activity in Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] and abroad.”

Despite this, three days later, on March 3, 2021, the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network was formally registered by the federal Corporations Canada agency under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Samidoun’s address was listed as a post box on Commercial Drive, in East Vancouver. By then, the Israeli foreign ministry and B’nai Brith stated that the PFLP has “inexplicably been allowed to set up shop in Canada.”

In April 2021, Canadian officials were briefed on Barakat and Samidoun under the information-sharing terms of the 2014 Canada-Israel strategic partnership agreement. The meeting brought together more than 50 Israeli and Canadian officials, including representatives from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP and the Canadian Border Services Agency. No one in the Trudeau administration can say they “didn’t know.” Israeli Ambassador Ronen Hoffman said, “It’s highly alarming that modern terror organizations, in their tactics of concealment and disguise, have methodically adopted pseudonyms from

the world of human rights and civil society organizations to hide behind.”

B’nai Brith chief executive officer Michael Mostyn in a January 12, 2022 letter sent directly to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, declared that Ottawa’s inattention was “inexcusable.” Mostyn says Samidoun’s registry should be revoked and the organization should be dissolved.

Last month, Samidoun’s partner organization in France, the Collectif Palestine Vaincra (CPV), was disbanded by a decree signed by French President Emmanuel Macron. The group’s dissolution was authorized under sections of the French security law banning groups that provoke discrimination, hatred or violence based on ethnicity, nationality, race, or religion and engage in acts that incite terrorism.

Shin Bet obtained PFLP documents during a raid of the PFLP’s offices in Ramallah that demonstrate that the PFLP expects its association with Samidoun to be clandestine. According to those documents, the connections in Canada are so close that that Barakat was reprimanded by the PFLP for insufficiently distancing the PFLP from Samidoun. One of the reasons for that is that in its filings with Corporations Canada, Samidoun listed three directors: Thomas Gerhard Hofland of Amstelveen, the Netherlands, Joe Catron, of Flushing, New York, and Barakat’s wife.

The Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy says Kates is Samidoun’s “international coordinator,” and Barakat’s political activism is “functionally indistinguishable” from Samidoun’s campaigns. Indeed, Barakat’s “Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa’adat,” is a Samidoun campaign. Barakat and Kates travel together in Europe, and Kates gives speeches at the same events that Barakat gives speeches.

All attempts at answers to the Barakats’ status have gone unanswered by Ottawa. ■

Israel as are the descendants of refugees who were cast out centuries ago. It is irreconcilable how one considers the original inhabitants returning to their ancestral homelands participating in a settler colonial project.”

The reality of apartheid is well known, notwithstanding the obfuscation of Amnesty International and other antisemitic “human rights” organizations. Israel’s ethnic democracy bears no resemblance to South African apartheid. South African Kenneth Meshoe, president of the African Christian Democratic Party, recently said: “Those who know what real apartheid is, as I, know that there is nothing in Israel that looks like apartheid.” He added that calling Israel an apartheid state is an “empty political statement that does not hold (any) truth.”

Further, anyone who is not antisemitic understands that a foundational linchpin of South African apartheid was zero up-

ward mobility for Blacks.

Since 2019, the CEO of Bank Leumi, the largest bank in Israel, has been an Arab, Samer Haj- Yehia. Under South African apartheid if a Black stepped into a “white” bank for any reason, he or she was immediately arrested and imprisoned. An Arab, George Karra, is a justice on Israel’s Supreme Court. The medical professions in Israel are overrepresented by Arabs in terms of their percentage of the population. Academia in Israel includes many Arab professors and administrators.

Finally, Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela in 1997 accepted an honorary doctorate from Israel’s Ben Gurion University of the Negev. No rational person would believe that Mandela would have accepted such recognition from an apartheid state.

Richard Sherman
Margate, Florida