



SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WENTWORTH

**WITRD RECREATIONAL TOURISM PROJECT:
THE BEGINNING OF A LONG AND THOROUGH REVIEW PROCESS**

Hello everyone,

In recent weeks, the Wentworth Integrated Tourism Resort Inc. (WITRD) recreational tourism project has drawn a variety of reactions from our fellow Township of Wentworth citizens, which is completely normal given the scale of this project. While some of you view this project positively, others have expressed their concerns about the impact of such a development on the environment, our surroundings and the local road network. These are serious concerns which are shared by your Municipal Council.

An extensive review of the project

It is important for you to know that we will initiate during the next few weeks a long, thorough review of the project to be submitted by the WITRD group. We are at the very beginning of this process. No decision will be made on the partial or full realization of this project before this review is complete. During this process, our citizens will have the opportunity to express their views and share their concerns, notably, through public consultations. The municipality's Urbanism and Environmental Consulting Committees will also be asked to share their recommendations. This will enable us, if needed, to ask the promoter to make changes to the project that take into account the legitimate expectations of the Wentworth community.

The review process will include, in particular, a thorough assessment of the project's impact on the environment and the local road network, as well as the measures proposed to address these issues. Your Municipal Council, like you, wants to receive clear answers to the many questions that will be part of this comprehensive project review.

Given the regulatory and legal framework surrounding such a project in Quebec, the *MRC d'Argenteuil* and various government departments, in particular the *ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation* and the *ministère de l'Environnement et de Lutte contre les changements climatiques*, will support the municipality in this process in order that it be carried out in accordance with the law and best practices. The final decision to go forward with the project (partially or fully) or not, however, will be the decision of the Township of Wentworth and its citizens. At the end of this process, that decision will be made locally.

Potential benefits of the project

Furthermore, it will be up to the developer to demonstrate the potential benefits of this project for our community. Among the advantages already mentioned by the WITRD are: job creation for our municipality; access to new, four-season recreational services for Wentworth citizens and the construction of new condos for retirees. The realization of such a project would also generate substantial additional property tax revenues for the municipality.

New framework regulation

On May 6th, we will proceed with the first step prior to the WITRD review process by holding a public consultation meeting on the municipal by-law entitled: *By-law on agreements relating to municipal work and guarantees concerning certain municipal works*.

This draft By-Law will enable the municipality to subsequently define, through specific agreements, the terms and conditions imposed on the developer concerning public infrastructures and facilities under which the WITRD project would be carried out if it eventually proceeds (partially or fully). This new framework By-Law could also be used for any other project on Wentworth's territory. The objectives of this new By-Law were published on April 18 in a notice in the newspaper, *The Régional*. The notice is also available on the municipality's website (www.wentworth.ca).

The May 6th public consultation meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at the Wentworth Community Center (86 Louisa Road) and will focus exclusively on the new framework regulation. Following this, we will take the opportunity to hold an information session from 6:45 pm to 8:00 pm., on the WITRD review process (not on the project itself), which will include a question period. We will have the opportunity to discuss the content of the project at a later time during the review process, which will begin in the weeks to come.

Regular project information updates

Additionally, to keep up-to-date on developments and relevant information, we invite you to subscribe to our information service by submitting your email address to info@wentworth.ca. The Township of Wentworth will regularly share project updates through this email service. This information will also be available in a new section about the project on the municipality's website (www.wentworth.ca), entitled Recreational Tourism Project.

At any time, you may also email your questions or queries regarding this project to: faq@wentworth.ca.

Based on the questions and points raised, we will soon develop a Question and Answer document on the project that will be available through the new website section. This document will be updated as new developments occur.

Just like you, we care about the future of our community whose values are based on environmental protection, our citizens' quality of life, and the enhancement of our living environment. With this in mind, we will be conducting the WITRD review process over the coming months while ensuring that we listen to you every step of the way.

Thank you all and enjoy the spring!

The members of your Municipal Council