



Press Release / Communiqué

“À BAS LES PARCS / NO PARKS” DEBATE ON THURSDAY 25 MAY

Montréal, 18 May 2017 — Continuing its exploration of human intervention in the Canadian landscape through the exhibit and publication *It's All Happening So Fast: A Counter-History of the Modern Canadian Environment*, the CCA hosts a public debate about the roles of parks in contemporary cities on **Thursday, 25 May from 7 pm to 9 pm**. The discussion will focus on whether parks are simply assets to cities, or something more complicated: Would we be better off without parks? Two teams will debate this question, asking whether we should keep parks, and what would happen to the city if we got rid of them. What might then take the place of “nature” and how could we begin to relate to it?

Lev Bratishenko, Curator, Public explains: “Parks are not simple or innocent. City parks are real estate assets and urban “amenities” created by planners, landscape architects, hydrological engineers, security consultants, and others. National parks claim to preserve wilderness, but they are carefully managed too and, in North America, their histories involve the dispossession of Indigenous Peoples. Our experiences of the most iconic parks have been designed and commercialized with the support of tourist agencies, park wardens, anti-pest flights, and other control systems. Parks are industries as well as ways of hiding industrial wastelands and disguising embarrassing infrastructures. These interesting contradictions, we should talk about them.”

Debaters will include **Sarah Dunn**, an urbanist and co-founder of UrbanLab; **Karen K. Lee**, President & CEO, Global Fit Cities, and former Healthy Built Environment and Active Design Director for New York City; **Nikita Lopoukhine**, a former Director General of Parks Canada; **Martin Lukacs**, an environmental journalist for The Guardian; **Jason W. Moore**, a professor of sociology at Binghamton University; and **Martin Rein-Cano**, the founder of Topotek 1. The debate will be moderated by Lev Bratishenko.

THE CCA

The CCA is an international research centre and museum founded by Phyllis Lambert, on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive collection, exhibitions, public programs, publications and research opportunities, the CCA is advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on architecture, its history, theory, practice, and role in society today.

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