

Check confrontation: Monette

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Councillor hopes for productive civility at Lansdowne consultations

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca



Orleans Coun. Bob Monette is hoping to see more civility during the remaining Lansdowne Partnership public consultations.

Monette said Thursday that the aggressive, confrontational atmosphere that caused him to storm out of Wednesday night's question-and-answer session

has harmed any genuine efforts at public consultation.

"They have not been very productive so far," he said. "It's fine for there to be an opposition but let others have a say and stop trying to intimidate people."

The question-and-answer sessions added after the first two consultations are a welcome change, said Martin Canning, a volunteer with the Ask Me! campaign.

Still, "people are skeptical if halfway through a

process, it changes," he said.

Monette said he had no problem with civilized opposition to the plan, but he draws the line when people

start attacking the integrity of city manager Kent Kirkpatrick.

"He's a bureaucrat doing the job that council asked him to do. He doesn't deserve to take that abuse," said Monette. "If people want to give abuse, give it to me or the mayor. We're elected."

There are two more open houses planned for next week — at the Tom Brown Arena on Monday and the Shenkman Arts Centre on Tuesday.

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