

## Everything is green again!



*After cleaning up the illegal dump near Habitations Lavoie in the Southwest Sector, the young horticultural assistants planted flowers and shrubs to refresh the portion of this vacant lot bordering the sidewalk.*

This is the time of the year when we roll up our sleeves to beautify the grounds of low-rent housing communities! For example, last summer, at Habitations Lavoie, the tenant committee had a very specific objective: to get rid of an illegal dump site “where the entire neighbourhood ditched garbage, not to mention the dogs that left their mark there,” explains Lidi-Maria Costache, Committee Chair.

The young horticultural assistants assigned to the greening project therefore cleaned up the site and planted flowers and bushes over an area of 4 m<sup>2</sup>. “We then watered and maintained the plants, which gave us a much more pleasant corner to look at!”

Ms. Costache feels that this is a good start and is now talking about making another request. “If we obtained some bushes, we could create an actual green fence. This would deter people from dumping garbage in this location, as they did again in the fall last year.”

### **Revitalizing the environment**

With the soil, compost and plants provided by the City or, in certain cases, the OMHM, many low-rent housing residents create flower beds, sow grass seeds, grow a vegetable garden or plant shrubs and trees.

By bringing several tenants together around the same goal, this type of work cements

the community. People dig and weed side by side, discover things they have in common and pay more attention to others as a result. At the same time, their work gives value to the environment, which makes them feel proud. It also improves their quality of life, since it reduces heat islands and purifies the air. The residents realize that, together, they can create a pleasant space where they can even hold activities.

Have a little corner that needs revitalizing? Call 311 to find out when the City plans to hand out plants and compost in your neighbourhood. This could transform the atmosphere of your housing project!



Esther Giroux

## Take advantage of summer to strengthen ties

I invite you to take advantage of the warm weather to participate in outdoor activities. Summer is the season when neighbourhood parties and free festival activities abound. Or how about going to the public pool with your friends or joining in on the activities organized by your tenant association? There are lots of opportunities for spending time together and strengthening neighbour relations.

Summer also marks the return of the young members of the clean-up brigades. This first job gives them valuable work experience, while improving your living environment. Feel free to give them some words of encouragement. It is more motivating to work when you know you're appreciated!

May this summer last as long as the harsh winter we endured. And in case of a heat wave, remember that you can go to the common room for some relief. Enjoy this glorious season with your family and friends!

*Esther Giroux*

*Director, Service du développement communautaire et social*

### ID<sup>2</sup>EM Grants

## Eight tenant projects accepted!

Spring marks the return of ID<sup>2</sup>EM grants and this year is no exception. In all, 14 projects designed for Montreal low-rent housing are receiving support this year, eight of which were drafted by tenant committees.

These grants are aimed at promoting group activities that improve the physical, social and community environment of low-rent housing projects. Many initiatives are centered on community gardening and the beautification of the grounds. This helps strengthen relations between tenants, as well as their feeling of belonging to the low-rent housing community, while promoting healthy lifestyles.

There are also projects to encourage young people to stay in school and to better equip parents in their role. One approach even aims at helping people struggling with mental health problems adopt better eating habits and engage in regular physical activity, which could have a positive effect on their health.

### Collaboration promotes diversification...

In the Southwest Sector, four low-rent housing projects joined forces to obtain a grant, and for the third straight year, the Des Fleurs, De l'Érablière, Richmond and Albert "Collective" received financial support to pursue some well-established activities.

The approaches vary according to the housing project, explains Nicole Vallières, president of the Habitations Richmond tenant association, who submitted the grant application. "At Habitations Albert and Habitations Richmond, there were a lot of communal activities aimed at facilitating integration." Therefore, the grant was used to purchase sustainable material, like a food processor for preparing meals and a hand truck for transporting gardening equipment.

At Habitations Des Fleurs and Habitations De l'Érablière, the accent was mainly on building self-confidence and improving physical health through painting and tai-chi courses. "And with the amount allocated to Habitations Richmond this year, I hope to purchase some basketball nets and playground equipment for the young residents," says Ms. Vallières.



*For the Des Fleurs, De l'Érablière, Richmond and Albert "Collective", sustainable development means taking care of the environment...*



*...but also promoting harmony in the community by organizing communal meals...*



*...and ensuring that individuals feel fulfilled, for example in a painting course where they discover a hidden talent.*

## CCR/OMHM/FLHLMQ Tripartite Committee To update governance rules

Various circumstances can complicate the way in which a tenant association functions. When a committee member becomes seriously ill and can no longer participate, does the committee replace this member or continue without him/her until the next election? If there is dissension among the members, how can it be defused so that work can continue? When the tenants of a low-rent housing project are relocated to various buildings due to major work, what becomes of the tenant committee they had elected?

These are the types of questions that will be tackled by the new CCR/OMHM/FLHLMQ Tripartite Committee formed in March to harmonize association governance and recognition practices. "This committee is mandated to update governance rules based on the existing law governing non-profit organizations and the different documents currently being used," explains Rouzier Métellus, community project manager at the OMHM and member of this committee.

"Certain situations constitute grey areas in terms of association recognition, for example in the case of relocation for major work. And no recognition means no grant!" explains Sylvain Labrecque, Chair of the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR – Advisory Committee of Tenants) and tenant of Habitations Jacques-Cartier in the East Sector. Therefore, the committee plans to draw up a

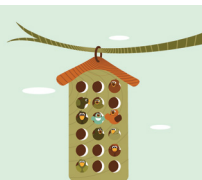
reference guide providing the basic rules on how a tenant committee works in normal and exceptional situations, in order to better support the democratic functioning of the associations.

"The committee will begin its work shortly. Once the reference guide is written, it will have to be approved by the CCR. We will promote it in the sector and subsector meetings in order to make the proper rules of governance known," says Sylvain Labrecque.

### THE WORK OF THE



The mission of the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR – Advisory Committee of Tenants) is to promote the creation of tenant associations in low-rent housing projects and lend its support to existing tenant committees. To this end, its members make presentations on volunteer commitment and participatory forums in the low-rent housing projects, as well as at sector and subsector meetings.



## Meeting at the crossroads

Seeking ways for different cultures and generations to live together

## You just have to open the door...

"Sometimes, just a little push in the right direction can promote communication between seniors and youth," points out Ismertha Raciús, community outreach worker in the OMHM *Habiter la mixité* project. That's what the young residents of Habitations Parc Royal found out when their premises were repainted and the workshop on adolescent physical and psychological development could not be given there.

"The seniors of Maison Roland-Bouchard, a low-rent housing project located nearby, kindly agreed to lend them their common room for the occasion," says Ms. Raciús. When Catherine Bérubé, the person in charge of the room, came to let them in, she was interested in knowing where they lived, what year they were in at school and what the workshop was about. "She showed such open-mindedness, whereas she could have simply unlocked the door and left. She sat down and chatted with them and made them feel welcome," said Ismertha Raciús.

*In addition to their workshop on adolescent physical and psychological development, these youth aged 10 to 13 had an opportunity to engage in conversation with a senior citizen who welcomed them to Maison Roland-Bouchard.*



# New tenant committees

At the end of a long winter, many fine people have decided to represent the tenants of their low-rent housing project in sector and subsector meetings. Since the beginning of February 2014, elections have been held in 16 projects, and 77 tenant committee members have been assigned or reassigned to the job.

## EAST SECTOR

### De Mentana **S**

Monic L'Heureux  
Céline Boissonneault  
Yvon Godin

### De Rouen **S**

Monique Lecavalier  
Lise Tremblay Gélinas  
Murielle Plouffe  
Murielle Chevalier  
Gabrielle Bovet  
Manon Laviolette  
Pierre Léonard  
André Reeves

### Desjardins **S**

Michel Quesnel  
Jacqueline Bleau  
André Brûlé  
Antonin Gagnon  
Carmen Boucher

### La Pépinière **F**

Sylvie Proulx  
Natascha Proulx  
Nancy Cooper  
Gilles Boivin  
Karine Brousseau  
Barbara Hardbread

### NEW ASSOCIATION

### Laurier **S**

Maria Silva  
Pierre-Paul Chartré  
Dora Parent  
Lila Icart  
Juan José Navarro

### Longue-Pointe **S**

Jacques Tremblay  
Micheline Gagné  
Normande Vincent  
Gisèle Gilbert  
Lydia Després

### NEW ASSOCIATION

### Manoir Anjou **S**

Jacynthe Thériault  
Lise Mailloux  
Lise Lavigne  
Jean-Claude Lacombe

### Terrasse Ontario **S**

Colette Lefebvre  
Jean-Louis Guay  
Richard Fitzgerald  
Wilson Gélinas  
Pierrette Hébert

## NORTHWEST SECTOR

### Badeaux-Sauvé **S**

Rosaire Chartrand  
Hayat Darouni  
Diane Grainger  
Cécile Gordon

### NEW ASSOCIATION

### Émilien-Gagnon (6150) **S**

Carmela Romeo  
Alicia Laurin  
Norman Simkus  
Georges Vaillancourt  
Pierre Gagnon

### NEW ASSOCIATION

### Émilien-Gagnon (6180) **S**

Andrée Rainville  
Denise Belisle  
Madeleine Delisle

### NEW ASSOCIATION

### Gérard-Poitras **F**

Kamal Chourahi  
Michel Brière  
Chantal Daneau  
Pierrette Goulet  
Réjeanne O'Rourke  
Dimitrios Kalopedakis

## SOUTHWEST SECTOR

### Place Hillside **F**

Michel Gauthier  
Helen Szostak  
Luna Ovilme  
Jorf Khalid  
Terry McGimpsey

### Montmorency **S**

Yvon Pothier  
Grozdana Cvijanovic  
Marielle Hébert  
Lise Hogue

### John-Patterson **S**

Aline Bilodeau  
Denise Martin  
Diane Ranger  
Yvette Bourgeon

### Maison

**Justine-Lacoste **S****  
Liliane Le Grand  
Jeannine Desrochers  
Françoise Graham  
Rachilda Oulmi  
Jeannine  
Gingras-Hébert

**S** OMHM housing for seniors

**F** OMHM housing for families and people living alone

This information is provided as a guideline and is subject to change as tenant associations evolve.



## THE ROLE OF AN ASSOCIATION

Anyone living in OMHM housing and over 18 years of age automatically becomes a member of the tenant association of the low-rent housing project. No membership fee, no membership card.



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