



Participate in OMHM elections

You are invited to vote on April 20 to elect two tenant members to sit on the Board of Directors of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM), along with representatives and alternates for the Selection Committee and the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons.



Who can apply?

Tenants 18 years of age and older who are named on the lease and have obtained the support of their Tenant Association Committee or of 10 tenants of their building.

Tenants of low-rent housing, residents of the ENHARMONIE network, Benny Farm buildings and other affordable housing complexes may apply to sit on the Board of Directors.

The remaining positions on the Selection Committee and the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons are reserved for tenants in low-rent housing.

How to apply

Applicants will be required to complete and submit the application form by

March 4, 2022 at 5 p.m. via email to: developpement.communautaire@omhm.qc.ca

or by mail to:

**Service de la gestion des milieux de vie
5800, rue Saint-Denis, bureau 502
Montréal (Québec) H2S 3L5**

If you have questions or would like a copy of the application form, either contact :

- the ENHARMONIE residences secretary,
- your tenant association,
- the Service de la gestion des milieux de vie at **514 872-2104**, or
- the community organizer in your neighbourhood.

You can also visit omhm.qc.ca/en/elections2022.

APPLY BY

MARCH 4, 2022

This year, tenant delegates are once again invited to elect their representatives to OMHM bodies, as they did three years ago. All health measures in effect on April 20 will be strictly followed to protect the health of all those present.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of application period:
March 4

Publication of candidates' résumés: **March 21** in a special edition of *Interaction*

Reception of names of delegates with voting rights:
March 21

Day and place of vote:
April 20

Centre St-Pierre

1212, rue Panet



Metro station: Beaudry



Take the power that is yours

Every three years, the election of representatives to the major committees of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) represents a key moment in tenants' community life. On election day, you get to have your say in decisions regarding the OMHM's priority orientations. After two years of the pandemic, the elections will also be a great opportunity to re-establish the democratic traditions of life in low-rent housing.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the representatives who have participated in meetings of the Board of Directors, the Selection Committee and the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons, both in person and virtually, over the past three years. You consistently pointed out tenants' perspectives in all discussions. You also defended all tenants' rights and advocated for their needs. Your statements in these pages speak volumes about your commitment.

That is why it is essential to participate in these elections. Through the representatives they elect, tenants have real influence on the OMHM Board of Directors and other committees. Tenants can express their opinions and affect the organization's broad priorities. Most importantly, they can follow up and make sure none of these priorities fall by the wayside. The election process always takes into account the interests of all tenants living in buildings managed by the OMHM.

The elections on April 20 are important to ensure good management of community life and the OMHM. Participate and take the power that is yours.

Rouzier Métellus
Adjoint à la directrice générale
Deputy Executive Director



Selection Committee A rewarding experience with a compassionate team

Tina-Lili Gagné

For the past three years, Tina-Lili Gagné has been a member of the Selection Committee of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). This committee determines who is eligible for low-rent housing. Ms. Gagné has learned a great deal about the OMHM's methods during the Committee's discussions. She has observed that each file is reviewed according to strict criteria and that the Committee takes the time to ask the right questions. "I'm here to give the tenant's perspective. The other members are very open. They listen and respect my opinion."

Ms. Gagné sometimes plays the devil's advocate because it is easy to feel moved in some cases. "Empathy is important, but you have to be able to put things in perspective. We have to pay attention to telling details that distinguish a risk of domestic violence from a desire for emancipation, for example." Tina-Lili Gagné relies on her own life experience while striving to remain objective and fair. She is mindful that her work can change the course of someone's life. It must therefore be done well to avoid abuse and ensure that apartments go to those who need them the most.



The CCR HLM is to be renewed

At the end of March 2022, the seven new sector committees for low-rent housing will meet for the first time. There will be only one item on the agenda: electing representatives from each sector to renew the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants). All low-rent housing tenant associations will be contacted to take part. Stay tuned to participate in these elections, too!

Board of Directors

Dare to speak and know how to listen: essential qualities

Raymond Saulnier, resident of Habitations Des Fleurs, and Suzanne Payant, resident of Habitations De l'Érablière, are both members of the Board of Directors of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). They want to share their experiences to raise awareness of the qualities needed to be a Board member.

Raymond Saulnier has served on the Board for the past year. He was fortunate to receive valuable advice from Sylvain Labrecque before his death. "It's important that tenants are represented by people with experience and knowledge. Sylvain was a mentor to me. He shared his knowledge with me so that we didn't lose the advances that have been made for tenants." In addition to experience, Raymond Saulnier says it's important to remember your worth and not be afraid to speak up. The various perspectives of Board members have helped him understand the processes and constraints that management faces. "There's also a lot of reading to do. Every month, we have to prepare for and take part in meetings with the two Comités consultatifs des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants for low-rent housing and ENHARMONIE residences). You have to be curious and not afraid to learn," he says.



Suzanne Payant



Raymond Saulnier

"When you're a member of the Board, you represent all tenants. You need to be a good listener, have good analytical skills and be able to communicate tenants' needs well," says Suzanne Payant, who replaced Sylvain Labrecque in October 2021. According to her, Board members need to be great listeners and be open-minded. For her, it's important to listen to everyone and be able to put yourself in the other person's shoes so you can properly convey their concerns. "You can always complain, but complaining and criticizing doesn't get you anywhere. The point of getting involved on the Board is that you want to change things. To do that, you have to be motivated to find solutions, and that requires openness and analytical skills," she says.

There's no doubt that many tenants in the various housing programs managed by the OMHM have these skills. Good luck to all those who submit their application to contribute to the Board's work!

Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons

Making your time count



Giovanni Iuliani

Giovanni Iuliani has just completed his second term on the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons. He finds it interesting to participate in this Committee's discussions alongside knowledgeable social workers who treat him like a colleague. "You hear all sorts of unbelievable stories, sometimes lies and sometimes exaggerations. You have to be able to figure things out, analyze the files—which are anonymous—and think about the well-being of people at risk, including children."

This historian and circus artist likes getting involved because he thinks it's vital to be useful and active, not to sit around doing nothing. "I put many hours into the Committee. At 82, my hours are numbered, so what I do with them should mean something. Every minute counts!" That's why he's quick to ask questions if information is missing from a file or something is unclear. "I'm there to spark discussion." He says that sometimes he does not approve a transfer because the situation seems unclear or the justification is unconvincing. In these cases, the file is put on hold so the Committee can get more information before making a decision.



7 positions to be filled



On the **Board of Directors**: **2** tenant members.

One tenant will be elected from seniors' housing and the other will come from housing for families and people living alone. *All eligible OMHM tenants can apply for one of these two positions.*

The Board of Directors of the OMHM has nine members: five are appointed by the Montréal Agglomeration Council, two are appointed by the Québec government and two are elected by tenants.

Together, they establish the guidelines, objectives and priorities of the OMHM. The Board members are also the guardians of the organization's ethics and budgets. They hold approximately eight meetings per year.

The tenant members of the Board of Directors also become members of the two CCR (CCR HLM and CCR ENHARMONIE), which hold approximately eight meetings per year.



On the **Selection Committee**: **2** tenant representatives and **1** alternate.

Only low-rent housing tenants may apply for these positions.

This committee makes decisions regarding the eligibility and priority order of low-rent housing applicants.



On the **Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons**:

1 tenant representative and **1** alternate.

Only low-rent housing tenants may apply for these positions.

This committee has the mandate to analyze and then accept or refuse requests for housing transfers for reasons related to tenant health or safety.

Do you know about the Wednesday meetings?

The Fédération des locataires de HLM du Québec holds an online event every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to keep low-rent housing tenant associations updated. Talks and meetings with people active in the community, discussion groups, online forums to get answers to your questions—there's something for everyone, and it's always relevant.

To attend, simply enter the following link in your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89730657491>.

For more information, visit www.flhlmq.com/fr (in French).



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Project Manager and Writing: Andrée-Anne Perrier **Writing and Coordination:** Hélène Morin

Photos: OMHM, Martin Alarie, Cécile Vinez

Translation: Ubiquis • **Graphic Design:** Communication Art & Graf

Please send your comments and suggestions to suzanne.dupaul@omhm.qc.ca.