



The CCR gets a new burst of energy



▲ Sylvain Labrecque, new CCR chair, absent for the group photo

◀ The new Advisory Committee for Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidents, or CCR) pictured here as they met for the first time last February with no fewer than seven new members.

Following the December 2013 vote that saw the election of seven new representatives to the Advisory Committee of Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidents, or CCR), "the committee has a whole new dynamic," states brand new chair, Sylvain Labrecque. "We met for the first time in February, and I can tell that the members are determined to express their views and work for change."

In his opinion, the CCR's mandate has not yet been carried out to its full potential. "At the moment, the OMHM tells us its decisions and presents the issues that need to be sorted out. But the CCR should be consulted as soon as a question comes up, and have an active role in discussions. We would therefore like to be involved earlier in the process."

The way the CCR works would also benefit from being more systematic, according to Mr. Labrecque. "We are going to set up annual goals, review how we prioritize issues, and make sure follow-ups take place." Right now, he sees sanitary conditions as the number one priority, especially pest control. He finishes up by saying, "We are going to work with the OMHM to try to sort out what amounts to a significant problem in our lives."

The new CCR

Sector	Seniors' Representatives	Representatives of families and people living alone	Substitutes
East	André Desjardins, Habitations Saint-Marc Richard Fitzgerald, Terrasse Ontario	Julie Laprès, Habitations Marie-Victorin Sylvain Labrecque, Habitations Jacques-Cartier	André Brûlé, Habitations Desjardins
Northwest	Nicole Chartier, Habitations Étienne-Desmarteau Raquel Caitak, Habitations Gabriel-Sagard	Malherbe Minault, Habitations Rosemont José Trottier, Place Normandie	Marie Benoite Bukuru, Habitations Sackville
Southwest	Rita Del Grande, Habitations Mayfair Huguette Huot, Habitations Goyer	Saima Rana, Habitations Walkley Lorraine Bédard, Place Lachine	André Limoges, Le Domaine des Rapides

Onward and upward



Esther Giroux

Work hasn't slowed down one bit this winter! Following the analysis of how the sector committees are run, an action plan is being drawn up to make these bodies more effective. The same process is well underway for the CCR and should end soon.

Ongoing discussions with younger public housing tenants are also being held. A youth worker has been hired to help this process along and create a dialogue channel between young people and the OMHM. What's more, a decision was made to increase the number of young people assigned to clean-up crews in summer 2014.

As for the task force on ways for OMHM tenants living outside low-rent housing to become involved, it is continuing to work on providing tenants with the means to participate.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the outgoing and incoming members of the CCR. Thank you to the former for your input over the last two years and a warm welcome to the latter. We have an eventful year ahead of us!

Esther Giroux
Director, Service du développement communautaire et social

THE WORK OF THE CCR

The CCR members meet about ten times per year, not including meetings on special projects or sub-committees. Your representatives then enter into discussions with their counterparts from the OMHM, explain tenants' pressing needs, and present arguments to obtain improvements.

Community and Volunteer Activities Recognition Ceremony

The shining stars of 2013-2014

This spring marks another opportunity to honour volunteer community service in low-rent housing. This year's ceremony will be held on May 7 under the theme *Que brillent les étoiles 2013-2014* ("The shining stars of 2013-2014").

The Advisory Committee of Tenants (Comité consultatif des résidents, or CCR) has formed a special committee for the event, composed of André Desjardins, Malherbe Minault and Rita Del Grande. These three CCR members have reviewed the names put forward and made proposals for the evening's organization. They will also follow up on these recommendations with the CCR.

The Community and Volunteer Activities Recognition Ceremony will take place starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Plaza Antique reception hall, located at 6086 rue Sherbrooke Est (metro Cadillac).

Each tenant committee has received two invitations to the ceremony with this edition of *Interaction*. Nominated star candidates and tenant representatives on the CCR will receive separate invitations. **Please confirm your attendance before April 22, 2014.**



From a small seed grows an association

At Habitations Madeleine-d'Ailleboust, a housing project for families and people living alone located in Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, a tenant association saw the light of day in 2013. This housing project hasn't had a committee for 25 years. What's more, as the new association's secretary-treasurer Jacques Guévremont tells it, "a meals-on-wheels service was using the common room and refused entry to tenants for fear of having things stolen!"

In order to take back their common room, the tenants had to get organized. "It was a long process," explains Mr. Guévremont. It isn't easy to motivate people who are isolated and never go out." A core of three volunteers organized a tenant meeting in March 2013, supported by Johanne Laforge and Judith Lemaire, two community organizers from the Rosemont CLSC and the OMHM respectively. "They were then asked to register the association, draw up the general rules, and arrange the inaugural meeting, which was held last September," says Judith Lemaire. Meanwhile, they also followed training sessions on the role of committee members and managing an organization.

A committee with an instant impact

Since its creation, the committee has negotiated a sharing agreement with the community worker for the use of the common room. She uses it three afternoons per week, with the other two set aside for the association. "We bought a microwave oven, tables and games, and we have a new fridge and stove," continues the secretary-treasurer.



Members of the new committee: standing, from left to right, Jacques Guévremont, Jean-Claude Lapointe and Jean-Roch Gilbert; seated, from left to right, Colette Bernier and Hélène Baraby

Jacques Guévremont and his team are aiming to organize a host of activities: the celebration of the housing project's 40th anniversary, brightening up the grounds, a visit to the Botanical Gardens and maybe the Planetarium, as well as a community kitchen and bulk purchasing. He finishes by saying, "We are a good bunch of people who get along well, and those who take part have lots of fun together." He hopes that this fun will be contagious and attract more tenants to the activities.



Meeting at the crossroads

Seeking ways for different cultures and generations to live together

Fun for 7 to 77-year-olds... and beyond!

Young children and old folk have such different needs that it can be a challenge to get them to live together. To bring them closer at Christmastime, Andrée-Anne Forest, from Place aux familles, had a great idea. She had the kids from Habitations De Mentana draw Christmas cards that were given to seniors during a holiday season party. "The old folk were very touched by what the kids had done for them, and the children loved doing crafts that made others happy," explains the outreach worker.

The experiment worked so well that a new project has kicked off... With Ms. Forest's help, the children have begun staging a play that they will soon put on for the seniors!



The 2013 Christmas party at Habitations De Mentana, organized by community worker Luisa Olaya from Projet Changement, had a touching surprise for seniors: cards drawn by children living in the housing project.

New tenant committees

Thanks to their committed volunteers, OMHM housing projects have been a hive of activity. Eighteen elections have been held over the course of the last few months, including one to create a new association. Plaudits to the 86 newly elected volunteers. Keep up the good work!

EAST SECTOR

Adélarde Langevin **S**

Lise Laforge
Monique Bélisle
Micheline Laurendeau
Liliane Filiatrault
Ginette Galarneau
Huguette Albert
Lisette Carbonneau

Hochelaga **S**

Mireille Goddard
Jeannine Hébert
Normand Lecourt
Francine Blanchette
Isabelle Trottier

Marie-Victorin **F**

Julie Laprès
Alexandra Alexie
Izdihar Abdullah
Clairette Bouchard
Jocelyn Bélanger

Pierre-Bernard **S**

Réjeanne Champagne
Micheline Renaud
Ida Lajoie
Alyne Langlois

NORTHWEST SECTOR

Étienne-Desmarteau **S**

Nicole Chartier
Thérèse Alarie
Jeannine Goyette
Patrice Saint-Laurent
Laure Labonté
Gisèle Bouffard
Claudette Laporte
Francine Bédard
Pierrette Grimard

Jarry **S**

Monique Beauséjour
Yvon Vachon
Micheline De Gagné
Gisèle Labrecque
Colette Marquis

Saint-Georges **S**

Hélène Grenier
Paul Frenette
El Halabi Antoine
André Grenier
Réal Néron

André-Grasset **S**

Rabha Arjoun
Claire Poirier
Hasan Selmoni
Jeanne Houde

Crémazie **S**

Charmaine Puszkas
Nancie Caldwell
Maria Schenker
Pierre Vincent
Jenny Turner

Saint-Sulpice **F**

Marie-Denyse Ceac
Silvia Ricciotto
Ginette Dubé
Lucie Desrosiers

Émilien-Gagnon (6180) **S**

Andrée Rainville
Denise Belisle
Madeleine Delisle

NEW ASSOCIATION

Madeleine-d'Ailleboust **F**

Jacques Guévremont
Colette Bernier
Jean-Roch Gilbert
Hélène Baraby
Jean-Claude Lapointe

SOUTHWEST SECTOR

Isabella **S**

Izella Godin
Marianna Polaszek
Marilyn Alexe Carpen
Yuliya Milshtein
Doris Vilandré
Huguette Larose

Simone-Léveillé **S**

André Leclerc
Simone Cartier
Jeanne Charbonneau
Annette Dextras

Bourret **F**

Visualinmgam Jeyaragah
Wimaladiv Jeyaragah
Claude Proulx
Pervitz Ahkter

Place Newman **S**

Hyacinth Rose
Laura Kydd
Norman Gulden
Averion Illuminade
Christophe Jubinville-Rudys

John-Patterson **S**

Pierre Châte
Aline Bilodeau
Denise Martin

Favard **S**

Irene Comeau
Alexander Lafferty
Pierrette Provost

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.



To make decisions, the members of an association hold a general meeting. Based on a respect for the members' equality and freedom of choice, democratic rules enable the association to run smoothly. An association which is run democratically makes member involvement easier and experiences fewer conflicts.

Upcoming training sessions*

These training sessions provide the tools you need to fulfill your role. Make the most of them – they're free!

Date	Time	Theme	Address	Metro
March 13	10 a.m. - 3 p.m. lunch included	Grant applications — Where and how to find funding?	8087, rue Berri, 2nd floor Salle Jarry (code 200)	Jarry
April 5 (Saturday)	1 p.m. - 5 p.m. snack included	Roles and responsibilities of administrators (tenant committee members) — What does the law say?	2486, boul. de Maisonnette Est Salle Maisonnette	Frontenac

The sessions are always held in a housing project building near a metro station. Lunch or a snack is included, but participants' transportation costs will be borne by tenant associations. If you are not able to attend a training session in your sector, you may register in another sector.

To confirm your attendance, contact Suzanne Morissette by phone at 514-872-2104 or by email at suzanne.morissette@omhm.qc.ca.

*Please note that courses are held in French. Titles are given in English for your information.



Interaction is published by the Service des communications of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal
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