#### News on tenant action in Montreal's low-rent housing

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# Interaction

## 2019 Elections Who will you vote for?



The election date for tenant members of three of the OMHM's participatory bodies is fast approaching. On April 23, the voting delegates will meet to elect the people who will speak on behalf of all OMHM tenants. There are two vacancies on the Board of Directors, three on the Selection Committee (including one alternate position) and two on the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons (including one alternate position).

I am writing to you today as Board Chair, a role I took on in September 2018. I have been on the Board of Directors since April 2016, which means I have worked with tenant members of the Board for the past three years already. I can vouch for

the major difference they make to the management of our organization. We really value having a tenant member for families and people living alone, and a tenant member for seniors. Their presence helps administrators better understand the realities experienced daily by our residents in low-rent housing, affordable housing and ENHARMONIE residences. On one hand, these members make an essential contribution to the work of the Board by highlighting the concerns and needs of all OMHM tenants. On the other hand, just like all other Board members, they are involved in decision-making regarding the Office's priorities, means and interests. This is their double responsibility, which they take on with heart and dedication. The tenant members of the other two committees also contribute to the decisions of their respective committee, in order to respect the needs of all tenants.

It is therefore important for you, as a member of a tenant association or of the ENHARMONIE Advisory Committee of Tenants, to ensure that delegates are chosen to represent your association in the elections on April 23. You have until April 8 to inform us of the names of your delegates.

In the following pages, we will introduce the candidates for the three participatory bodies. I invite all delegates to attend on voting day.

Who will you vote for? You decide!

Clustian Clampogne

Christian Champagne Chair, OMHM Board of Directors

ELECTION DATE April 23, 2019 (see details on page 4)

#### WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

The next few pages introduce you to each of the candidates running for the seven vacant positions. Find out why they are running and what issues they are eager to discuss within OMHM bodies.

#### **Board of Directors Candidates**



#### Sylvain Labrecque Habitations Jacques-Cartier

"Although I have been involved in the various bodies for nine years, I still feel ready to act for the next three years on the OMHM Board of Directors." After a first term on the Board, Mr. Labrecque is still motivated and committed to serving the interests of all OMHM tenants. Now that he is familiar with the organization's services and the issues it faces, he feels even better equipped to continue the mandate.



#### René Cordero Habitations Saint-Roch

"My priority is finding solutions for the problems that some tenants experience, whether they are concerning their health, safety, maintenance, or other things." Mr. Cordero has been very involved in the low-rent housing Advisory Committee of Tenants for the past five years and is keen to serve tenants. Community engagement has always been part of this life. He has been the president of the Saint-Roch association for the past 10 years.



#### Laurence Jacques Habitations Émilien-Gagnon

"I like interacting with people, I am openminded, I like sharing ideas and finding common ground. I enjoy challenges and teamwork." Ms. Jacques has many reasons for wanting to work for tenants. She also has 25 years of experience volunteering with seniors in long-term care centres, as well as many years spent volunteering at various Montreal events.

### Ms. Saravia

Habitation du Nord-Ouest For personal reasons, this candidate prefers not to publish her complete name and photo.

"For me, housing is the cornerstone of socioeconomic development, and it plays an essential role in people's well-being." With a bachelor degree in geography and currently studying for a master's degree in management, Ms. Saravia specializes in development issues

and is keen to mobilize her knowledge for the good of the community. Having worked in Montreal for several years now, she is familiar with its social and community realities.



#### Raymond Saulnier Habitations Des Fleurs

"In life, I am a leader, someone who brings people together, a collaborator and an administrator who makes sure all my files are seen through to the end." Raymond Saulnier is chair of the Habitations Des Fleurs committee, where he has helped diversify the activities

offered in the common room and increase tenant participation in tenant association activities. He is also a board member of the Regroupement des organismes pour les aînés et aînées du sud-ouest de Montréal (ROPASOM).



#### André Giroux Résidence Maywood

"I would like to represent ENHARMONIE residents and low-rent housing residents to better communicate their needs. I want to improve things and develop my skills as a member of the Board of Directors." André Giroux has been an ENHARMONIE resident since the summer of 2013. He soon joined the

ENHARMONIE Advisory Committee of Tenants and was even elected president. After a hiatus of one year, he is back in the Advisory Committee of Tenants where he is currently a member of the budget committee and the by-laws committee.



#### Adel Ben Mabrouk Habitations Walkley

"I want to ensure good services for tenants and good building conditions in order to enable a sound administration." With a master's degree in management and several years of experience in building management, Adel Ben Mabrouk is confident that he can effectively perform the tasks entrusted to him.



#### Julie Kozubski Habitations Parc de l'Encan

"I am very empathetic and my goal is to ensure residents' psychological and physical wellbeing. I speak several languages including French, English, German and Spanish. Communication is very important to me." Actively involved, Julie Kozubski is a team player. She has several years of experience in administration, nursing and customer service.



#### **Rym El-Ouazzani** Habitations Léa-Roback

"I want to use my skills to support an important issue: the right to housing. My experience as a member of the Conseil jeunesse de Montréal for the past six years has given me a clear understanding of the municipal system, and a broad view of the initiatives in place. In an effort to provide evolving solutions for collective well-

being, I want to ensure that OMHM tenants have their voices heard. "An affordable housing tenant, Rym El-Ouazzani has a bachelor degree in law and actively participates in community life.

# *Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons Candidates*



#### Bernadette Lang Habitations Marie-Rollet

"Joining this committee is a way to help tenants who have sometimes—or often—had a difficult time in life. It is crucial that they have the prospect of a safer life and a better future." Bernadette Lang wants to help tenants achieve their potential, for their family, friends and other tenants, thanks to adequate housing.

She has been actively involved in her tenant association for the past four years or more.



#### Ekaterina Khoroujik Habitations Walkley

"I make sound decisions based on values and social action. I want to understand the overall structure of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal and to help advance things." Ekaterina Khoroujik has been a member of the Walkley committee for nearly two years. She has greatly helped the tenants in her building.



#### Ahmed Drissi Habitations Côte-Des-Neiges

"I think I could be useful because I like solving problems and finding solutions that make things fairer for everyone." Ahmed Drissi has over 25 years of experience as a teacher in his country of origin, Morocco. He has volunteered with a number of organizations and has been a member of the tenant committee for several years.



#### Serge Arbour Habitations Terrasse Ontario

"I always give 110% and I'm always there, whenever and wherever I'm needed." A few years ago, Serge Arbour served on the Selection Committee. This year, he represents the senior tenants on the Advisory Committee of Tenants. He would like to join the Housing Transfer Committee to become more familiar with it,

and to get more involved. He believes that he would do a very good job, as he did in his last term.



#### François Mikhaïl Habitations Adrien Trudeau

"I'm certain I can help our Housing Transfer Committee."A retired chemist, François Mikhaïl is seeking new challenges and experiences. A member of the low-rent housing Advisory Committee of Tenants and chair of his committee, he would like to take this experience even further. He is eager to continue his engagement for residents and the society.



#### **Giovanni Iuliani** Habitations Clotilde-D'Amico

"I am involved because I believe in giving back to society. As I've said before, poverty is a major issue, and the work of the OMHM is essential." As a member of this committee for the past three years, Giovanni Iuliani recognizes that the lives of some people depend on the work of the committee. Mr. Iuliani treats each case with a lot of respect. He is sure that his involvement makes a difference.

## Ms. Saravia

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"For me, housing is the cornerstone of socioeconomic development, and it plays an essential role in people's well-being." With a bachelor degree in geography and currently studying for a master's degree in management, Ms. Saravia specializes in development issues

and is keen to mobilize her knowledge for the good of the community. Having worked in Montreal for several years now, she is familiar with its social and community realities.



#### Michelle Boulianne Habitations Bourret

"I would like to get involved in this committee to understand how a transfer application is handled by the OMHM. I am a curious person who enjoys learning, helping and making decisions. I have always liked getting involved to help others. I will make every effort to contribute to the essential work of the

Committee on Housing Transfers." Michelle Boulianne believes that her life experience would benefit the committee.

#### Selection Committee Candidates



#### **Tina-Lili Gagné** Habitations Saint-André

"I am a single mother of four beautiful boys whom I love. We have been fortunate to live in subsidized housing for four years now. Having this apartment has saved my life. Now I want to get involved in our community and within the OMHM to help those who need it," she says. Chair of the tenant association and an

active member of the Advisory Committee of Tenants, Tina-Lili Gagné wants to make her voice heard in order to drive things forward.



#### François Mikhaïl Habitations Adrien Trudeau

"I'm certain I can help our Selection Committee."A retired chemist, François Mikhaïl is seeking new challenges and experiences. A member of the low-rent housing Advisory Committee of Tenants and chair of his committee, he would like to take this experience even further. He is eager to continue his engagement for residents and the society.



#### **Rita Del Grande** Habitations Mayfair

"Among all the committees I served on during the 25 years I have lived in low-rent housing, the Selection Committee is special for me. Being on the committee means helping people find a better place to live, one which fits their situation." She is keen to be involved in a process that allows people to pay rent according to their means, to improve their quality of life.



#### Monique Bélisle Habitations Adélard-Langevin

"I want to help tenants better understand how the OMHM works. That is why I am applying for this position." Monique Bélisle has been president of her tenant association for the past 14 years. Previously, she sat on this type of committee in a co-operative. She has also done a lot of volunteering with seniors. Her main

goals are to learn and to better understand the selection process.



#### Michelle Boulianne Habitations Bourret

"I would like to get involved in this committee to understand how a housing application is handled by the OMHM. I am a curious person who enjoys learning, helping and making decisions. I have always liked getting involved to help others. I will make every effort to contribute to the essential work of the Selection

Committee." Michelle Boulianne believes that her life experience would benefit the committee.



#### Veturia-Ionela Nanu Protopopescu Habitations Côte-Des-Neiges

"I would like to contribute humbly to the committee, bringing my experience and my desire to help others." Ms. Nanu Protopopescu has 30 years of experience volunteering with organizations such as Maison du Père and

Moisson Montréal, as well as with humanitarian activities in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Europe. She speaks four languages. She wants to share her experience and serve others by continuing her work with tenants.

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"I want to ensure good services for tenants and good building conditions in order to enable a sound administration." With a master's degree in management and several years of experience in building management, Adel Ben Mabrouk is confident that he can effectively perform the tasks entrusted to him.

# The big day is approaching!

Every three years, the two advisory committees of tenants (CCR HLM and CCR ENHARMONIE) are responsible for organizing elections. In so doing, they ensure that tenants of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) are properly represented on the bodies governing this organization.

Tenant associations and members of the CCR ENHARMONIE must submit to the OMHM the names of the delegates with voting rights by April 8, 2019. It is vital for all delegates to be present on voting day at the Sainte-Catherine d'Alexandrie Community Centre so that the elections are reflective of what you want to see happen!

#### How the elections are held

The CCR ENHARMONIE and the delegates for low-rent housing tenants will attend an election meeting on April 23 to elect the tenant representatives, in accordance with the procedures established by the two advisory committees of tenants.



Members of the CCR HLM

Members of the CCR ENHARMONIE

## When and where

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 Time: 1:30 p.m. Location: Centre communautaire de loisirs Sainte-Catherine d'Alexandrie 1700, rue Amherst Montréal (Québec) H2L 3L5 (Berri-UQAM metro station)

A snack will be served.





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