



ID²EM

Low-rent housing tenants get down to work on 14 projects

Under its ID²EM program, the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) has granted funding to 14 projects that will be carried out by tenants of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) and partner organizations. Subsidies amounting to \$71,200 were granted this fall to start or carry on with community initiatives.

The objective of the ID²EM program is to improve the collective empowerment of low-rent housing tenants so they can fight poverty and social exclusion, to raise their awareness of sustainable development and to engage them in environmentally responsible projects that allow them to improve their physical, social and community environment.

A nice variety of projects

Using the subsidies received, 19 tenant associations will introduce a variety of activities, working together with organizations. Plans include community kitchens and a citizen grocery store, homework help, talks on the role of parents and art workshops. On the environmental front, composting, community gardens, beautification and landscaping will be organized.

Progress from year to year

Six of the projects selected by the SHQ continue or improve on work that was started in past years. For example, at Habitations Meunier-Tolhurst in the Northwest Sector, following the



Since the creation of the art studio at Habitations Saint-Sulpice, art has even been spilling over onto the asphalt!

establishment of community gardens maintained by tenants, the focus will now be on developing healthy eating habits. Food will be central to a number of activities, including community kitchens and workshops.

Habitations Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and Habitations Alexandra in the Southwest Sector and Habitations André-Grasset in the Northwest Sector are joining together this year with Habitations Saint-Sulpice, also in the Northwest Sector. The four associations will work together to establish art therapy studios, which foster pride and confidence among participants and make it easier for them to be open toward others.

This type of activity strengthens the sense of belonging that tenants have in their living environment and creates networks that make life easier on a day-to-day basis.

For a list of projects subsidized by ID²EM, see the table on page 4.



Adults and children worked together to set up the community gardens at Habitations Meunier-Tolhurst.

As we move into 2016, let's make plans!



First, congratulations to all the members of the Comité consultatif des résidants (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) elected on December 3.* We extend a warm welcome to the newly elected members and welcome back the members who were re-elected.

A very special thank you as well to all the delegates who came out on December 3 to elect the new CCR and the tenant representatives on the auditing committee. Your commitment to the tenants in your buildings deserves to be recognized.

It will be a pleasure to get down to work with the CCR in January 2016. Together, we will explore various ways of promoting community life and encouraging tenants to live together in harmony, thereby implementing one of the priority directions in the Office's new strategic plan.

Have you accomplished something that has been a success, or are you thinking of starting a project that deals with these aspects? If, for example, you have an original way of welcoming new tenants to your building, you can share this type of information with your community organizer. Who knows? Your approach to managing conflict or improving security in your building could be adopted in other housing projects. It could make life easier for hundreds of tenants!

The holiday season is in fact a good opportunity to build ties with the people in your building. Consult them to find out what they would like to do together to mark the holiday season. Ask them to help with organization in order to share this responsibility. This will lighten the load for each person while decreasing the sense of isolation felt by some tenants. You will be killing two birds with one stone!

In closing, our hope is to cultivate inner peace in 2016 so we can influence our living environments and have a constructive and harmonious relationship with the people around us. Happy holidays!

Esther Giroux, Director
Service du développement communautaire et social

* At press time, the elections had not yet been held. The tenant representatives will be presented in the March issue of *Interaction*.

The CCR tables its report and prepares for what comes next

On the morning of October 6, the Comité consultatif des résidants (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) tabled its report for 2014-2015 at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) of representatives of tenants of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). That annual event, which is very important to tenant action in low-rent housing, was organized in its entirety by the CCR.

Two committee members, Nicole Vallières and Marie-Benoite Bukuru, provided a brief description of the major items dealt with during the year, including the in-house tenant satisfaction survey (see the results on page 3 of *La Rose des vents*) and the creation of a tenant employability committee. They also made note of the CCR's contribution to updating the tenant association guide, *Ensemble pour agir (Together for Action, available in French only)*, reorganizing the sector meetings and creating the ENHARMONIE CCR (provisional) for residences in that network.



Tenant representatives listened very attentively to the CCR's presentation and then made many comments.

This year, the CCR tabled opinions with the OMHM Board on the renovation of occupied units, waste management and ventilation in common areas and units. Several other important projects also came to its attention. For example, progress is being made on the issue of three-wheel and four-wheel scooters. The CCR is hoping to see a conclusion before winter.

Mental health problems and loss of autonomy were mentioned a number of times among the priorities to focus on during the coming year. Several tenant representatives would like the OMHM to take concrete steps to support associations in these matters. The CCR promised to convey their requests to the OMHM Board. In the afternoon, delegates also attended a presentation by the Montréal fire department followed by a presentation by Serge Villandr , Assistant Executive Director, Low-Rent Housing Management, on adjustments concerning maintenance and repairs.

Visit to low-rent housing in Martinique



Accompanied by low-rent housing managers and tenants from Martinique, the small group of Quebecers on a study tour, including Julie Laprès, climbed to the top of a mountain, where they were able to look upon the entire island of Martinique.

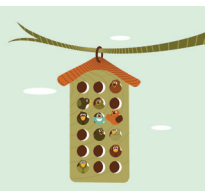
This past summer, Julie Laprès, a member of the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) representing low-rent housing for families in the East Sector, participated in a study tour to Martinique with Professor Paul Morin and his assistant, Jeanne Dumoulin, from the Université de Sherbrooke.

"We toured the island of Martinique and visited several low-rent housing projects," she says. "The greatest difference from our Office is that managers there don't really have a mandate for community and social development. Although they are concerned about tenants, their priorities are rent payment and building maintenance. The tenants in

Martinique were therefore impressed by the very open and productive relationship we have with our community organizers."

One thing that struck Ms. Laprès was the fact that low-rent housing is not exclusively for those who are less well off and that tenants can even become owners of their small houses! She also says that, in Martinique, former low-rent housing tenants can continue to be on a tenant committee even though they no longer live on site.

Julie Laprès will never forget the trip, which allowed her to build a relationship with some extraordinary people with whom she hopes to remain in contact.



Meeting at the crossroads
Seeking ways to live together in harmony

Cultivating mutual support between generations

One fine day this past July, the OMHM's clean-up and greening brigade came to support the seniors at Habitations André-Corneau with their vegetable garden project. "It was an excellent event," says Martine Hilaire, an outreach worker from the organization Temps d'une pause, répit et soutien aux aînés. "The seniors felt important; they expressed their needs and felt like they were being listened to." It seems that there was a lot of laughter mixed in with the advice and comments they provided to the young people from the brigade.

With support from Ms. Hilaire and Éco-quartier, the seniors had first prepared the land, seeded, planted stakes and weeded a little, but they ran into some problems, such as dangerous spots, an invasive vine and debris on the ground.

That was when community organizer France Vallières suggested that the brigade get involved. The young people cleaned up the land, cleared paths and literally dug up the vine, which was threatening to engulf a tree. They then did some landscaping and planted a lilac with the support of a horticulturist from the Sentier Urbain organization. The seniors made hot dogs and served them, with juice, to the young gardeners. "It did them

good to have young people in their yard interacting with them," adds Martine Hilaire. And they really like the nice clean yard and the garden, which has been easier to maintain since the brigade's visit.



The young people from the OMHM's clean-up and greening brigade posed with the seniors from Habitations André-Corneau whom they had come to help.

New Tenant Committees

Six elections were held in Montréal's low-rent housing from mid-September to mid-October, including two elections to create new associations. Congratulations to the 33 elected members. We wish them a successful term of office.

NORTHWEST SECTOR

Jean-Talon **S**

Louis Leconte
Lydie Gisele Guebediang
Abdelkader Mazit
Mohamed Baadie
El Masri
Abdul Majid Chohan

Jean-Valets **S**

Rosika Bekiarian
Pierre Joseph Florival
Maritza Obaldia
Parweede Permaul
Hagop-Magar Sheikh Al Beiti
France Gill

Manoir Aimé-Léonard **S**

Andrée Legault
Diane Tardy
Claire Desjardins
Diane Belzil
Lise Berthold

De Bellechasse **S**

Francine Therrien
Marie Ange Lalancette
André Plaisance
Ronald Coleman
Manon Dupuis

SOUTHWEST SECTOR

NEW ASSOCIATIONS

Monkland **S**

Elizabeth Ann Patterson
Sandra A. SHERA
Dora Tyson
Jennifer Aumond
Jacques Ratelle
Doris Jones

De Carillon **S**

Jean-Pierre Mallette
Ginette Primeau
Madeleine Dufour
Juanita Carroll
Michel Rollin

S OMHM low-rent housing for seniors

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

Projects subsidized by ID²EM in 2015-2016

PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY ASSOCIATIONS

Sector	Housing	Project name*
Northwest	Meunier-Tolhurst	Let's cook together!
	De la Visitation	Understanding for better living
	Rosemont (families)	Feeding the roots for a sustainable future!
East	Les jardins Châteauneuf	Seniors in action
Southwest	Paxton, De l'Érablière et Workman-Delisle	Thinking about the next generation together
	Walkley, D'Arcy et McGee	Walkley women's kitchen
	Téléspore-Savaria	Dinner meetings
	Place Lachine	Celebrating fruits and vegetables!

PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY THE OMHM

Sector	Housing	Project name*
East	Boyce-Viau	Boyce-Viau low-rent housing in action
	Terrasse Ontario, Saint-André, small buildings of the Association des voisins des cinq continents	My yard is full ... of life!
	De Mentana (seniors and families)	Together we're developing a living environment that's proud to go green
Southwest	Petite-Bourgogne low-rent housing for families	The future lies with young people: a Petite-Bourgogne project
	Petite-Bourgogne low-rent housing	My citizen grocery store in the heart of low-rent housing
Northwest and Southwest	Saint-Sulpice, André-Grasset, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and Alexandra	When art becomes popular

* Titles originally in French only, English translation provided for your information.

Upcoming training courses

These training courses will give you the tools you need to perform your role effectively. Take advantage of them—they're free!

Title	Date	Location	Metro station
How to prepare an annual general assembly	March 24, 2016	Terrasse Ontario 1100, rue Sherbrooke Est	Sherbrooke
Roles and responsibilities of directors	April 7, 2016	Habitations De Maisonneuve 2485, boul. De Maisonneuve Est	Frontenac

Courses are given from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at a low-rent housing building located near a subway station. Lunch is provided, but participant travel costs are usually covered by the tenant associations. To register, contact Suzanne Morissette by telephone at 514-872-2104 or email at suzanne.morissette@omhm.qc.ca.

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

THE ROLE OF AN ASSOCIATION

A tenant association brings together all the tenants in one or more buildings. To take decisions, the tenants meet at a general assembly. They also elect a tenant committee composed of at least three tenants.



Interaction is published by the Service des communications of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal 415, rue Saint-Antoine Ouest, 2^e étage, Montréal (Québec) H2Z 1H8 www.omhm.qc.ca

Project Manager: Jocelyne Dorris

Writing and Coordination: Hélène Morin

Photos: Studio d'art Saint-Sulpice, HLM Meunier-Tolhurst, Alarie Photos, OMHM, Julie Laprès, Temps d'une pause

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

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