



Tenants helping to improve the training



The highly interested participants greatly appreciated the practical content of the training on bookkeeping held on November 7 and the discussions that followed.

This fall, tenant association treasurers helped adapt a course on finances to the needs of volunteers. As a result, on November 7, an improved training session on bookkeeping was given in French and, for the first time, in English.

Constructive comments

The course has been around for a long time, its main purpose being to show volunteer treasurers how to prepare a financial report, including all the steps it involves throughout the year. However, participants often mentioned that they would like the contents to be more practical to help them better understand the subject matter, which can be quite difficult for people without any accounting experience. As well, Anglophone tenants asked to have the training in English.

"It occurred to us that we could improve the training thanks to our volunteer treasurers' know-how," explained Danielle Lacroix, the community organizer who coordinated the consultation.

An interesting (little) exercise

In September, trainer Normand Gilbert of Centre Saint-Pierre met with two volunteer treasurers, Antonin Gagnon and Suzanne Payant, to learn about the tools and methods they use on their committee. Ms. Payant, of habitations de l'Érablière, found it very rewarding. "We sometimes wonder about our abilities. When I was asked to take part in the consultation, I felt rather appreciated."

As for Mr. Gagnon, of habitations Desjardins, whereas he found the experience interesting, he had hoped for in-depth exchanges and more participants. "I was expecting more people to attend." Two more people were supposed to take part in the exercise but had last-minute conflicts.

(Cont'd on page 2) →

You will be my motivation



I am pleased to join an organization that works to improve the quality of life of its tenants, and to foster their involvement in their living environments and in the decision-making process.

Throughout my professional life, I have always been involved with task forces, consultation groups and community engagement organizations that aim to improve living conditions and rights, whether in Quebec or internationally. I cannot think of working any other way. As a result, I feel like I have landed in just the right place at the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). Not only is the blend of sensitivity and professionalism of my colleagues, not to mention the employees in the different departments of the OMHM, really boundless, but I feel truly inspired by the commitment of the tenants. I can assure you that it will be a source of motivation in my work.

I hope to be able to lend my style, with a healthy dose of good humour and respect, to the OMHM's social and community development department. This will involve working closely in ways that will, I am convinced, lead to great achievements!

I want to thank the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) and my colleagues for their warm welcome, as well as for their transparency and shared commitment to ensuring that my integration unfolds swiftly and harmoniously. I am already all in, and delighted to have the opportunity to help you improve your living environments over the coming years.

I wish you wonderful holidays, filled with peace and joy. I hope that 2018 will be marked by progress that will preserve our excellent relations.

Lorena Garrido, Director
Social and Community Development Department

→ (Cont'd from page 1)



Volunteer treasurers Antonin Gagnon and Suzanne Payant (left on the photo) met with Danielle Lacroix and Normand Gilbert to improve the training on finances for tenant committees.

Nonetheless, Danielle Lacroix believes that the exercise was useful in terms of adapting the training. "The associations do lots of transactions, even if the amounts involved are modest. This presents a high risk of error," she said. By consulting with skilled people who have developed methods adapted to the reality of low-rent housing, she believes that the training now better meets the needs of volunteers. The comments she received on November 7 from the participants were very positive. They felt that the training was instructive and that the tools provided were useful. They now have a better understanding of the different stages of accounting, and they enjoyed the discussions with their colleagues.

Upcoming training sessions

These free training sessions provide the tools you need to fulfill your role. Make the most of it!

Date	Theme	Address	Metro station
February 22, 2018	Rôle et responsabilités d'un comité de locataires (in French)	Habitations Jean-Talon 7255, rue Durocher	Jean-Talon
February 22, 2018	Role and responsibilities of a tenant committee (in English)	Habitations Place Lucy 5600, boul. Décarie	Snowdon
March 8, 2018	Preparing for a general meeting (in French)	Habitations Gabriel-Sagard 3001, rue Everett	Saint-Michel
April 12, 2018	The role of the secretary: taking the minutes at meetings, preparing the minutes, invitation (in French)	Habitations Clotilde-D'Amico 4000, rue Bannantyne	De l'Église
May 3, 2018	Recruiting and coaching volunteers (in French)	Habitations Sainte-Catherine d'Alexandrie 970, rue Robin	Berri-UQAM

Sessions are held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a low-rent housing project near a metro station. Lunch is included, but participants' transportation costs may be borne by tenant associations. To confirm your attendance, contact Suzanne Morissette by phone at **514-872-2104** or by email at **suzanne.morissette@omhm.qc.ca**.



Meeting at the crossroads

Seeking ways to live together in harmony

Breaking through isolation...with a game

The old industrial neighbourhood of Saint-Henri developed around the railroad track that runs through it, and its past is the stuff of great storytelling. The women of the Centre communautaire des femmes actives (CCFA) wanted to learn more about that history and share it. So they decided to create a board game based on their neighbourhood to strengthen their sense of belonging and solidarity.

These women all live in low-rent housing units in the Southwest Sector, and regularly meet at the CCFA to help one another, learn, become more independent and develop their network. Thanks to a grant from the New Horizons program, they had the opportunity to review a number of games before designing *À la découverte de Saint-Henri*.

This collective project involved a great deal of research and allowed the women to develop new skills, create new relationships and improve their self-esteem. They expressed their pride in their work at the evening reception marking the launch of their game on September 22.

The board is a reflection of their neighbourhood. Designed by some of the younger members of the CCFA, it is built around the ever-present railroad and a few well-known buildings and structures. In order to move ahead, players have to answer questions and demonstrate their knowledge of the neighbourhood history.

CCFA founder and coordinator Alice Robertson, a resident of habitations Lenoir-Saint-Antoine and a member of the brand new tenant association formed by four low-rent housing projects in Saint-Henri, points out that the final product is very professional. "We ordered 50 copies of the game, and its quality astounded our members, local officials, the OMHM and the CIUSSS."

Copies have already been given to the schools, youth shelter, local libraries and senior's club. They all felt that the game was truly educational. Encouraged by this success, Alice Robertson is now looking for funding to produce more copies to meet the high demand!



In the À la découverte de Saint-Henri board game, the coloured railroad winds its way through the local points of interest.



Alice Robertson (centre) piloted the production of the game, which involved several members from the centre. Here she is joined by Linda Lemaître and Colette Latour, who, along with her, founded the CCFA in 2005.

The CCR's priorities for 2018

Every year, the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) asks the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) to set out the budget priorities for low-rent housing tenants before it finalizes its budget.

After consulting with the sector committees, the CCR informed the OMHM Board of Directors that residents' top three priorities for 2018 were as follows:

- sanitary conditions,
- the maintenance of indoor and outdoor common areas,
- security.

As a result, these three aspects are reflected in the 2018 budget that the OMHM submitted to the sector committees in the fall. The CCR also highlighted the need to improve communications between the OMHM and tenants, as well as the quality and monitoring of major works and repairs.

In the coming months

The CCR resolved to include in its upcoming meeting agendas the following three important issues for low-rent housing tenants: communications with the OMHM, restructuring participation forums, and maintenance and cleanliness.

New tenant committees

The following are the results of the elections held in the low-rent housing projects in Montréal in the fall of 2017. Note the creation of a new association grouping together four low-rent housing projects for families and single people. Congratulations to all of the new representatives, whose commitment gives a boost to your living environments.

EAST SECTOR

Adélar-Langevin **S**

Albert, Huguette
Belisle, Monique
Bouthillette, Danielle
Mathieu, Robert
Laforge, Lise

Les Jardins Chaumont **S**

Bélanger, Marcel
Dugas, Lise
Gervais, Céline
Rivest, Hélène
Fournier, Barbara

Marguerite-Bourgeois **S**

Aubin, Yves
Caceres, Mary
Tremblay, Bernard

Saint-André **S**

Miranda, Magali
Roussel, Lucienne
Sisouk, Somchith
Gagné, Tina-Lili
Leblanc, Maurice
Pereyra, Idelca

Thomas-Chapais **F**

Arseneault, Marcel
Aubry, Chantal
Bergeron, Bruno
Picard, Nathalie
Bouchard, Nancy
Janvier, Carole

Sainte-Catherine d'Alexandrie **S**

Brunet, Monique
Green, Francine
Lapointe, Manon
Martel, Monique
Martel, Jean

NORTHWEST SECTOR

André-Grasset **F**

Amroune, Hakima
Charles Duperron, Maliska
Kherbache, Hamida
Morales Branda, Doneris J.
Duperron, Danielle

Émilien-Gagnon **S**

Jacques, Laurence
Delle Donne, Mario
Mathurin, Laurette
Pampena, Maurizio
Zapata, Guillermo

Jean-Talon **S**

Kornafel, Krystyna
Leconte, Louis
Vogas, Dimitrios
Zukowska, Marianna

Saint-Vallier **S**

Morin, Richard
Owens, Sherry
Richer, Jean-Paul
Tailon, Jocelyne

SOUTHWEST SECTOR

Adrien-Trudeau **S**

Vallino, Pauline
Mikhail, François
Leduc, Lise
Smith, Harold
Malette, Carol

Curé Vianney-Savaria **S**

Bélanger, Louise
Sévigny, Lise
Lampron, Monique
Walton, Delia
Joe, Jacqueline

NEW ASSOCIATION

Bourget/Desnoyers/ Lenoir-Saint-Antoine/ Saint-Antoine **F**

Langlois, Colette
Robertson, Nathalie
Constantin, Francine
Diboune, Habiba
Robertson, Alice



A strong association is one that treats all its members equally. Each association has its by-laws so that all its members follow the same rules. This avoids a lot of problems between tenants.



The Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) is your spokesperson. The OMHM consults it on all important issues and it works to improve the quality of your living environment. The CCR represents the entire tenant community.

S OMHM low-rent housing for seniors

F OMHM low-rent housing for families and people living alone

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



Interaction is published by the Communications Department 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: OMHM, Centre communautaire des femmes actives Translation: Ubiquis

Graphic Design: Communication Art & Graf

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