



2019 elections: a defining moment for the OMHM



The power to influence OMHM decisions

One of the most important moments for the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) has arrived again: the election of tenant representatives. Next April 23, your delegates will meet to elect two tenants to the Board of Directors (BOD) for the next three years. Tenant representatives will also be selected for the Selection Committee and the Review Committee for Housing Transfer Requests for Biopsychosocial Reasons.

The tenants elected to the BOD and the other two committees will participate fully in the discussions and decisions of these bodies. They will also present the concerns of OMHM tenants and play a key role in this regard. In fact, their contributions will help OMHM management better understand the issues that you consider priorities in daily life and for the future. This is why these elections are extremely important for you and the OMHM.

In recent years, tenant members of the Board of Directors have been dedicated and committed to the well-being of low-rent housing tenants. The work accomplished by your elected members enrich the decisions of the three bodies with respect for your needs. The OMHM believes that the representatives elected in 2019 will match their predecessors' efforts in advancing, finding solutions or collectively making changes.

You need to take action and ensure that delegates have been selected to represent the tenant association of your low-rent housing and that they turn out to vote on election day.

The OMHM wishes you a productive election period and hopes that a large number of delegates show up on election day to speak on your behalf.

2019: a message from the new director of the Social and community development department



I was delighted to accept leadership of the Social and Community Development Department in the coming year. I am taking over from Lorena Garrido, whom I thank for her engagement and deep dedication to residents for over a year. Ms. Garrido was fully committed to the OMHM's mission.

For me, the process has been a rediscovery of my roots since I performed similar duties between 2002 and 2008. After working for more than 30 years in Montreal's social and community development sector—15 of them with the OMHM—I recently led an organizational exploration on social development and sustainable development directions.

With the support of an experienced team, I will ensure a smooth and swift transition in order to advance the activities in progress and develop a new vision for 2019. I intend to work in collaboration with all of our partners, including the tenant associations, to support managers and community service teams in order to provide tenants with a better living environment.

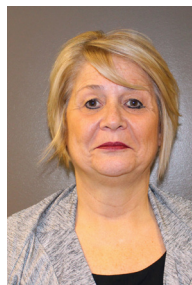
My hope for 2019 is that we listen to one another with respect, openness and collaboration and that we enjoy repeated success!

I look forward to meeting you early in the new year,



Hélène Bohémier
Interim Director of Social and
Community Development

“Alone we go fast, together we go far!”



This African proverb fittingly captures the vision of Sylvie Simon, interim Assistant Executive Director of Low-Rent Housing Management over the next year. Since she started working for the OMHM 32 years ago, she has kept this saying in mind and let it guide her work in every area. She believes that teamwork is necessary to go far and to head in the right direction. She

believed it back when she worked in accounting at the Verdun OMH in 1986, when she was Assistant Director and Executive Director at the Montréal Nord OMH from 1989 to 2001, and when the offices amalgamated in 2002 and she became Director of the North Sector, now known as the Northwest Sector. Today, she believes in it all the more.

Over the past three years, work in the buildings has kept the Low-Rent Housing Management Department very busy. Since she started her position in October, Ms. Simon has been working on the three main priorities under her terms of reference for the coming. First, she must analyze service delivery and review local services. Second, on the operational side, she must measure the impact of the high staff turnover and stabilize the changes while ensuring that residents consistently receive quality service. Finally, she must work on continuously improving the maintenance of our properties. In addition, Montreal's ageing population must also be taken into account. Incidentally, an examination of local services is underway.

Sylvie Simon is a manager, but also a woman of dedication who has spent her entire life to ensure that tenants and employees are able to contribute toward changing and improving the living on



our premises, along with healthy and respectful workplaces where teamwork is encouraged in the interest of greater justice and equity. “In the coming year, my work will focus on engaging employees and tenants, so that we go even further, together!” she said in closing the meeting with a look as determined and bright as the first snowfall that blanketed the metropolitan area that November day.

A commitment on the move

A year has passed already since the relocation of 165 families and individuals residing at Habitations Saint-Michel Nord due to major renovation work. Despite this great change, the six members of the tenant association remain quite active. They hope to keep the friendliness among residents alive. For them, their activities and the work of the Social Innovation Committee must continue as they look to the future. The association wants to keep good relations between residents despite the distance that currently separates them. Members continue to meet about once a month.

What is their secret to keeping these bonds unbroken? The sheer pleasure of being together! But also the desire to move back to Habitations Saint-Michel Nord and talk about this positive change about to happen in the lives of residents. Organizing activities strengthens a sense of belonging. Sharing experiences makes ties firmer. Gathering together is a challenge. It takes an extra effort, door-to-door canvassing or sending out letters to get as many people as possible to join



in activities. Nothing stops Yngrid Beard De Severino, chairwoman of the Habitations Saint-Michel Nord tenant association: "I was born to help. It is part of my personality. When you like what you do, it is not an effort!"



Using CAVAC to stop bullying in our living environments

We hear more and more these days about bullying, but not so often in connection with seniors. People who experience or witness acts of violence often feel alone and powerless. If the experience of seniors in our surroundings becomes a concern, we get informed in order to respond more effectively.

Bullying is a form of abuse at any age. However, seniors are more vulnerable targets because they often live alone. Bullying can be considered a crime, and may even conceal other kinds of violence with serious and damaging consequences for the victim's quality of

life. Always remember that you are not alone and that resources are available to help you. In the Montréal area, you can contact the Crime Victims Assistance Centre (CAVAC) at any time. A CAVAC contact person meets with victims of bullying and assesses their needs. The contact person evaluates how to help, guide or refer victims to other resources to restore their quality of life.

Calling police or reporting an abuser is not necessary to receive CAVAC services. Katherine Saint-Pierre, Liaison Officer specializing in elder abuse, told us: "We offer help to victims, but also to families and witnesses. You don't have to face bullying situations alone. CAVAC is here to help. Sometimes, the abuse may involve behaviour and actions that

amount to a criminal offence. If you ever have concerns for your safety, you can always contact the Montreal police department."

CAVAC's free and confidential services are available in French, English and Spanish, and sometimes in other languages such as Creole, Arabic and Italian.

In cases of elder abuse, contact Katherine Saint-Pierre directly at **514-992-4817**.

Are you a witness, relative or victim of a criminal offence? Keep this number handy at all times: **1-866-LE-CAVAC (1-866-532-2822)**.

New tenant committees

This fall, three new tenant associations were created. Your involvement changes our living environments for the good of residents' well-being. You form 21 associations and your commitment is inspiring!

NORTHWEST SECTOR

NEW ASSOCIATION

De La Mennais **S**

Béland, Josée
Bonnier, Solange
Maheux, Roger
Morcrette, Lilianne
Nadeau, Chantal
Potvin, François

Manoir Aimé-Léonard **S**

Fontaine, Rolande
Legault, Andrée
Tardy, Diane
Tremblay, Diane

Marie-Rollet **S**

Armstrong, Micheline
Lang, Bernadette
Marotte, Lucette
Servant, Ginette
Tessier, Claudette

De la Merci I et Sackville **F**

Bangembo, Christine
Dorléan, Oudlain
Irakoze, Cedric
Mugisha, Cynthia-Martine
Saint-Denis, Yolande

Saint-Firmin A et B **S**

Dumouchel, Madeleine
Langdon, Suzanne
Larente, Anne
Léger, Georges
Martel, Diane
Saliba, Clauda

Saint-Georges I et II **S**

Ansara, Marie Paule
Carfagnini, Norma
Chiha, Samira
Lapointe, Robert
Villamor, Lydia

Saint-Michel Nord **F**

Beard De Severino, Yngrid
Bouneb, Samia
Contreras, Marianne
El-Fraygui, Rachida
Gaston, Magalie
Salahudeen, Roshan
Sauvageau, Monique

SOUTHWEST SECTOR

NEW ASSOCIATION

Des Oblats III **S**

Bernier, Lise
Fehus, Misty, Dicana
Leboeuf, Yvette
Sylvestre, Raymond

Parc de l'Encan **F**

Emond, Carine
Guimont, Claude
Joseph, Minouse
Kichou, Radia
Kozubski, Julie Anne

Place Hillside **F**

Gueye, Soukeyna
Pham, Kaeson
Shore, Maxwell

Résidence Hillside **S**

Abramian, Anait
Lecours, André
Szostak, Helene
Yardley, Peter

Lavoie **F**

Davy, Laverne Roseta
Labrecque, Lise
Niyazov, Dina
Priour, Carole

Place Newman **S**

Abbasi, Fauzia
Mayadi, Saeid
Nadarajah, Santhakumari
Nadarajah, Sarojah

Saint-Henri **F**

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

Simone-Léveillé **S**

Bernard, Yves
Cholette, Yves
Dumas, Micheline

Télesphore-Savaria **S**

Joly, Nicole
Larivière, Pauline
Vinet Brisson, Ginette

EAST SECTOR

NEW ASSOCIATION

Du Carmel **F**

Bunton, Sandra
Léonard, Alain
Martin, Lucie
Parent, Sandra
Vilafuerte Coronado, Rebeca

Jardins Angevin **S**

Casault, Claire
Collard, Denise
Lessard, Jacqueline
Pepin, Nicole
Villeneuve Richardson, Claire

Marguerite-Bourgeois **S**

Aubin, Yves
Drouin, Pierre
Léonard, Mario

Parc Frontenac **S**

Argini, Patricia
Ladouceur, Diane
Languedoc, Michel
Longval, Noella
Pomminville, Maurice

Des Pointeliers **S**

Degrasse, Lise
Lanthier, Thérèse
Pauzé, Murielle
Picard, Claudette
Sénécal, Jacqueline

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.



Within an association, the Tenant Committee looks after matters entrusted to it by members. It speaks for the residents. It shows concern for quality of life. It implements projects. It also encourages as many tenants as possible to help organize activities and participate in community life.



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