



Elections to OMHM bodies



As was the case three years ago, the tenants' delegates will be called on to exercise their right to vote on April 23 to elect representatives to sit on the OMHM's three bodies.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of application period:
March 8

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Publication of applicants' résumés:
March 28
Special Edition of *Interaction*

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Reception of names of delegates
with voting rights:
April 8

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Voting Day: **April 23**

On April 23, 2019, two tenant members will be elected to the Board of Directors of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM), along with representatives and alternates for the Selection Committee and the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons.

APPLY BY MARCH 8

Who can apply?

Tenants 18 years of age and older who are on the lease and have obtained the support of their Tenant Association Committee or of 10 tenants of their building.

Tenants of low-rent housing, residents of the ENHARMONIE network, Benny Farm buildings and other affordable housing complexes may apply to sit on the Board of Directors.

The remaining positions on the Selection Committee and the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons will be reserved for tenants in low-rent housing.

How can I apply?

Applicants will be required to complete and submit the application form by **March 8, 2019 at 5 p.m.** via email:

fabiola.poulard@omhm.qc.ca or by mail:

Service du développement communautaire et social

5800, rue Saint-Denis, bureau 502

Montréal (Québec) H2S 3L5

You may obtain the form from the reception of your residence, from your association, or by calling us or downloading it.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at **514-868-4192**

To download the forms, visit
www.omhm.qc.ca/en/news/elections2019

We are counting on you!



We have reached the end of the term for tenant members on the major committees at the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). In these pages, we will introduce the five elected officials who have spoken on your behalf

over the past three years or more. We kindly thank them for their service. Their continued commitment and informed contributions have been greatly appreciated.

Elections are an important event in that they allow us to select the individuals who bring tenant perspectives to the Board of Directors, the Selection Committee and the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons. All eligible tenants may apply for these positions. Once elected, they will receive all the support they require from the OMHM to carry out their roles. They can also count on the accompaniment of the Community and Social Development Service. The only requirements are to be available to attend meetings, to have a desire to work for all OMHM tenants and to be committed to supporting and advancing these committees.

We are calling on everyone to apply. The OMHM hopes that tenant representatives will reflect the diversity of individuals and various needs within your living environments. All tenants, young and old, living with family or alone, newcomers or long-time residents, are invited to apply to serve their community. I invite you to review the conditions and roles of elected tenants on these various committees.

You can make a difference!

Hélène Bohémier

Hélène Bohémier
Directrice par intérim, Service du
développement communautaire et social

The elected

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Passion at work

In April, Ghislaine Laramée and Sylvain Labrecque will complete their first term on the Board of Directors for the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). During an interview this month, they shared their experiences with us, along with what they have learned over the past three years.

"I am fascinated by the quality of the OMHM leaders and senior management. They have the organization's mission tattooed on their heart. They really want tenants to receive quality services," said Ghislaine Laramée when asked what has impacted her most about her experience. Six months after her arrival at Résidence Saint-Eugène, Ms. Laramée wanted to get involved to learn more about how nonprofit organizations and social housing are run in Montréal and Québec.

For his part, Sylvain Labrecque was already familiar with issues facing the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) but deepened his knowledge of the CCR ENHARMONIE. Mr. Labrecque has been involved with his tenant association for 9 years. He admitted that you have to invest a lot of time, be available and listen to

THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING TRANSFERS DUE TO BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL REASONS



Giovanni Iuliani

Misery is widespread and essential work needs to be done

Giovanni Iuliani admits that he did not know much about the Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons until he was elected to it three years ago. "I got involved in my association because I believe in giving back to the community, but when I joined this committee, I realized that there was a lot of misery and that the OMHM's work was crucial. The public is not aware of what organizations like the OMHM do in order to solve problems and prevent human tragedies."

Mr. Iuliani also pointed out that every case is treated with respect and that files are processed with an emphasis on avoiding discrimination. During his three-year term, he became so sure that the lives of people depended on this volunteer work, that he never missed a meeting. "There are battered women trying to escape their spouses who just got out of prison, others being harassed and bullied by cliques – even in low-rent housing. Others hear voices..." The extent and variety of problems facing low-rent housing tenants astounded Giovanni Iuliani. He believes that his time on this committee was well utilized.

and tenants reflect on their mandate

tenants, but that it had been a very positive experience. Ms. Laramée also said that the position required a lot of energy and work and that you have to be prepared to invest your personal time. However, working on this team has enabled her to better understand how the organization works and to meet a lot of generous people: "There is about 4 to 5 hours of reading required before each meeting. You have to be curious and in good shape. The Board has people with different skill sets. You learn a lot and you feel that you fit in," she said.

The voice of tenants

Ms. Laramée quickly understood her role and responsibilities with regard to tenants: "Since I was a little girl, my desire to get involved has been innate and required little effort. I have been able to break down and explain the Board's role and actions to tenants. Tenants asked me to raise several concerns with the Board, but it was not always the right time and place... So I took the time to explain and direct them to the appropriate resources in order to solve their problem."

Mr. Labrecque is very proud of his experience and plans to apply for a second term: "My role is to raise (red) flags, as we say. Over the past few years, I have been able to bring things forward. I also took on several initiatives, as I was able to remain connected to what was going on in low-rent housing. I think I can still contribute a lot because I know the files very well and I feel that the CCR team has great energy." He would like to share his experience with others and mentor those who want to run for election in order to better prepare them for their roles.



Ghislaine Laramée



Sylvain Labrecque

SELECTION COMMITTEE



Rita Del Grande

Improve people's quality of life!

Rita Del Grande is completing her seventh term on the Selection Committee. She has been involved in this committee for 21 years. She believes in the mission of low-rent housing and says it is necessary for society. "It's important to help people with small incomes who can't afford to

spend too much on rent. There will always be people who will need help finding housing in Montréal. You have to listen to them and try to find them a spot," she said. For Ms. Del Grande, it is essential to take the time to analyze each case. "On the committee, we don't always share the same opinions. Nevertheless, we always find solutions that improve people's quality of life," she said. And the key to success for this committee? "I love this committee so much! We make a real difference in people's lives. After having paid their rent, these tenants can access better food and better health. It changes their lives. Investing our time helps people live better," Ms. Del Grande concluded.



Georges Léger

A steep learning curve to the benefit of tenants and the OMHM

George Léger, a former rental-housing administrator, enjoyed his experience on the Selection Committee and would do it all over again. "I'm still able to give my time to help tenants," he said, "and there are so many people experiencing

unfair situations and who deserve a break. The learning curve was pretty tough at first, because we didn't have much time to discuss the various files. Fortunately, however, we were able to change from half days to a 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. schedule." This made a big difference considering that the committee has to process several hundred applications in one meeting. Mr. Léger also helped facilitate the work for the next round of elected tenants. The Housing Application Service is currently developing an explanatory document based on his comments to help committee members understand the various codes that appear in applications. This will ensure that newly elected committee members are immediately effective. Georges Léger believes that his contribution has therefore been beneficial for tenants and the OMHM alike.

7 POSITIONS TO BE FILLED



2 tenant members sit on the **Board of Directors**: one tenant will be elected from seniors' housing and the other will come from housing for families and people living alone. *All eligible OMHM tenants can apply for one of these two positions.*

The Board of Directors of the OMHM has nine members: five are appointed by the Montréal Agglomeration Council, two are appointed by the Québec government and two are elected by tenants.

Together, they establish the guidelines, objectives and priorities of the OMHM. The Board members are also the guardians of the organization's ethics and budgets. They hold approximately eight meetings per year.

The tenant members of the Board of Directors also become members of the two CCR (CCR HLM and CCR ENHARMONIE), which hold approximately six meetings per year.



2 tenant representative positions and **1** alternate position at the **Selection Committee**. *Only low-rent housing tenants may apply for one of these positions.*

This committee makes decisions regarding the eligibility and priority order of low-rent housing applicants.



1 tenant representative position and **1** alternate position at the **Committee on Housing Transfers due to Biopsychosocial Reasons**. *Only low-rent housing tenants may apply for one of these positions.*

This committee has the mandate to analyze and then accept or refuse requests for housing transfers for reasons related to tenant health or safety.



The Ceremony Recognizing Community and Volunteer Services will be held on

May 7, 2019 at Chic Resto Pop.

Save the date on your calendars and come celebrate 50 years of community involvement! Invitations will be sent out at the end of March.