



Elections 2016

Record turnout and new faces among elected members

The elections to appoint tenants to Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) participatory bodies for the next three years were held on April 26, 2016. The results are presented below.

The event showed, without a shadow of a doubt, that there is higher participation in community life. Never have members of the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) or OMHM staff seen so many delegates and candidates turn out. The 79 delegates (nearly twice as many as in the 2013 elections) listened closely to the candidates' speeches and made their selection calmly, taking the task very seriously.

Board of Directors

In all, 11 candidates were running to sit on the OMHM Board of Directors, with two being elected: Sylvain Labrecque as the representative from housing for families and people living alone, and Ghislaine Laramée as the representative from housing for seniors.

Mr. Labrecque chairs the Tenant Association at Habitations Jacques-Cartier in the East Sector. He has been on the CCR for many years and chaired it for a time. He has also been the representative for the Committee on change of housing for bio-psycho-social reasons over the



The 2016 elections had a record number of delegates turn out at Centre Saint-Pierre.

past year. Ms. Laramée, a former lawyer and mediator, lives in a residence of the ENHARMONIE network in Rosemont, namely Résidence Saint-Eugène, where she chairs the Tenant Association.

Both elected members therefore have a great deal of experience, which will come in handy to convey tenants' views on issues discussed on the Board and to promote the flow of information to participatory bodies, that is, the CCR and sector committees.

Selection Committee

The delegates then moved ahead with electing two representatives and one

alternate for the Selection Committee, which is in charge of selecting people entitled to rent apartments that become available in low rent housing across Montreal. Rita Del Grande, from Habitations Mayfair (Southwest Sector), and Georges Léger, from Habitations Saint-Firmin (Northwest Sector), got the most votes and will be your representatives on the Committee. Liliane Synnott, from Habitations De Terrebonne (Southwest Sector), will serve as the alternate if one of the two representatives is absent.

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Let's get into the spirit of La Fête des voisins



Summer is upon us, with hundreds of opportunities to meet and share. On June 11, it kicks off with La Fête des voisins, which is celebrated practically everywhere in Quebec. Residents in every neighbourhood are invited to step forward and organize an event that builds solidarity and neighbourliness in their area. Sounds a lot like the community celebrations organized by tenant associations!

Check the fetedesvoisins.qc.ca site for event ideas or to find out whether something is already being organized in your neighbourhood. And keep the holiday spirit alive by planning something for later in the summer. These are the kinds of celebrations that give a building's residents the chance to really get to know each other, and to come together to organize an event. This could include gardening activities or sprucing up the surroundings. There is nothing quite like working together to get to know each other.

In this bulletin, you will find a report on the April 26 elections for your representatives on the three OMHM bodies. Congratulations to the newly elected members. We look forward to working with you.

Enjoy the summer season!

Esther Giroux
Director
Service du développement communautaire et social



A small reminder to help everyone make the most of summer: it is important that tenant associations open their air-conditioned common room to all residents during the hotter days. This gives people suffering from the heat a bit of a break, and at the same time promotes neighbourliness.

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Committee on change of housing for bio-psycho-social reasons

This committee reviews applications from people who want to move in order to determine whether a housing transfer is justified to protect their health or safety. The delegates elected Giovanni Juliani, from Habitations Clotilde-D'Amico (Southwest Sector), to undertake this delicate task. Claire Cassault, from Habitations Jardins Angevin (East Sector), will be the alternate if Mr. Juliani cannot attend.

The day wrapped up with a short speech from Denis Quirion, OMHM Executive Director, who was present during the elections and who congratulated the newly elected members. He also thanked all the candidates—stressing just how many high-caliber candidates turned out—and the delegates for their great involvement. He finished by thanking the outgoing directors, Francine Cayer (seniors) and Nicole Vallières (families), who took their mandate on the Board very seriously these past three years.



The two new tenant members of the Board of Directors, posing with senior management. Left to right: Sylvain Labrecque, Serge Villandré, Assistant Executive Director, Low-Rent Housing Management, Denis Quirion, Executive Director, Ghislaine Laramée, and Danielle Juteau, Director of Applications, Affordable Housing and Rent Supplement Programs.



The two elected members and alternate of the Selection Committee could not hide their enthusiasm. Left to right: Rita Del Grande, Patricia Bouchard, Director of the Housing Applications and Reference Department, Lilianne Synnott, Denis Quirion, Executive Director, and Georges Léger.



The Committee on change of housing for bio-psycho-social reasons welcomes two newcomers. Left to right: Claire Cassault, Patricia Bouchard, Director of the Housing Applications and Reference Department, Giovanni Juliani, and Esther Giroux, Director of the Social and Community Development Department.

Mouv, an NPO

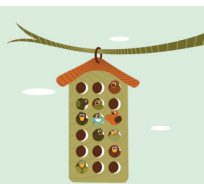
One step further for low-rent housing youth

Created in 2013, Mouv is a participatory body that allows young people living in low-rent housing to help improve their living environment. To gain independence, Mouv officially became a non profit organization (NPO) last fall and is now listed in the province's enterprise register.

With a status equivalent to that of tenant associations, Mouv can now manage its own budget and apply for government grants to launch projects. A big round of applause to our youth for taking this great step!



Low-rent housing tenants share a home environment. If they want to, they can form an association. Each association is free to choose its objectives and activities.



*Meeting at the crossroads
Seeking ways to live together in harmony*

Table scraps to boost social life

The composter installed in the courtyard of Habitations Terrasse Ontario in the East Sector does much more than process table scraps. It has actually changed the lives of some of the tenants of the low-rent housing project.

For André Bussière, a retired agronomist, getting involved in this constructive project was more attractive than going to a bingo or a community supper. "There are 12 of us on the environmental committee, and I had never spoken to most of them before," he explained. There is a lady in a wheelchair who cannot put her own table scraps in the composter. "So she calls me when her bin is full, and I do it for her." Thrilled to be involved in a project that is improving his living environment, Mr. Bussière has started planning a greenhouse that should be

built using the patio doors that will be changed in the building this year!

Lilian Gourbin, an outreach worker for Éco-Quartier St-Jacques, supervised the installation and use of the rotating composter. He noticed that users help each other out. "Now that the composter is almost full, it is more difficult to turn it, and some people do it together," he indicates. In April he estimated that "the compost should be ready for the spring planting." The Terrasse Ontario garden will be expanded to accommodate seedlings that tenants started in their apartments in late March, after attending workshops on recycling, planting and composting. There is no doubt that this summer will see lots of watering, maintenance and harvesting, and people helping each other out and sharing good times.



André Bussière and Joseph Kerkes, two tenants of Terrasse Ontario, helped superintendent Claude Chouinard and outreach worker Lilian Gourbin move the composter at the end of March when the bacteria became more active and the compost started giving off heat.

Revitalizing the sector committees Focus on direct action!

Since the 2014 report on the sector committees' operations, a task force made up of employees and tenants has been meeting. It has recommended some changes, including the abolition of sub-sector committees, which recently came into effect, and an increase in the number of sector committee meetings. Amidst all of these changes, the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal increased the number of directors of maintenance and repairs (DERs) from 13 to 20, and reorganized their duties so that they are on site 80% of the time. These changes came just in time to support discussions with the tenant associations.

DERs are now responsible for working directly with tenant associations in the low-rent housing projects to which they are assigned. They will have to meet annually with every tenant committee, and have a designated contact for each committee. If

necessary, a DER can also take part in the annual general meetings of associations. This new approach has been introduced gradually since early 2016, and looks very promising.

With the support of the associations, DERs intend to address issues more quickly, directly on site, without having to go through the sector committees. At the same time, associations get recognition for the constructive role that they can play as go-betweens connecting tenants and OMHM employees.

It was also decided to increase the number of sector committee meetings from two to five annually. The sector director and his assistant, the director of operations management and the director of client services will attend these meetings to talk to the representatives of tenant associations, and to continue improving services.

New tenant committees

Winter did not dampen the enthusiasm of volunteers between January and early April this year. Some fifteen elections took place in the Montreal low-rent housing projects, and 68 people volunteered to run the tenant association in their buildings. It should be noted that two new associations were created in the East Sector. Congratulations to all those who took part. Best of luck with your projects!

EAST SECTOR

De Rouen **S**

Reeves, Andre
Gatineau, Gilles
Le Cavallier, Monique
Gauthier, Raymonde
Leonard, Pierre

Honoré-Beaugrand **S**

Auchu, Céline
Sénécal, Ginette
Massicotte, Lise
Héту, Claire

Séguin **F**

Mallette, Eric
O'Hara, Maureen
Gauvin, Gaéтан
Rousseau, Sophie
Bisson, France
Aubin, Joanne

De Mentana **S**

L'Heureux, Monic
Abdul Latif, M. Shafi
Joyal, Renald

Sainte-Brigide **S**

Bradet, Jacques
Gravel, Jocelyne
Rocha, Silvia
Aubry, Gilles

Marie-Victorin **F**

Charlorin, Darlene
Abdullah, Izdihar
Mohamed, Amal
Elankainnathan, Lavanya
Jolicoeur, Loubens
Clenor, Edemonde

SOUTHWEST SECTOR

Richmond **F**

Vallières, Nicole
Barbin, François
Skerrett, Sandra
Morissette, Jean Daniel
Hutchinson, Barry
Walsh, Donna

Parc Frontenac **S**

Doucet, Anne-Marie
Ladouceur, Diane
Juge, Yvette
Longval, Noella
Languedoc, Michel

NORTHWEST SECTOR

Émilien-Gagnon **S**

Romeo-Palermo, Carmela
Lapierre, Francine
Barsalou, Gaéтан
Singher, Anne
Simkus, Norman

Jarry **S**

L'Ecuyer, Luc
Nguyen, Thi Ha
Lambert, Clément

Madeleine-D'Ailleboust **F**

Guévremont, Jacques
Gilbert, Roch
Gagnon, Louise-Marie
Larose, Marcel
Raymond, Richard

Rousselot **F**

Rompré, Réjean
Dumas, Robert
Lambert, André

Saint-Georges **S**

Carfagnini, Norma
Néron, Réal
Croteau, Mariette
Pepin, Madeleine
Cote, Micheline

Saint-Sulpice **F**

Dubé, Ginette
Ceac, Marie-Denise
Elmejdoubi, Aicha
Desrosiers, Lucie
Lozeau, Guy
Boussaid, Djamila
Simon, Daniela

NEW ASSOCIATIONS

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.



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