

A New Boost for Sector Committees and the CCR



CCR members giving their overview serious thought in the fall of 2014.

Did you know that the roles and meetings of the Sector Committees (SC) have been under review for the past year? The goal was to improve the operations of this forum, which includes employees of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) and tenant representatives. Last fall, after a number of surveys and discussions, the SC tabled a report proposing a series of possible courses. Nathalie Morin, director for the promotion of social development and consultation, told us about the next step.

Discussions rather than presentations

"We will use new methods (room lay-out, facilitation and workshops) to liven-up the meetings in order to promote discussion and joint work." Keeping in mind that the goal is to improve tenant services, the Office and tenants will develop new tools (dashboard, list of shared problems and summaries). "The new practices will be put to the test and if the results are positive, they will be made permanent."

On the CCR side

The Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) also completed its overview in the fall of 2014, a process launched with the help of the Office and Université de Sherbrooke researchers in late 2013. The effort produced five recommendations (see insert). The Committee began discussions to decide what actions were needed to represent low-rent housing tenants in Montreal even more effectively.

Five recommendations to the CCR

- Improve its communications
- Ensure it remains representative
- Get closer to its grassroots
- Improve its operations
- Obtain more support from the OMHM and the Fédération des locataires de HLM du Québec



Time to Pitch In!

We hear a lot of talk these days about austerity. How will it affect health and social services, agencies that assist members of the public? In these uncertain times, the reason for having tenant associations becomes all the clearer. As tenants living onsite, you are ideally placed to be on the look-out for vulnerable individuals. Without trying to fill the shoes of social workers, low-rent housing tenants can help each other and watch out for one another.

At the end of winter, the associations also received their annual subsidy. Spring is therefore a good time for tenant consultations. Survey tenants to find out what activities interest them and to get the helping hand you need. Ask residents to contribute their talents and collaborate on projects in your building. It's a chance for them to get to know one another and feel less isolated. Not only will you create a positive atmosphere in your low-rent housing, you will also make it easier to support vulnerable individuals.

If you need guidance in managing your association, keep in mind that your CCR has worked with the Fédération des locataires de HLM du Québec and the OMHM to develop a new version of the guide entitled *Ensemble pour agir*. This publication contains all of the information needed to start and manage a tenants' association. The new edition should be ready soon and available for downloading at www.flhmq.com. Contact your community organizer if you need help or to get your copy of the new version of the guide. If we all pitch in, we can stand united!

Esther Giroux, Director, Service du développement communautaire et social

Neighbours from Five Continents One Association Spruces up its Neighbourhood

When Yispsy Montero moved into the Papineau low-rent housing for families on Wolfe Street in Ville-Marie she was disappointed in her surroundings. "There were garbage cans on the sidewalks, no green space, nothing but asphalt," she reminisced. She contacted Éco-quartier and after various meetings, she met with another tenant, Catherine Obregon, and the chairperson of the next-door housing association and member of the Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR), Richard Fitzgerald. He was the one who encouraged them to establish their tenant association to get funding from the OMHM. He also offered them his support for their efforts.



The Neighbours from Five Continents held their first activity at the end of February.

In a family housing project divided into separate units with no common area, it can be difficult to gather tenants together. With the help of Tandem Ville-Marie and the support of the OMHM, Ms. Montero and Ms. Obregon raised awareness among other tenants and held a founding meeting last November 14. "We have to take charge of our quality of life and our safety," said Yispsy Montero, underscoring that little by little, "team work could change the look of our housing." The new committee, with five members, will begin restoring some greenery to Wolfe Street and its vicinity this spring.

The Voice of Experience

Interested in finding out how other associations solve their problems? Check out this video for accounts from volunteers:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXlonFTTH1w#t=235

THE WORK OF THE CCR

The Comité consultatif des résidents (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants), examines issues affecting all low-rent housing tenants: safety, work in the housing project, community projects, etc. It assesses needs and priorities from the tenants' point of view, and then makes recommendations to the Office's Board of Directors.

Flash sur mon quartier

Ten Tenants Survey their Housing Environment

Last fall, ten residents of Habitations Séguin set out on a photographic survey of Pointe-aux-Trembles to capture images of things that affect their well-being. As part of an action research by UQAM researchers, they formed a true collective for improving their living environment. Their photos featured the support found within community groups, the mutual help that exists among tenants and the pride taken in living in attractive buildings. However, it also revealed the absence of pedestrian walkways to the park and the difficulty of accessing certain services.

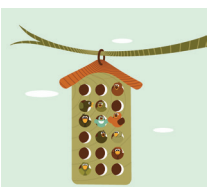
Lucie Cayouette participated in the study. In her opinion, it put an end to her isolation. "I met nine people in the building through this activity. Now I'm a member of the provisional tenant committee that is in the process of founding our association." The project also helped her get to know her surroundings better: "Even though I've lived in the neighbourhood for nine years, the research introduced me to the nature park, and now I go there a lot," she added.

To allow the entire neighbourhood to enjoy the experience, an exhibition of the most striking photos was organized at the Pointe-aux-Trembles Maison de la culture. "The launch was attended by the Mayor of the borough, Chantal Rouleau, the Executive Director of the OMHM, Denis Quirion, community groups and our families. We were extremely proud," said Ms. Cayouette, who added "after that, many building tenants went to see the exhibition too."

The OMHM would like to thank the research team — Janie Houle, Simon Coulombe and Geneviève Boileau — for giving tenants the opportunity to take part in this experience. To find out more about *Flash sur mon quartier* and its outcome, download the online brochure at www.vitalite.uqam.ca.



Several tenant-photographers, OMHM members, including the Executive Director, and the Mayor of the borough were on hand at the launch last December 5 at the Pointe-aux-Trembles Maison de la culture.



Meeting at the crossroads

Seeking ways for different cultures and generations to live together

Being a Good Neighbour Saves Lives!

When the tenants of a low-rent housing project get to know one another and start talking, a sense of harmony settles in. This is what happened at Habitations Lafond and it saved Liliane Dussault, the person in charge of volunteers for the project *A Vigilant Volunteer Is Watching Over You*.

Ms. Dussault told us that she was initially drawn to the project "because it's important that seniors feel safe." She joined with Rose Duquette, another volunteer, in making her daily rounds.

One night, she wasn't feeling well. She immediately called Rose for help, then 911, and fainted. Rose arrived just in time to ask for emergency services. By the time the ambulance arrived, Ms. Dussault's heart had stopped. She was resuscitated in the ambulance and her life was saved at the hospital. But as far as Ms. Dussault is concerned, Rose's fast response is the reason she is alive today. A few seconds more and it would have been too late.

After Ms. Dussault's accident, Rose Duquette continued her "watchful" volunteer work with another tenant's help. "I like helping other people. It takes my mind off things," she said simply. She also remembered that another tenant at Habitations Lafond was saved thanks to *A Vigilant Volunteer Is Watching Over You*. Both women encourage elderly residents to participate in the project. It's a simple way to feel safe.

New Committees

The following are the members of the 27 tenant committees elected between October 2014 and February 2015. Congratulations to the four new associations. Thank you for your commitment to your neighbours! We wish you the best success in your work during the coming year.

EAST SECTOR

Manoir Anjou **S**

Louise Racette
Lise Lavigne
Lise Mailloux

Marguerite-Bourgeois **S**

Bernard Tremblay
Yves Gaudreault
Jules Beaudet

NEW ASSOCIATION

Pierre-de-Coubertin **S**

Nicole Goulet
Linda Ouellette
Gilles Lafleur

Adélarde-Langevin **S**

Monique Bélisle
Suzanne Parent
Lise Laforge
Huguette Albert

Jardins Châteauneuf **S**

Francine Dagenais
Marcel Servant
Monique Lafontaine
Claudette Marcouiller
Irénee Verreault

NEW ASSOCIATION

Papineau – Montcalm – Beaudry **F**

Yispsy Montero
Catherine Obregon
Franca Bianca Carducci
Maidel Quintana Ugando
François Girard

Hochelaga **S**

Mireille Goddard
Jeannine Hébert
Normand Lecourt
Stéphane Bastien

Viauville **S**

Thérèse Pépin
Diane Émond
Josette Duguay
André Lafleur

Terrasse Ontario **S**

Rachel Pineault
Denys Allard
Roger Leblanc
Mona Maloney
Colette Lefebvre
Richard Fitzgerald
Pierrette Hébert

NORTHWEST SECTOR

Rousselot **S**

Eugénie Dusa
Maria Isabel
Acelia Aubin
Huguette Haché
Doris Arango

Gérard-Poitras **F**

Anita Cyril
Annie Gilles
Michel Brière
J.D. Kalo Pedakis

Jarry **S**

Yvonne Brisebois
Gracia Dupuis
Yvon Vachon
Micheline De Gagné
Diane Jodoïn

Crémazie **S**

Gabrielle Légaré
Pierre Vincent
Jenny Turner
Nicolette Bessette
Tran Tat Hoa

NEW ASSOCIATION

Pelletier **F**

Suzanne Roy
Alice Gahimbaré
Karine Tremblay
Guylaine Lavoie
Ariane Proulx

Saint-Sulpice **F**

Béatrice Jeanovil
Marie-Denise Ceac
Soumia Sabti
Boussaid Ajamila
Mazouzi Fella Fariola
Daniela Simon

Émilien-Gagnon (6180) **S**

Mario Delle Donne
Raymonde Lussier
Mauricio Pampena
André Denault
Andrée Rainville
Madeleine Delisle

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.

SOUTHWEST SECTOR

Marie-Laure-Porcheron (Verdun I) **S**

Micheline Bonneville
Francine Bélanger
Denise Duhamel
Gisèle Fosse
Denise Larose

Charlebois **S**

Lise Lamothe
Ginette Cadieux
Bonnie Fairfield
Lucie Saint-Amour
Gwen Simons

Résidence

H.F. Malo **S**

Irma Mujica
Huguette Paquette
Danielle Vallières
Nicole Jolicoeur Naud
Germaine Michaud

Saint-Raymond **S**

Liane Kagan
Adelina Petrilli
Patricia Mahonny
Auldeith Beverley
Kay Jones
Marcel Labranche
Glenda Mitchell

John-Patterson **S**

Nicole Poirier
Ginette Desmarais
Aline Bilodeau
Denise Martin
Yvette Bourgon

Favard **S**

Irène Massé
Irène Comeau
Jean Morin
Dorothy Evans

NEW ASSOCIATION

Angers **S**

Michel Adams
Claire Gauvin
Luc Mimeault
Adam Tobiasz

Clotilde-D'Amico (Verdun V) **S**

Suzanne Deragon
Andrée Thibodeau
Diane Sévigny
Giovanni Iuliani
Suzanne Lecuyer
Claude Pelletier
Gisèle Mailhot

Place Newman **S**

Ali Akbor Chowdhury
Maria Delia Hernandez
Lucio Canales
Norman Gulden
Averion Illuminade

Fernande-Rochon de Gongre (Verdun III) **S**

Raymond Dulude
Yvette Wade
Claudette Durocher
Lise Dufour
Pierre Chartier
Pierrette Caya
Rita Lefebvre
Philippe Legault

Claude De Mestral **F**

Caroline Wilson
Kylie Bloomfield
Jocelyne Brunelle
Vivian Sleenan
Susan Yersh
Pierre Turcot



The tenant committee is the association's board of directors. It is elected to take charge of tasks that cannot be done by all members gathered at a meeting. Members of the tenant committee are volunteers committed to the effective functioning of their association.

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!

Date	Title	Location	Metro
April 23	Grant Applications — Where to find money and how?	Terrasse Ontario 1100, rue Sherbrooke Est	Sherbrooke
May 14	The roles and responsibilities of directors — What does the law say?	Crémazie 8750, rue Berri	Crémazie

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