News on tenant action in Montreal's low-rent housing

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Parle avec ton rythme

A dance project to give the floor to youth from low-rent housing





José Trottier, Chairman of the Association de Place Normandie, initiated the project.

Place Normandie, a complex of low-rent housing buildings in Montréal-Nord, is the birthplace of *Parle avec ton rythme*, a dance project for teenagers. The initiative has seen 560 youth pass among its ranks since its inception.

José Trottier, Chairman of the Association de Place Normandie Committee, is behind this project. He is very proud of the progress that has been made. In 2012, he presented the project to the Montréal-Nord borough as a tool to prevent bullying. "The purpose of these workshops is to give young people a voice and the power to express themselves and reinforce their self-esteem," said Mr. Trottier. The borough funds part of the project as part of its Priorité Jeunesse action plan.

Now that the troupe is well established, Mr. Trottier wants to export the initiative to other boroughs.

He is targeting Ahuntsic and is willing to volunteer helping other tenant associations raise funding and start the project in low-rent housing. Interested individuals can contact him by calling **514-262-2299** or email **josetrottier@mail.com**.

One of the project's greatest accomplishments to date: the performance of 19 students from the Calixa-Lavallée high school in Montréal-Nord, at the Salle Rouge of the Grands Ballets Canadiens. With the help of a renowned French choreographer, they put on this 28-minute show in just five days. The AIDIA production house was inspired by this experience and created the documentary 5 jours, broadcast by RDI and to be shown on ICI ARTV on April 29th, on International Dance Day. The documentary will be available as a web series at radio-canada.ca and ICI TOU.TV for a year.

Your work is essential



During these months of integration in my new role, I was fortunate to see the commitment and hard work within the tenants' participation forums. This work is valuable, and the tenant associations are at the heart of this spirit and energy from which achievements ensue.

I am pleased to see all the progress which has been made to living environments thanks to tenant associations and the tireless dedication of volunteers. In recent years, we have seen women become increasingly assertive in democratic proceedings. Just a few days from March 8, International Women's Day, I am proud to see that women's participation in the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal is following this trend. Women hold an important place in it.

The year 2018 will be very busy with consultations and participation. I think it's important to thank everyone who makes the life of the communities a truly promising

reality. Special thanks are due to those involved in the February extraordinary meeting, but also to all those who participate and organize meetings, amongst others, for sector committees and the Comité consultatif des résidants (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants). You are these events' key to success, not only in terms of their organization, but also for their informative content and the participation they foster.

I can only hope you will continue to participate in large numbers and that your enthusiasm catches on and generates interest from more and more tenants.

Lorena Garrido, Director Social and Community Development Department

Helping you complete your grant application

To help you fill out your grant application, your community organizers will hold a half-day training session in your sector.

Join us and make sure you bring all the necessary documents! We will review each question on the form and explain the information and documentation you must provide. This is a great opportunity to improve your knowledge or to share it with others who need help.

Sector	Language	When	Where	Nearest metro station
Southwest	English and French	March 15, 2018 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Habitations Plamondon 6550, rue Victoria 2 nd floor	Plamondon
Northwest	French	March 20, 2018 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Habitations Saint-Vallier 5675, rue Saint-Denis 1 st floor	Rosemont

Please note that the training program in the East Sector was held on February 27, 2018. If you are in this sector and you missed it, you can attend a session in another sector.

Need help? Think 211!

The website **211qc.ca**, recently put online by the Information and Referral Centre of Greater Montreal (IRCGM), contains up-to-date information on the social and community resources of the 82 municipalities in Greater Montreal. In April, the IRCGM will launch its helpline, available throughout the region: **2-1-1**.

As a result, all residents on the island will be able to find out, by telephone or online, the organizations which offer psychosocial support, youth resources, support for health or education issues, etc. Remember this number: 2-1-1!



Welcoming newcomers

The arrival of a tenant is an opportunity to welcome a new member to your living environment. Want to welcome them? Check with your community organizer to find out the apartment number of the people who have just moved into your building. Then you can leave a little welcome note on their doorstep to introduce yourself and invite them to participate in your association activities! This small gesture can create a good first impression and foster a great atmosphere in your community.

Dynamic screens: toward a new solution

By Martin Després, Special Collaboration



As mentioned last year, the contract for the Dynamic Digital Display screens (known by its French acronym ADN) expired in spring 2017. Since then, the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM) has been working to identify the best solutions and best practices for using these information tools found in low-rent housing buildings of four or more floors.

As you can see in the various businesses and public places you attend, the number of ADN screens have grown in recent years. Technical solutions have also been developed and improved. The OMHM believes that even if we were innovators on the topic a few years ago, it is now time to review this technology and its use.

It was therefore agreed to analyze all the options available to us, to resume this project on solid foundations. Our search to find the best provider requires rigour and precision. A call for tenders will be launched in the coming weeks to find a supplier capable of providing us with a reliable and effective solution.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. We encourage you to share this information with all the tenants affected by this service interruption.



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.

New tenant committees

We present to you the 76 tenants who have been elected since late fall 2017 to represent their neighbours in 17 low-rent housing complexes in Montreal. Let's welcome them into their new roles, particularly the members of the new association in the Northwest Sector. Thank you for your valuable commitment.





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
April 12	The role of the secretary: taking the minutes at meetings, preparing the minutes, invitation*	Habitations Clotilde-D'Amico 4000, rue Bannantyne	De l'Église
May 3	Recruiting and coaching volunteers*	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.

* Please note that titles are given in English for your information but sessions are held in French.



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