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

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Elect your representatives on the CCR

This fall, cast your vote for the people who will be representing you at the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM).

Near the end of November, we will be holding elections to nominate members to the Comité consultatif des résidants (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants), a work group devoted to expressing tenant needs. Be sure to nominate the representatives who will be voting on behalf of your association at the sector meeting (see box).

Also, please do not hesitate to encourage any eligible individuals who you think would be good candidates. What skills are being sought? Carole Guilbault, member of the CCR since 2017, said that you first need to be able to "watch and listen" to determine needs. In addition, "you must be able to speak and debate confidently and without inciting conflict about how to improve situations."

The CCR: a way forward

Ms. Guilbault also noted that this approach allows the CCR to partner with the OMHM and the Fédération des locataires de HLM du Québec to move matters forward. The committee participates in various initiatives and supports funding requests from both organizations to improve and increase the stock of social housing in Montréal.

So, be sure to elect knowledgeable representatives to work alongside the OMHM! Together, they will deliberate on issues such as vermin control, insecurity feelings, major work, cohabitation and other matters.

Remember that the more associations that take part, the better the CCR is able to represent all tenants.

CCR Elections by Sector					
SECTOR	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	METRO STATION	
Southwest	November 19	1:30 p.m.	Habitations Montmorency 1105, rue de la Sucrerie	Charlevoix	
Northwest	November 20	1:30 p.m.	Habitations Saint-Georges 7255, rue Lajeunesse	Jean-Talon	
East	November 21	1:00 p.m.	Les Jardins Angevin 7750, boul. Châteauneuf	Honoré-Beaugrand + bus 141	

HOW IT WORKS

Delegates from each tenant association (one to three, depending on the number of units in the building) will participate in the elections in their sector. They vote for three representatives for seniors and three more for families and people living alone in their sector. Only tenant representatives are eligible to become candidates for these positions. Anyone interested in serving on the CCR for a two-year term may submit their candidacy on election day at the sector meeting.



Bringing together tenants to participate in the Éconologis program really pays off! Yes, for every unit of the same low-rent housing project visited as part of the program, the tenant association receives \$10. It's a good way for you to ensure that your fellow tenants are comfortable while also improving your association's finances.

How does Éconologis improve the comfort of tenants? Consultants offer tips on how to reduce humidity and drafts. They perform small duties such as caulking windows, installing weatherstripping and insulating electrical outlets. Old fridges manufactured before 2001 may also be replaced free of charge!

Malvina Lagacé, from Habitations de Bellechasse in the Northwest Sector, will be submitting her list of 37 volunteers soon. "Not everyone will be accepted, but I will have done my best," she said enthusiastically.

For more information, contact Anik Leroux at 1-844-575-5123.

Tenants here to help

Building a tenant association is a great idea that comes with its set of challenges! In addition to the activities to prepare, meetings need to be organized, legal and banking obligations must be met, etc. Fortunately, "resource tenants" are now offering their assistance.

Tenant committees often help each other out when needed. This led to the mentorship training program at the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM). The project is funded by the City of Montréal and the OMHM and carried out by the Fédération des locataires de HLM du Québec (FLHLMQ), with the support of the Comité consultatif des résidants (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants). "When tenants help each other, it establishes a climate of trust, making it easier to solve problems," explained Catherine Pilon, who is responsible for the new training program at the FLHLMQ.

Eleven tenant committee members from the OMHM have completed the training. Suzanne Payant, a resident at Habitations de L'Érablière in the Southwest Sector, is one such tenant and is proud that she and her colleagues can now support committees at every step along the way.

Ensuring good management

"When you come on board without knowing much, you make mistakes that can be hard to fix," she said. By requesting guidance, associations and groups looking to create an association should be able to avoid these errors. Resource tenants will assist them, along with community organizers, in establishing their association, managing it effectively on a day-to-day basis, preparing and hosting their general assembly and finding grants.

To ask for their assistance, please call **514-521-1485** or email **info@flhlmq.com**.



On August 30, tenants, partners and elected municipal officers came together to celebrate the Journal La Pépinière launch, the result of a big collective effort.

An inspiring publication

The first issue of the *Journal La Pépinière* was published in August at Habitations La Pépinière in the East Sector. This is a tenant-driven initiative by those involved in the Synergie research project and is supported, among others, by the tenant association.

The bilingual periodical will be published once per season to keep residents informed about resources in the Mercier-Ouest district and any news regarding their living environment. This includes information on vaccination clinics, food banks, physical and mental health assistance and support services, along with nearby activities.

Congratulations to those who designed the project...we hope it will inspire others!

The CCR sees to 2020

Just before the summer, the Comité consultatif des résidants (CCR or Advisory Committee of Tenants) informed the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal's Board of Directors of its budget priorities for 2020.

To improve the residents' quality of life and to protect their health, the CCR believes that more money needs to be invested in:

- 1. Maintenance of common areas
- 2. Helping vulnerable tenants control vermin, and
- 3. Replacing doors and windows

If the budget allows, the CCR believes that maintenance of occupied units should also be a priority.



CCR members in the middle of a discussion

These proposals reflect the demands expressed by OMHM tenants at sector committee meetings. The OMHM's Board of Directors, which includes two tenants among its members, intends to take this notice into consideration when preparing its next budget.

Democracy: a user's guide

What is the key to tenant associations working smoothly and avoiding conflict? One of the best ways is to be sure to apply democratic rules. This doesn't only mean giving each member the same amount of time when discussing a topic. It also means considering what has been said and building projects **together**. This allows everyone to contribute. Another benefit to this model is that decisions and resulting measures do not fall on the shoulders of one single person.

Whether it is organizing a community meal, beautifying the grounds, or encouraging intergenerational discussions, it is always easier to bring participants on board and work in a positive environment when everyone feels welcome.

Well, that's enough chit chat, let's move on to voting. Who's with me?



You were talking too loudly. Everyone left...



Upcoming training sessions

These sessions will give you the tools to fulfill your duties successfully. Don't miss this opportunity! They are free and up to three members per association can attend.

The courses are held in Creativity Rooms 1 and 2 at **5800**, **rue Saint-Denis (Suite 104)**, across from the Rosemont metro station.

To register, please call 514-872-2104.

Please note that a snack will be provided and that participants' transportation costs can be covered by tenant associations.

Date and time	Title	Description
Monday, October 28 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Tenant Associations 101	Understand the democratic processes of associations, their legal obligations and the roles and responsibilities of tenant committee members.
Tuesday, November 5 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Financial Management 101	Learn about basic accounting in associations, including bookkeeping, managing petty cash and preparing annual financial statements.
Monday, November 18 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.	The role of the association representative to the sector committee	Understand the work, structure and operation of sector committees in order to be an effective representative at meetings and relay information to tenants.

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

New tenant committees

Sixteen new tenant committees, including a new association committee, have been formed since last spring. Thank you for getting involved in improving your living environments!



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