



NDG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



EN ACTION AVEC VOUS DEPUIS 1942

IN ACTION TOGETHER SINCE 1942

CONCERTATION

Tables et comités locaux
Local Tables and committees

Planification stratégique
Strategic plan

Rencontres Table Ronde
Round Table meetings

Secteurs prioritaires
Priority sectors

MOBILISATION

Soutien initiatives locales
Support local initiatives

Fêtes de quartier
Neighborhood parties

Assemblées publiques
Public assemblies

Briser l'isolement social
Breaking social isolation

Activités de proximité
Outreach

SERVICES

Informations et références
Informations and referrals

Cliniques d'impôts
Tax clinics

Soutien individuel
Individual support

Service d'incubation
Incubator

Service fiduciaire
Fiduciary service

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Our Mission

We are an organisation created by the NDG community that listens, mobilises, facilitates and acts. We foster partnerships between residents, community partners and key players to identify and address needs and emerging issues in order to cultivate strategy and solutions. As allies, we exist for the community as a whole while supporting and strengthening the most vulnerable and isolated. The NDG Community Council strives to achieve a socially just, inclusive and sustainable community.

The Council is one of 32 Tables de quartier on the Island of Montreal, each with the mandate of bringing together and mobilizing various actors in its territory (community organizations, associations, institutions, the private sector) as well as residents to involve them in a concerted effort to identifying community needs, setting priorities for action, as well as ensuring implementation and follow-up.

Our Mandate

Since its creation in 1942, the NDG Community Council has been dedicated to promoting collaboration among various stakeholders.

As a Table de Quartier, with a mandate for concertation and mobilisation, we strive to facilitate meaningful discussions and mobilise individuals to collectively solve community issues. Additionally, we are committed to providing essential services whenever they are needed.



Letter from our president, **Malaka Ackaoui**

As usual, we've been busy this year, working hard to meet a number of challenges. Throughout the year, Council's staff worked tirelessly to provide services to the citizens of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, from organizing festivities and distributing December meals in various locations, to organizing tax clinics, to providing services for Bonhomme à lunettes, not to mention the Porchfest, and the list goes on. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff and a Board of Directors who are motivated to encourage local community initiatives.

As there was a federal by-election, we organised an evening meeting with the candidates to help our residents get to know them better, ask them questions and make informed choices based on their convictions. Our Annual Retreat meeting was held in January, and gave the entire Council team and the board of directors' members an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss their respective visions. Our borough mayor, Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, met with us during the day, which gave us the opportunity to raise important issues for the pursuit of our mission. It was the start of an exchange that will continue throughout the year. We would like to thank our mayor and the borough team for listening to us. Our collaboration with the borough continued throughout the year, with joint workshops such as the discussion day on NDG, a nurturing neighbourhood, the co-creation workshops for an action plan on the capacity of organisations, and the mobility workshops. We also got involved publicly by participating in a radio interview with CBC - Day break on pedestrian safety, in which our mayor also took part. Thursday broadcasts on Concordia's CJLO radio station, in collaboration with the Council, helped publicize our activities and current events in our neighbourhood.

And that's not all! A series of meetings on climate issues were organised by the Council in collaboration with Resilience NDG at the NDG YMCA. The participation of so many residents in these meetings is a testament to their environmental concerns and the importance of our actions to improve the environment in our neighbourhoods and better adapt to the climate crisis.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of our Executive Director, Halah Al-Ubaidi, and our Director Assistant, Julie Cormier. A big thank you to you both and to the entire NDG Community Council staff team.

Halah spares no effort in fulfilling her mandate, coordinating her teams and supporting the directors. We often discuss important issues late at night or at weekends.

I would also like to thank all the current and outgoing directors of the NDG Community Council for their efforts and for taking the interests of our residents to heart. Special thanks go to Anne Williams, who had to leave the Board for reasons beyond her control. Anne is a very dedicated member of our community.

Dear members, committed partners, enthusiastic volunteers and generous funders, your ongoing support and dedication to the community is invaluable. Without you, nothing could have been accomplished.

We would like to express our gratitude to all our donors and NDG residents whose donations have exceeded our expectations.

The NDG Community Council is fortunate to have a strong and resilient network.



Malaka Ackaoui

President of the board of directors





Letter from our director, **Halah Al-Ubaidi**

I am pleased to present to you another year of accomplishments and successes at the Council. Reflecting on our progress, I am filled with pride for our collective efforts. I usually read the staff report and the president's letter before I write mine, and I got dizzy halfway through! Our president, Ms. Ackaoui, demonstrates leadership, involvement and support. Our Treasurer, Mr. Glowacki, shares expertise in accounting and ensures diligent oversight of our finances. In addition, we named Ms. Cormier this year as an Assistant Director, which has been a significant help, especially as we continue to work with a large team, many of whom are part-time due to their second jobs or student commitments. As a director, it is reassuring to have the support of a knowledgeable president, a treasurer expert in financial matters, and an Assistant Director with strong financial skills and community insights!

Thanks to all our enthusiastic volunteers and of course, a big thank you to our Board of Directors and members of the Council's standing committees, who continue to give their time, knowledge, and experience. Being super active members in the community did not stop them from supporting the Council and the staff, not sure how you do it!

Special appreciation to our partners: Raphaëlle Pamphile and Jennifer Auchinleck from the CIUSSS; Christine Bouchard and Sophie Boucher from the Borough for their support on several dossiers. It is with your ongoing commitment and partnership that we continue to make a difference and foster positive change in our community. We said goodbye to some colleagues and welcomed new staff members. Rachel Begg came back from maternity leave in June 2023 to work part time but left us in April 2024. Emily Cuellar-Villeneuve decided to leave us after her maternity leave but she remains working in the community.

Graziella Bieto Challenger left after many years to move on to a new adventure, Momen Hassan, Sarra Ben Salem, Alain Spitzer, Sha Feng, Berta Kaisr (summer student) also left in 2023. In addition, Adel Ben Mabrouk, Alzubra Sheikh, Sean Coates and Reza Moafi left in the beginning of 2024. As you can see, we had a significant staff turnover this year. Although staff left for various reasons such as new opportunities, family obligations, health reasons, and returning to school, unfortunately, in some cases, we were unable to offer conditions that would encourage them to stay. Additionally, some departures were due to the conclusion of project fundings which were not renewed such as Tecksavvy, Papa et Moi, Priority Sectors and Community Connectors.

This brings me to the next point I wanted to highlight this year regarding the funding reality in the community sectors in general, and the Council in particular.

It is important to note that while the Council has existed for 82 years, its budget has not grown in proportion to its age or the increasing cost of living. Our mission funding covers only 65% of our human resource costs, a percentage that continuously decreases due to rising administrative costs such as rent, telecommunication, photocopying, and food. To cover our needs, we frequently apply for project funding, which supports beautiful initiatives but requires significant administrative time for applications and reporting, and does not ensure team stability.

Reflecting on this past year, it's remarkable that we have maintained our pace despite these challenges. We invite you to explore our report, and if we inspire you, please come join us. It is important to have your support and involvement! Please contact us directly, and do look at our website and Facebook page, which are great tools for and by the community.



Halah Al-Ubaidi
Executive Director



Our Team

Despite an ongoing shortage in the workforce, we were able to build a dedicated team, even though more than half of the team is working part time (between 7 to 21 hours per week). Managing and creating a solid team was a challenge, but we were able to adapt.

Human resources

Since 2014, following an analysis conducted by Simkin Legal, the HR committee has been working slowly on updating the policy: we worked on adding some benefits and reviewed some of the positions at the Council. In 2024, thanks to the support of the Emploi Quebec program, we were able to hire a HR specialist, who started working on reviewing the current HR practices and developing the existing HR policy, employment contracts, compensation and benefits, and performance management process.

In addition to updating the Personnel Policy, the review process extended to the Code of Ethics and the Harassment Policy, ensuring these critical documents are meeting modern expectations and legal standards.



Staff: Halah Al-Ubaidi, Julie Cormier, Sharon Sweeney, Michelle Caron Pawlosky, Zhuo Yi Xu, Sean Coates, Mona Taj Bakhsh, Rachel Begg (left in April 2024), Reza Moafi ,Roger Ishimwe ,Safar Shady, Irina Glushko, Modathir Babikir, Sarra Ben Salem (left 26 May 2023), Graziella Bieto Challenger (Left 16 June 2023), Momen Hassan (left 28 July 2023), Alain Spitzer (left 15 December 2023), Adel Ben Mabrouk (Left 6 April 2024),



Our Team

Summer Students:

CSJ: Berta Kaisr

ACPL: Alzundra Sheikh (who continued to work with us until 25 February 2024)

Emploi- Québec (Subvention salariale): Sha Feng (left 20 Oct 2023)

Emploi- Québec (PRIME) : Modathir Babikir

Internships:

Anne Sophie Bolduc (UdeM), Yvanie Dupont (UdeM), Gabriel Dimitri (Dawson), Line Sophie Makam Sandio (EMICA), Ibrahim Abdodo Mahaman (EMICA), Rashmi Sirsakar Nagesh (Hamon Institute of Montreal), Lakambini Punzalan (Hamon Institute of Montreal), Andrea Gonzales (Hamon Institute of Montreal), Justin Guan (Summit School), Allan Huseynov (Cegep Edouard Montpetit)

Contracts

General Council: Rob McDonald, Sandra Camelo, Khrystyna Berezanska, ThallyAnne Goyer, Anne Sophie Bolduc, Rami Al-Ubaidi, Fatima Halima, Soraya Jolee Pierre, Yan Pezzinni

Strategic Planning:

Patricia Garcia – Community Strategic Plan (end November 2023)

Griffin Payne – Priority Sectors (end November 2023)

Andrea Clarke- Table 0-5 (ongoing)

Projects with partners:

Papa et Moi: Momen Hassan , Modathir Babikir, Adel Ben Mabrouk, Behroozfar Haidar

KidLink: Aidan Keeley, Shayne Assouline

Accounting and Bookkeeping : Oliver Cole and Kirisanthi Kugathan, Colius Services.

Janitorial Services: Glenn Cassidy

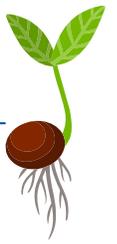
Fiduciary:

RICPEM : Cécile Orreindy, Elara Neath Thomin

HLM Monkland: Hoang Thu Hong, Wei Min

NDG Art Hive: Ruth Boomer, Miles Taffert, Marnie Afalco, Esther Benitah, Caroline Dick, Nancy Cozier, Marlo Turner Ritchie, Marnie Afalco, Krzysztof Doniewski

Porchfest: Maina Huminskaya (designer of the Poster), Sarah Ring and Aurora Robinson (Co - founder , Organisers) (volunteering)



Governance

Board of Directors

The Board met for a total of seven (7) occasions: five (5) meetings in person , one (1) online and our traditional staff and Board retreat. The Council's 2023 Annual General Assembly took place on June 6th in person with a webinar available for those wanting to watch it from home . We had 69 participants in person and 11 online. As usual, we had an orientation meeting for two (2) new Board Members in the fall.

Board Members 2023-2024

1. Malaka Ackaoui - President (R)
2. Renate Betts - Vice-President (R)
3. Tomir Glowacki - Treasurer (R)
4. Mark Coté- Secretary (R)
5. Lisa Bornstein (R)
6. Bonnie Soutar (R)
7. Nadine Collins - Women on the Rise (O)
8. Simeon Pompey - Comité Jeunesse NDG (O)
9. Christopher Lyons (R)
10. Pilar Hernandez - PAAL - Partageons le monde (O)
11. Katrina Nurse - YMCA NDG (O)
12. Krystine Dobbs - Mosaik Family Resource Center (O)





Governance

Our Committees

Executive Committee (2 meetings):

Malaka Ackaoui, Renate Betts, Tomir Glowacki, Mark Coté

Membership and Nomination Committee (1 meeting):

Anne Williams, Malaka Ackaoui,

Human Resource Committee (2 meetings):

Bonnie Soutar, Renate Betts, Anne Williams and Tomir Glowacki,

Finance Committee (we did not have a committee meeting but we had continuous discussions and follow up with the accountant):

Tomir Glowacki

Meeting with elected officials

It is part of the Council's tradition to meet with our elected officials to exchange and talk about important issues. This year, we had our Traditional lunch with the Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa where we shared a short summary of community space challenges in NDG and had a discussion about equity, transparency and criterias for distributing the different envelopes.

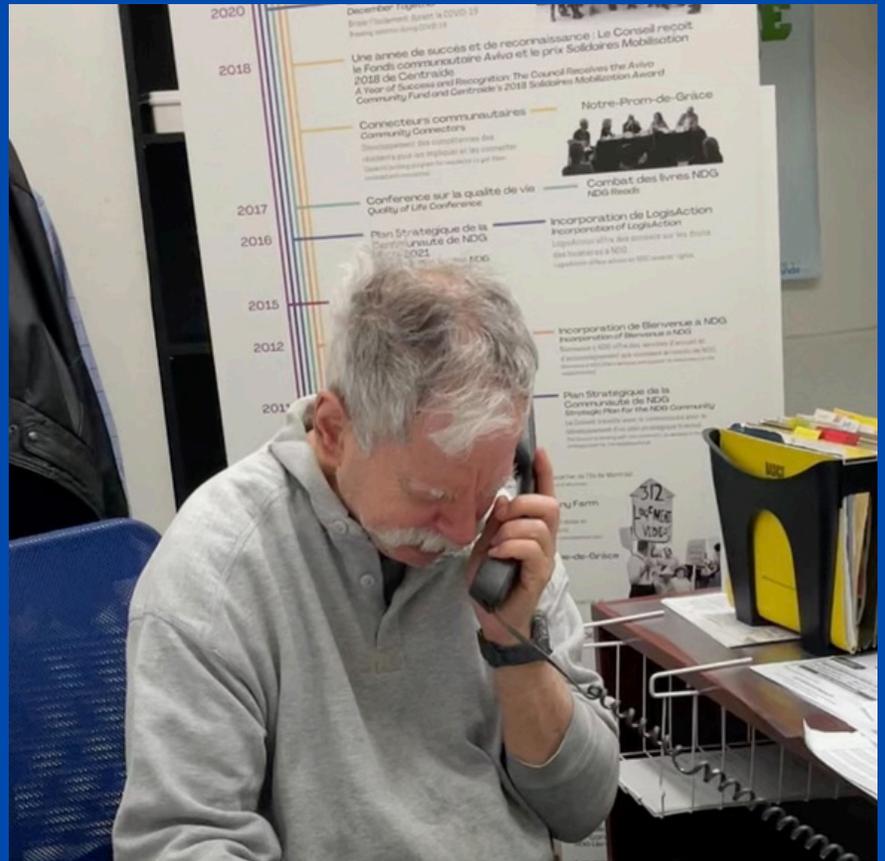
The Council Director continued to exchange and share information about the council's work with the MNA Désirée McGraw.





We would like to thank all our volunteers for their precious time, hard work and kindness. The Council would not be where we are today without you. A list of volunteers is available in Annex.

Our Volunteers The backbone of our community





Members, Volunteers, Partners and Funders

Our organisation is strong and has continued our legacy working for a better quality of life in NDG thanks to the support of our volunteers, members, partners, donors, and funders. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to have another year full of accomplishments. We appreciate your donations: cash, time, and words of encouragement. These contributions gave us the energy to do the work we do best and to continue having a positive impact in the community.

5@7 Membership Initiative

Launched in 2023, the objective of this initiative is to better understand our members and partners and to keep them involved and engaged.

This year, we hosted six well-attended meetings, each with 8 to 12 members. We successfully achieved our objectives of enhancing member and partner relationships while maintaining their involvement and enthusiasm.



From these occasions, we proudly welcomed a new member to our Board and two participants in our Table 0-5.

The event primarily focused on networking, with brief presentations on our work and accomplishments. We plan to continue our meetings in the new year, offering options for one-on-one sessions.



Members, Volunteers, Partners and Funders

Acknowledgment

We said goodbye to many partners this year:

Sonia Gaudreault (Director- Direction de la culture, des sports, des loisirs, et du développement social) took her well deserved retirement.

Valérie Lahaie (Public Health and Partnership Coordinator - CIUSSS Centre-Ouest-de-l'île-de-Montréal).

Ann-Nathalie Côté et Isabelle Dubé, (SPVM Socio-community officers) and Geneviève Polese (SPVM Community Development Agent) moved to new positions.

Tribute



Valeria Taranto was a very active member of the NDG community and a Council's member since at least 2013, though her involvement may extend even further back based on available records. Throughout her time in NDG, she contributed to various projects, including the NDG Good Food Box Project and HIPPY Quebec. Most recently, she worked with OMHM and NDG seniors residents. Sadly, Valeria passed away on February 1, 2024. Her dedication and contributions to the community will be greatly missed.



Our Members

This year we welcomed a total of 126 members. We are extremely grateful for all the support we receive !

Honorary Members (3)

- André Biron
- Anne Usher
- Gail Tedstone

Associate Members (2)

- Joseph Lalla
- Peter McQueen

Business Members (8)

- Creations Doc GM
- Colius Services
- Electronik"NDG Eric"
- Maison du Backgammon
- Mama's Boy
- Taharima Habib Consulting
- Traduction Janis Warne
- Web Giunka

Individual Members (72)

- Alina Gorcovenco
- Anne Johnston Williams
- Brana Bienstock-Smith
- Bruce Brown
- Chesil Sharon Grant
- Claudette Demers Godley
- Danica Meredith
- Deanne Delaney
- Diane Hanna
- Ekaterine Chighladze
- Elizabeth Leslie
- Esther Fukuyama

- Fabienne Pollet
- Fred Headon
- Giovanna Ciampi Carro
- Girlie Ayodoc
- Hamilton Oliveira
- Helen Meredith
- Ingrid Birker
- Ira Paul Salman
- Iryna Kucheriavenko
- Isabelle Le Breton
- James Botsford
- James F. Olwell
- Jillian Witt
- Joan Hongoh
- José Rondón- Zambrano
- Joy Howse
- Justin Cheng
- K B Arafat Nibir
- Karine Rojas
- Kathryn Aitken
- Lakambini Punzalan
- Liane Coté
- Linda Zhi Hong Zhu
- Lisa Bornstein
- Louis Legault
- Maggie McDonnell
- Malaka Ackaoui
- Mark Billings
- Mark Côté
- Martine Duplessis
- Mary Grace Regondola
- Maryna Mazhynska

- Mathew Kendacgis
- Morgan Bradley
- Nadia Joseph
- Nadine Mondestin
- Nancy Rother
- Natalie Ste-Marie
- Nina Pariser
- Nooshin Maghrebian
- Pierre Blouin
- Randy Pinsky
- Rashmi Sirsikar Nagesh
- Renate Betts
- Ricardo Duenez
- Rosemarie Schade
- Ross Duldulao
- Sally Livingston
- Sam Boskey
- Sandra Holder
- Sandra Prillo
- Sean Botsford
- Sherie Anne Garcia
- Shirley McCarthy
- Stavroula Roumeliotis
- Sylvie Lachize
- Tomir Glowacki
- Viviane Bonifacio
- William Wisenthal
- Ying Fu



Our Members

Our Organisational Members (41)

- Art Hive NDG
- Auberge Transition
- Association of Pedestrians & Cyclists NDG (APC NDG)
- Biz NDG
- Black Community Resource Center
- Loyola Center
- CJE NDG
- CJLO 1690AM
- Coalition for Green & Quiet Neighborhoods
- Comité Jeunesse NDG
- Edir des Ethiopians a Montreal
- Fondation de La Visite
- Fraser Hickson Institute
- Habitations communautaires NDG
- Iraqi Community Centre
- Iranian Zoroastorian Association
- L'Abri en Ville
- Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook
- LogisAction
- Maison de la Famille Mosaik
- Maison Elizabeth House
- Montreal Central Lions Club
- Montreal Wado Ryu Karate Association
- Montreal Business Women Club
- Mehregan Library or Le coin iranien
- NDG Art Hop
- NDG Food Depot
- New Hope Senior Centre
- On our Own O3
- Parents engagés pour la petite enfance (PEP)
- PAAL Partageons le monde
- Queen Elizabeth Complex-Administration
- St. Philip's Church
- St. Monica's Church
- The Montreal Children's Theatre
- UrbaNature
- Ruelle Shul
- Women on the Rise
- YMCA of Quebec NDG
- Sayeh Theater
- Westhaven-Elmhurst Community Recreation Center



Funding & Funders

The Council is funded by multiple sources : individual donors and members, foundations, the private sector, as well as municipal, provincial and federal governments. However , looking at our 82 years of history and at the increase in cost of living , we can clearly see that the funding we receive is not proportional with our needs and the cost of living (In the last 10 years, our revenue increased by 46% while our HR expenditure increased by 24% and our rent by 96%). We continue to look for new opportunities, projects and we work in partnerships to make the most of every dollar. However, all this implies that we require staff to collaborate with partners, address the growing resident demand for support, and, naturally, pursue funding opportunities along with the associated administrative tasks. Most importantly, project funding does not offer stability in either employment or services.

We all know the importance of mission funding. However, despite having substantial support in this area, it covers only 65% of our HR needs and this is expected to decrease with the increase in our necessary expenses (Insurance, Rent, Communication, Accounting, etc)

It is important to highlight the importance of the funding from Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation, thanks to the hard work of the CMTQ . We will have this funding for another 4 years to build a healthy Table de Quartier and improve the working conditions at the Council.

We continue to look for other sources to support underfunded projects and initiatives. We also continue to share funding opportunities with other groups to bring more resources to NDG. We focus on projects that specifically increase services and support for the most vulnerable populations. New organisations and residents initiatives continue to emerge in response to identified variable needs or community challenges. To achieve their objectives, they also require funding. The Council acts as fiduciary or receiver to support those while they are on the building period. This year, we were fiduciary for multiple projects but also for new groups who we believe are implementing actions toward a collective goal: improving our community members' lives.



Mission funding

- L'Initiative montréalaise de soutien au développement social local - Centraide du Grand Montréal, Direction régionale de la santé publique, Ville de Montréal et Entente Ville - MTESS

- **Provincial**

Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires (PSOC)- Direction de Santé publique- Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal

- **Foundation:**

Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon

Individuals: 45 individual donations (2 are monthly donors)

Project Funding

- **Municipal:**

Arrondissement CDN-NDG - Fonds de développement social – DCSLDS and Discretionary Budget from Elected officials

- **Provincial:**

Soutien à l'action bénévole (SAB)- Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (Bureau de Mme Désirée McGraw)

Mesure des Éclaireurs- Le Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (COMTL)

Mesure 3.1 Milieux de vie favorable - Petite enfance (MVF-PE) -coordination Table 0-5- Direction Régionale de la santé publique, CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (DRSP-CCSMTL)

Programs PRIIME et Intégration - Emploi Québec

Service d'aide en impôt – Programme des bénévoles (SAIPB)

- **Federal:**

Service Canada - Summer Jobs Program

Employment and Social Development Canada - New Horizons for Seniors Program, Community-based projects

Service d'aide en impôt – Programme des bénévoles (SAIPB)

- **Foundations:**

Centraide du Grand Montréal- Priority sectors

PIC - Projet Impact Collectif

Canadian Online Giving Foundation

Zeller Foundation

- **Individuals**

(total of 37 donations):

Tax clinic (2), December Together (35)



Funding

Partnership

- **Municipal**

Fonds diversité et inclusion sociale en faveur des enfants et des familles

vulnérables - Papa et Moi program (Partnership with St Raymond Center and Walkley Center)

La pratique artistique amateur- Kidlink (Partnership with St Raymond Center)

Fiduciary

	Christmas Dinner	Ruelle Shul	RICPEM	Grâce Des Enfants	Art Hive	Porchfest	HLM Monkland	HLM Mayfair
Foundation	Five B Family Foundation	Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal	Centraide	Centraide				
Municipal			Ville de Montreal		Borough CDN NDG	Borough CDN NDG	Borough CDN NDG	
							OMHM	
Individuals	10 Residents	10 Residents			2 Residents			



Concertation refers to a collaborative and coordinated effort to bring together various stakeholders, including community organisations, residents, and institutions, to work collectively on addressing local issues and challenges.

Concertation Engaging the whole community





Concertation

The NDG Community Council works in partnership with a multitude of community organisations seeking concertation on projects & funding opportunities. This allows the Council to work as a collective with other organisations and to reinforce positive outcomes for the residents we ultimately serve.

Each table, committee or working group has their own set of goals, all with one common outcome in mind: to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood!

The Council coordinates, co-coordinates, or participates in several Sectoral Tables that are either issue-based or clientele-based, as well as a few Intersectoral Tables and committees. Additionally, the Council participates in several regional groups, such as CMTQ, RIOCM, and RICPEM.

In addition to the standing committees and tables, we are usually involved in a few initiatives as part of our mandate to support concerted actions locally and regionally. Our involvement varies, ranging from supporting to transferring information. Here are some examples: We attend AGMs of groups in NDG.

We are members of the working group at the YMCA.

We are members of the governing boards of Willingdon School and Saint-Luc School.





Concertation

Regional

The Council tries to stay active in some regional groups either as a member or as a participant.

Coalition Montréalaise de Table de Quartier (CMTQ)

There are 32 Neighbourhood Tables that work on local social development in Montréal. The CMTQ intervenes on common issues, such as local social development, improving the quality of living conditions for residents, and fighting against poverty and social exclusion. The Council is a member of the members support committee, we attended 5 General Assemblies, the Annual general Meeting, and several thematic meetings. In addition, the Council team participated in the CMTQ celebration.



Regroupement des Instances de Concertation en Petite Enfance de Montréal (RICPEM)

RICPEM is a space to unite, promote, and support the mobilisation of local concertation bodies around the full development and well-being of children (0-5years) and their families. We participated in their monthly meetings, which provided us with important information that we shared with the members of Table 0-5 Cavendish. This year they lost their fiduciary organisation, the Council accepted to become their fiduciary and join their coordination committee.

Regroupement intersectoriel des organismes communautaires de Montréal (RIOCM):

Founded in May 1993, it was the first regional group of community organisations in Quebec. It defends and promotes the common interests of its 350 members, primarily at the regional level, in the field of health and social services and their determinants. We usually actively participate in their Annual General meetings.



Concertation

Intersectoral Tables, Committees & Coalitions

The Intersectoral Tables' primary function is to join forces with sectoral tables and groups dealing with housing, development, food security, youth or seniors, in order to integrate into a common vision all these issues that are both specific, but also similar, because they end up touching on the generic problems of fighting poverty and social inequality.





Concertation

Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Staff : Halah Al-Ubaidi

Partners: Conseil Communautaire NDG; CIUSSS Centre-Ouest de l'Île de Montréal; Borough CDN-NDG; Bienvenue à NDG; Table jeunesse NDG ; Mosaik Family Resource Center; The Depot Community Food Centre; Eva Marsden Center; YMCA NDG; Jeunesse Loyola; Women on the Rise

The NDG Strategic Plan process started in 2022 and brought together diverse stakeholders towards achieving common goals and maintains a long-term vision for sustainable development while emphasizing measurable progress.

In 2023, groups and residents worked collectively, led by our Consultant Patricia Gracia, in collaboration with the Steering Committee members, to identify the neighborhood priorities and the desired changes. Several Co-creation meetings were organised for each of the priorities. The community was very involved in the process and the wish list was long. We were able to limit the Axis under each priority as follow :

- 1. Inclusion:** Priorities include 3 Axis : Diversity, Accessibility, Welcomeness, openness, and participation.
- 2. Housing:** Priorities include 3 Axis : Access to housing, affordability, and healthy housing
- 3. Capacity Building:** Priorities include 2 Axis : Sustainability and collective work





Concertation

Strategic Plan 2024-2029

With the limited budget we had , we were not able to continue with our consultant but we were able to continue with the support of a small working group formed spontaneously from partners from the Borough and the CIUSSS supported by the Council's Staff . Together, we had weekly meetings to go through a bigger challenge: choose the goals and objectives . At the same time, another small group worked on the inclusion priority to choose and applied for the PIC project.

During the whole process, the documents were accessible to all partners and shared with them for their feedback . The information was presented to the Directors table and the Board of the Council . Finally , the working group continued their work to choose some of the Actions that were proposed at the co-creation meetings and create the Action plan.

We agree that the process was long but there was good participation. We had good conversations on racism, social exclusion, housing, and social isolation, indicating a strong commitment to addressing these issues. We appreciate everyone's involvement, we will continue to work together to achieve our goals. Special thank you to the Steering committee for their support during the whole process.



Directors Table

Staff: Halah Al-Ubaidi

Since 2014, the Directors' Table has been a space for directors in NDG to meet, support each other, and share information. The group keeps expanding and changing, but we always have the same needs and challenges.

We had three meetings: May , September and November . With the limited time we all have and since many attend the Round Table meeting we decided for the September meeting to have a short meeting of 45 minutes before the Round Table. We focused this year on the Strategic Plan , we had exchanges on HR and law 25 , and funding.



Concertation

Impact Collective Project, phase 1(PIC)

Staff: Sharon Sweeney

Partners: CIUSSS Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, PAAL, Arrondissement CDN-NDG, BANDG, Table de Concertation Jeunesse, Eva Marsden Center, NDG YMCA, Parents engagés pour la petite-enfance, Centre Jeunesse Loyola, and NDGCC



The Impact Collective Project Phase 1 aims to make a significant difference in the community by focusing on inclusion across various aspects such as programming, accessibility, diversity, community engagement, and advocacy. The project operates on the principles of collective impact, a collaborative approach that brings together stakeholders from different sectors to address complex social issues.

The project operates on the principles of collective impact, a collaborative approach that brings together stakeholders from different sectors to address complex social issues. By leveraging collective expertise, resources and influence, the project endeavors to achieve sustainable change that no single organisation could accomplish alone.

A pictogram survey was conducted, with 33 responses from 19 partners and 63 responses from residents. The survey revealed strong support for initiatives including communication strategies, impactful volunteering, and an accompaniment project. Additionally, six working meetings were held with the core planification group.



Concertation

Training : Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)

Staff: Sharon Sweeney

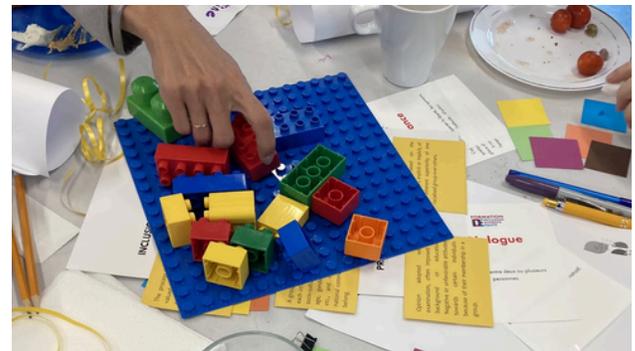
Partner: PAAL

Participants: New Hope Center, Maison Mosaic, Women on the Rise , Borough CDN NDG, CIUSSS, CJE, Concertation Jeunesse NDG, Bienvenue à NDG , Eva Marsden, Loyola Center

The decision to host the JEDI training with our partners was directly aligned with our strategic plan, demonstrating our dedication to creating a more equitable and supportive environment for all members of our community. With 23 participants engaged in the training, the initiative has provided valuable insights and tools for promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing satisfaction with the training and noting its appropriateness and helpfulness. The JEDI training has also sparked collaborative efforts among certain groups and organisations to jointly offer training initiatives, furthering our collective impact in promoting inclusion and equity.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building upon the momentum by offering more training opportunities and adapting a framework for a neighborhood-wide policy on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. With continued collaboration and dedication, we are confident in our ability to create a more inclusive and equitable future for all residents of our community.





Concertation Round Table

Staff: *Julie Cormier*



An active space since 2005, the Round Table meetings are an accessible bilingual space for representatives of community organizations to network and develop partnerships among various community organizations that share the mission of improving the quality of life in NDG.

This year, despite changes in staff coordinating this dossier, we managed to organise 4 Round Table Meetings, all well attended by various community representatives:

- September 13th 2023 - Back to work & GAP (Guichet Accès Première ligne): Participants shared their programming and priorities for the upcoming months and CIUSSS presented the GAP service.
- November 29th 2023 - Collective Evaluation of the Round Table: As the Round Table is a space for the Community, we felt it important to consult participants on their needs for its futur. Multiple aspects were discussed in small groups and shared afterwards: Round Table meetings are appreciated by the community and a necessary space both for networking and information sharing. Participants also requested an increase in occurrence and the use of the space for collective work sessions.
- March 13th 2024-Plan de Développement de communauté Nourricière: In partnership with the Borough, the Food security coalition consulted all NDG stakeholders on their vision to create a sustainable plan for the neighborhood about greenery, gardening or other related initiatives.
- April 24th 2024- Strategic Plan presentation: The new NDG Strategic Plan was presented to the Round Table and received positive support from all participants. We also had a presentation from the CIUSSS on the Psychosocial services and from BizNDG on the new project Ville-Unie.



Concertation

Priority Sectors

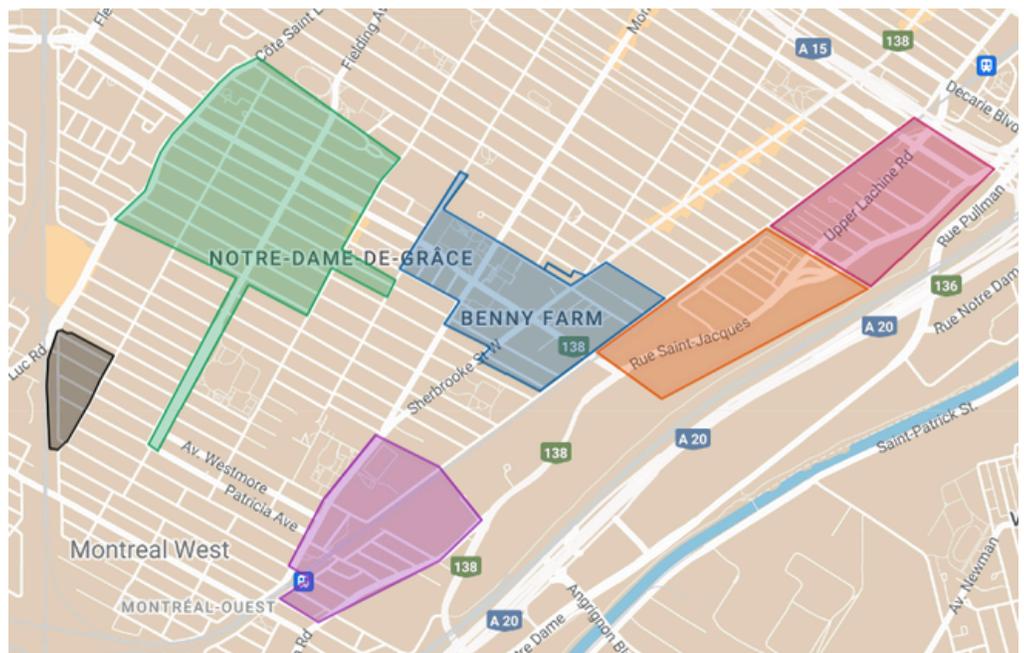
Staff : Halah Al-Ubaidi

Since 2006, the Council has been active in four (4) priority sectors: Westhaven, Saint-Raymond, Fielding-Walkley, and Benny Farm-Sherbrooke. These sectors were identified as facing numerous challenges in terms of the built environment, housing, services, etc.

Last year, based on our experience and the significant demographic changes, the Council decided to divide the Saint-Raymond sector into two parts: Grand Boulevard and Saint-Raymond. In addition, we started studying a new Sector Chester in collaboration with McGill University. It is important to note that while each sector may share common characteristics (economic and social), there are specific aspects that differentiate them, including the built environment (e.g. train tracks), lack of services, and a major concentration of social housing. The specific dynamics of each sector depend on the local context and the unique challenges faced by its residents.

Map of the 5 Priority Sectors

- 1: Benny-Farm-Sherbrooke
- 2: Fielding-Walkley
- 3: Westhaven
- 4: Saint-Raymond
- 5: Grand Boulevard
- 6: Chester





Concertation

Priority sectors

“Untangling Deeper Understanding of Collaboration in the Priority Sectors and Beyond” , is a project jointly undertaken by the NDG Community Council and Griffin Payne as a consultant , with funding from Centraide du Grand Montréal.

The pandemic and other timely challenges slowed down the work. After multiple meetings with staff, partners and Board Members, A report presenting multiple recommendations was produced .

Some of the recommendations are

- Consolidate internal change initiatives that come back to the question of the NDGCC’s identity and ways of working into an internal strategic planning process.
- Block out time in calendars well in advance for as much of the process as possible so that the organisation can plan around time that will be needed for this work.
- Go forward even if the personnel changes. Help get new people up to speed and try to capture important knowledge and perspectives through exit interviews when it is appropriate.
- Encourage and support key Board members in taking a role of shared leadership in the internal strategic planning process. Board involvement and recruiting Board members with relevant capacities would be crucial for this kind of process to succeed without causing further strain on staff capacity.

Following on this report , we organized a special meeting in January: Table of Actions for the priority Sectors (TAPS). A total of 54 participants joined the Council’s team on that occasion. A thorough presentation was given by the Council’s staff on the work done in the priority sectors and its results over the years. The significance of concerted efforts in priority sectors was emphasized, particularly regarding their effects on collective actions by various stakeholders and the resulting impacts. Participants worked in sub-groups per sector to identify the collective actions in place and needed.

Unfortunately the Centraide funding for the Priority Sectors is cut for 2024. We had to do a cut in the staff, but we will continue to work with our partners and continue to look for new funding and building projects to improve the quality of life in these sectors. We are also happy to receive a confirmation from the Borough to continue to support our initiative . In addition , we will work with our partners to decide on the best way to move forward using our mission funding from the the initiative .



Concertation

Saint-Raymond Sector

Staff: Sean Coates

Partners: The Depot Community Food Centre, Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi NDG, Bienvenue à NDG, Head & Hands, Loyola Youth Center, Westhaven Community Centre, HCNDG, Espace Knox, Notre-Dame-des-Arts, Trinity Foundation, PAAL, Office of the MNA, Borough of NDG, Office of the MP

Saint-Raymond, nestled beneath the CN tracks in the south west of NDG, embodies resilience amidst natural and man-made barriers. Once predominantly Italian, it now boasts a diverse community.

Statistics reveal that 81% of residents are tenants, with 48% being immigrants or non-permanent residents, 46% single-parent families, and 24% living on low income, according to the 2021 Census.

This year saw a good mix of successes and challenges: the reinstatement of the neighborhood committee, increased resident engagement in local initiatives, and improved access for community partners while challenges include a rise in homelessness and encampments in the park, along with escalating food insecurity.





Concertation

Saint-Raymond Sector



Various programs and events have taken place this year in the Saint-Raymond sector:

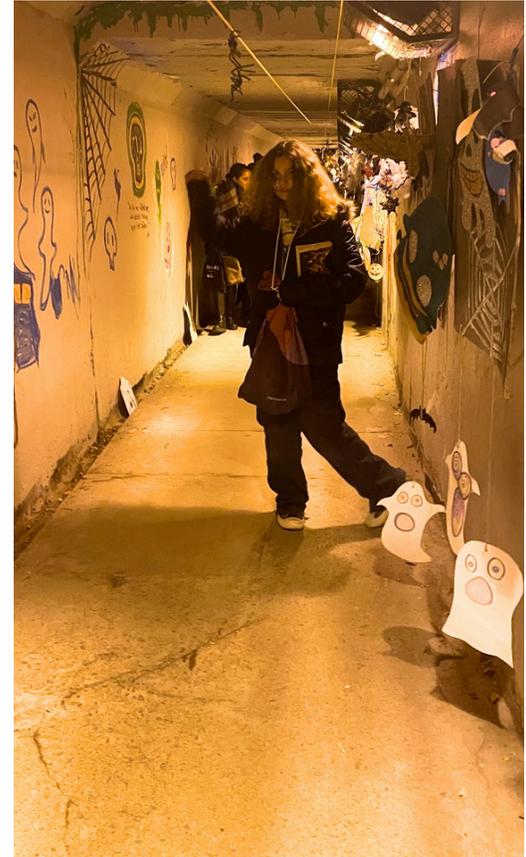
1. Cabane à sucre Urbaine: Teaming up with the Saint-Raymond Centre, this event gathers around 200 residents.

2. Winter 101: With the partnership of UrbaNature, we organized activities like snowshoeing, skating, and snow games, fostering camaraderie and resilience even in the coldest months.

3. Melrose Tunnel: We contributed to the yearly makeover of the Melrose Tunnel into the Halloween Haunted Tunnel. Collaborating with PAAL and supported by committed volunteers and NDG Arts Week, we turned the tunnel into an immersive experience, engaging children and families, while also contributing to the cleanup and community engagement efforts to familiarize residents with this pedestrian space.

4. Holiday Party: We marked the holiday season with a joyful event featuring food, music, and plenty of fun activities.. This event was made possible through a partnership with the Saint Raymond Centre and Bienvenue à NDG.

5. Summer Neighborhood party: This annual occurrence was well attended by hundreds of residents and community partners setting up booths to access residents as they played, connected with each other, and were fed a BBQ by the council.





Concertation

Grand Boulevard Sector

Staff: Mona Taj Bakhsh

Partners: Logements Communautaires Et Solidaires Grand (LCSG), Parents engagés pour la petite-enfance (PEP), Habitation communautaire NDG, Mission Old Brewery, OMHM, Lions Club, Borough CDN NDG, CIUSSS, Depot Community Food Centre, Provigo Cavendish, MNA, Incredible Edibles, Le Mexiquois Restaurant

Bounded by Cavendish and Belgrave on the west and east, and Sylvia Smith and Saint Jacques on the north and south, this sector has a high concentration of social housing, including two family HLMs, three OSBLs, and one cooperative. 94.1% of the population are tenants, 47.2% are immigrants, and 36.9% live in single-person households. The railway and overpass pose significant obstacles, contributing to public security issues, isolation, and a lack of facilities. Despite these challenges, there is often a strong sense of community within this sector.

The sector faces numerous issues, including inadequate railway crossing infrastructure (Melrose Tunnel, Grand Boulevard Overpass, and Decarie Viaduct), resident safety, heat islands and vulnerability to climate change, substance abuse, and health disparities. There is also a lack of infrastructure, community services, grocery stores, parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas. Public security, social isolation, poverty, unemployment, poor maintenance of public spaces and social housing, limited business opportunities, and restricted access to public transportation further compound the challenges.





Concertation

Grand Boulevard Sector

The Council conducted regular meetings with partners to collaborate on solving current issues, such as addressing violence within specific buildings. Weekly animation sessions were held for LCSG residents, and food insecurity was tackled through the Pantry Project in collaboration with the Depot Community Food Centre and the Lions Club. Two community gardens were established, with raised beds maintained by residents, in partnership with OMHM, LCSG and PEP to enhance food security, reduce isolation, and provide therapeutic benefits.

To break social isolation and reconnect with residents, the Council hosted numerous outdoor activities, including a Mini Sugar Shack event, St-Jean BBQ, building a community garden, Halloween in Grand, December Together, Earth Day celebrations, door-to-door outreach, information kiosks, eclipse viewing with free glasses distribution, a tax clinic, and more.





Concertation Westhaven Sector

Staff: Reza Moafi

Partners: Westhaven Recreation Center, Borough CDN-NDG, CIUSSS, SPVM, CJE, Bienvenue NDG and Logis Action



A small residential area bordered by Saint-Jacques and Sherbrooke streets to the south and north, and West Broadway and Connaught to the east and west, continued to make progress this year by following the recommendations from the Westhaven 2020 Vision Report. The Westhaven Center remained a key partner in our efforts.

This year the center had an important leadership transition. We said farewell to Jessica Di Bartolo Rouillier, the outgoing Coordinator of the Westhaven Center and welcomed our former colleague, Emily Cuellar-Villeneuve, as the new Center Coordinator.

The following are some highlights of our concerted and mobilising initiatives

- Neighborhood Committee Meetings: Two meetings were held to discuss ongoing projects, address community concerns, and plan future activities. Some of the initiatives that were presented :
 - Exo gave a presentation on their project to secure the space around the train tracks
 - The city of Montreal is upgrading the chalet in Coffee Park
- Town Hall Meeting where residents met with Our MNA Desiree McGraw, Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa and City Councillor Despina Sourias to give the residents opportunity to share their ideas and discuss issues of interest .



Concertation

Westhaven Sector

In collaboration with the Westhaven Center, residents, and volunteers, we organized several events aimed at breaking social isolation and fostering community spirit. We continue to reach out to residents and issued the first newsletter in 2023, "Westhaven Wonders."

Our events included "December Together," a Tax Clinic, and an Eclipse Watch event. We also hosted a Cabane à Sucre with Ramadan Iftar, where residents enjoyed the food and traditions of two cultures. Additionally, during Jane's Walk, we had a sector tour led by Jessica, the Westhaven coordinator.



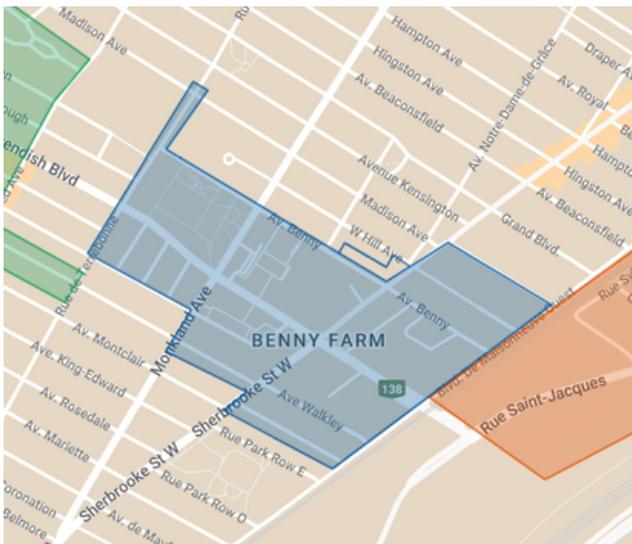


Concertation

Benny Sector

Staff: Mona Taj Bakhsh

Partners: CIUSS , CJE NDG, O3 On Our Own, Prevention CDN NDG, SHDM, NDG Housing Table, Velorution, Logis Action, St Monica’s Church, Eva Marsden Center, Borough CDN NDG, Depot Community, Food Centre, Provigo Cavendish, SPVM , Bienvenue NDG, Head and Hands



This sector is rich in resources, but recent census data and door-to-door outreach revealed a strong need for on-the-ground intervention. The sector faces numerous challenges, including insalubrious housing conditions, collapsed housing projects, income disparity, food security issues, mental health support needs, and drug addiction. The southern part of Benny has become a first home for many migrants in recent years, and the area hosts numerous rental buildings catering to a large tenant population. Consequently, the Council has expanded its scope to include Madison, West Hill, Montclair, and Walkley (between Sherbrooke and De Maisonneuve).

The Council collaborated with partners to address current issues, such as the case of Park Herbert-Outerbridge. Residents are looking to enjoy this lovely green space and we support them in improving the infrastructures offered there along with its maintenance. We are also working on intervention for the homeless situation and encourage space sharing between the various populations. The primary challenges faced by the Council to work on the sector include a lack of human resources and budget constraints.





Concertation Benny Sector

The Council organised a variety of activities to engage the community. The annual summer neighborhood party was hosted with partners in Herbert-Outerbridge park, featuring a meal, music, and games. This well-attended event (over 200 residents) offered an opportunity to interact with residents of all ages as they enjoyed a BBQ prepared by the Council.

Other notable activities in the Benny sector included an eclipse viewing event in Benny Park and in Herbert-Outerbridge park with over 70 residents attending, a Summer Intercultural Festival with over 500 attendees, and the December Together events at various locations (CLSC: 76 participants; YMCA: 38 participants; HLM Monkland: 11 participants; Chez-Soi: 40 participants). Additionally, the sector hosted a tax clinic, an artist residency at Sherbrooke Forest, and more.

History

1946 Construction of Benny Farm
Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement built Benny Farm for soldiers' families after the Second World War.

1991 Forming the Working Group
A process of concertation to reach a decision about the future of Benny Farm started its mandate and NDG Community Council was a member of that group.

2002 Decision to Relocate Veterans
The buildings were not adapted to the needs of veterans so SCHL decided to move them to new buildings and replace the existing buildings with 1200 units in 6 floor apartment buildings.

2004 Start of the Redevelopment Project
The construction of the first building was finished in 2004.

Map Legend:
1) Construction of the first building
2) Construction of the second building
3) Construction of the third building
4) Construction of the fourth building
5) Construction of the fifth building
6) Construction of the sixth building

History

2008 Benny Farm Community Development Steering Committee
A partnership between the NDG Community Council and a committee of representative from different projects in Benny (residents & employees).

2016 Benny Farm Collective

2016/2017 Opening of the New Benny Library
Atelier d'histoire NDG
Draft Action Plan for Benny Farm

2018 Sherbrooke Forest Art Hive was established
Veriteage highlighting residents
Good Food Market in Herbert Outerbridge Park
Benny Farm/ Sherbrooke Collective supported and endorsed the Good Food market.

Community Events:
- A LA RECHERCHE DE RESSOURCES DANS LA COMMUNAUTÉ?
- Benny Farm Vendredis 11h à 12h30

History ...

Project Chance Closed
The Council worked with the residents, the city of Montreal and the FOEM to help with the relocation. Neighbourhood support for the families at Project Chance was overwhelming.

The Benny Farm Collective and Sherbrooke Forest hosted an affordable summer art camp & Conducted a traffic Audit of the Area

SHDM took over the management of Sherbrooke Forest

The Benny Farm Collective Collaborated with the Art Table to apply for murals

Community Connector Program

2019 Benny Mural
Faire Fleurir La Ferme is a colourful tribute to the history of Benny Park, standing high above the alley behind the Pharmaprix on Sherbrooke, telling the story of the neighborhood's origins as a farm and depicting the large amount of community housing in the area.

2020 Breaking Isolation Program during the pandemic
Other Activities During Covid Pandemic

2023 Artist Residency Sherbrooke Forest
Benny Committee
The Benny Committee restarted its work to provide a platform for greater collaboration between all partners.



Concertation

Walkley-Fielding Sector

Staff: Roger Ishimwe

Partners: Walkley Center, Jeunesse Loyola, CDN-NDG Borough, Papa et Moi, CIUSSS Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, Comité Jeunesse NDG, ECO-QUARTIER, HCNDG, HLM Walkley, Urban Nature, LogisAction

This neighborhood has been a focal point for the Council for many years, and through the concerted efforts of numerous partners and active residents, significant strides have been made in enhancing the lives of its inhabitants.

The Council's initiatives and those of its partners have included activities and projects aimed at increasing greenery and reducing heat islands, breaking isolation, developing a sense of community, and improving civic engagement among residents.

In 2023-2024,, several key events and projects were undertaken in the Fielding-Walkley area. These included:

- A meeting with members of the Walkley residents' group, attended by four members.
- An eight-week summer gardening and workshop series in partnership with HCNDG
- A tax clinic to assist residents with their tax filings.
- A neighborhood committee meeting attended by eleven partners.
- An eclipse viewing event at the Walkley Centre, where 40 free glasses were distributed to residents.
- A movie night event with over 50 participants, including a member of the SPVM.
- A back-to-school party serving over 100 people.

Additionally, significant projects were completed, such as the installation of a basketball hoop at the Walkley Centre through a combined effort with Comité Jeunesse and the Walkley Centre, and the establishment of a garden at Walkley improving greatly the engagement among residents and partners.

However, the neighborhood still faces several challenges, including waste management issues, heat islands due to the dominance of concrete ground and limited green space, housing problems, and food insecurity.

Overall, the Council remains dedicated to working with residents and partners to overcome these challenges and continue improving the Fielding-Walkley neighborhood.





Concertation

Sectoral Tables

Sectoral Tables are spaces bringing together groups to discuss issues on specific subjects (e.g., food security) or specific clientele (e.g., youth). Partners and any interested parties who see the subject as relevant to their sector are invited to participate.

NDG Housing Table

Staff: *Mona Taj Bakhsh*

Co-coordinator : *Logisaction*

Partners: *, SHDM, Logements Communautaires Et Solidaires Grand (LCSG), ROMEL, OMHM, Habitation Communautaire NDG, Borough CDN NDG, Groupe CDH, CIUSSS, SPVM, CHEZ SOI, O3 On Our Own, Office of Hon. Marc Garneau, Office of Mrs. Désirée McGraw, Incredible Edibles NDG, Bienvenue à NDG, NDG Food Depot, LI-BER-T House*



The Housing Table brings together tenants' rights groups, housing cooperatives, community organisations, non-profit housing coordinators, technical resource groups (GRT), and developers to share information and work on collective solutions to local housing issues. The Table addresses various housing-related issues, including tenants' rights, maintaining the rental stock, developing social housing, and highlighting the crisis of high rents and the condition of social housing in NDG to different stakeholders.

Co-coordinated by the NDG Community Council and Logis Action, the Table held four general meetings and several subcommittee meetings throughout the year.

The Council actively followed up with partners regarding unsanitary conditions in buildings, searched for available units, and relocated residents displaced due to emergency maintenance. The Table faced significant challenges, including a lack of social housing, high rents, renovations, and gentrification. A Housing World Café was organised for the co-creation of an action plan. We held meetings with external stakeholders and influencers, and launched reopening task forces for Project Chance and the Elmhurst and Chester buildings. These initiatives included several meetings with different partners and representatives from all levels of government to address housing issues in NDG.



Concertation

Sectoral Tables

NDG Housing Table- Task Force Groups



The Table also focused on three closed social housing buildings in NDG: Chester HLM, Project Chance, and Coop Elmhurst, bringing attention to the need for reopening and maintenance.

Following discussions with our MNA Désirée McGraw, we put together force groups. First meeting was held at the Council, followed by a press conference in front of Project Chance building. The Meeting included members of the Housing Table and different partners interested in reopening the closed buildings .

Following this meeting we created two subcommittee; one for project Chance and one for the HLM Chester and Coop Elmhurst .

The Subcommittee on Project Chance met several times to gather information and with SHQ. Until the writing of this report , the SHQ is still in the middle of acquiring ownership of a building.

The Elmhurst and Chester Building subcommittee had two meetings, in addition to meetings with the OMHM, Atelier d'Habitation and Borough CDN NDG. Based on these follow-ups, we know that the HLM Chester building will only be demolished in 2025, but apparently no decision has been made yet regarding Coop Elmhurst. The following efforts of the Task Force would focus on the future of Coop Elmhurst.



Concertation

Sectoral Tables

Food security coalition

Staff: Rachel Begg

Partners: Arrondissement de CDN-NDG, Bread & Beyond, CLSC Benny Farm (CIUSSS Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal), CIUSSS du Centre Ouest de Montréal, Cummings Centre, Depot Community Food Centre, Head and Hands, Maison Mosaik Family Resource Centre, mind.heart.mouth, New Hope Seniors' Centre, Parents, Engagés pour la Petite Enfance (PEP), Westhaven Recreation Centre, Women on the Rise



The Coalition's mission is to improve the capacity of community members to ensure food security for residents of NDG. To this end, the Coalition has been active in supporting the development of various joint initiatives between our partners to meet the needs of their most vulnerable clientele, sharing information between partners about regional initiatives in food security, and fostering collective action against the root causes of hunger in our community.

NDG, along with all other boroughs in Montréal, has seen an immense increase in the number of people experiencing food insecurity. As a direct result, our partners have seen an overwhelming demand for food at their pantries, community meals, and other programming.

The Coalition met every 6 weeks through the year and co-coordinated a number of events and consultations this past year, including NDG's Green Fair in June 2023.



In March 2024, the Coalition, the Depot, and the CDN-NDG Borough collectively organised a Round Table to consult the neighbourhood on a Plan de développement de la communauté nourricière

The Coalition is also an ongoing participant in Dawson College's research project



Concertation

Sectoral Tables

Table 0-5

Staff: Halah Al-Ubaidi

Partners: . Mosaik Resource Center, Head and Hands – Young Parents Program, Fondation de la Visite, Parents engagés pour la petite enfance – PEP, Women on the rise, Bienvenue à NDG, Maisons transitionnelles On Our Own – O3, PAAL, Centre Communautaire Walkley, Nourri-Source Montréal, Daycares, Schools, Bibliothèque Benny, CIUSSS Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal

We have continued to hold our Table meetings, welcoming new groups that join us. These meetings, along with email communications, allow us to share important information with our members. Over the period, we conducted three virtual meetings, supported by Raphaëlle Pamphile, Community Organizer from the CIUSSS, and the coordination committee (COCO). To make resources accessible to families, we updated the Table brochure on available neighborhood resources for families with children. The COCO has also been working on the Action Plan, for which we hired a consultant to assist us. One of our focus groups was held at the Women on the Rise office. We supported the CIUSSS in organizing a meeting to present the findings of the EQDEM (Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la Maternelle), which was well attended.

A reflection meeting, our first face-to-face Table meeting since returning from COVID, was held to work on the Action Plan and included a very diverse group of participants. Andrea, our consultant, led the discussion in a very participative way. In May, we had a second meeting where we shared the draft of the Action Plan and gathered valuable feedback from the participants. The final Action Plan will be finalized in September and will support Table members in their projects for the next five years, aligning them with the neighborhood's actual needs. This year, following recommendations from the DRSP, the group has continued with the same projects. All information on these projects can be found on our website.



Concertation

Sectoral Tables

Art & Culture Table

Staff: Michelle Caron-Pawlowsky

Partners: Notre-Dame-des-Arts, PAAL, NDG Art Hive, St-Raymond Community Centre, Art Hop , Porchfest NDG, Maison de la culture NDG, NDG Electronik, Walkley Community Centre, CDAH Concordia, Native immigrant, local artists

The Table has the mandate to promote the arts and celebrate the cultures of NDG. The Table actively supports members with their projects and plays an essential role in helping develop and strengthen partnerships between organisations and resident-led initiatives with different levels of government and other key funders. The Table also works to create opportunities for artists of all levels in NDG.

The NDG Arts & Culture Table Writing Café is a monthly event held on the first Monday of each month. This café offers a supportive space for artists and writers to work on their projects and receive feedback from peers. The group is divided into two: those who prefer to work individually while being motivated by the presence of others, and those who wish to share their projects and gain feedback in a collaborative setting. Typically, between 8 and 12 participants attend each café, consisting of residents who are creative or academic writers and artists, ranging from hobbyists to professionals. The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many requesting an increase in frequency.



Youth Table

The Council is an active member of the Youth Table, whose meetings are essential to stay in touch with the realities of our neighborhood's population.



Concertation

Sectoral Tables

NDG Tax Coalition

Staff: *Modathir Babikir*

Partners: *Westhaven Center, Walkley Center, St Raymond Centre, CSL Library, Head & Hands Benny Library, Women on the Rise, Bienvenue a NDG*

The Tax Coalition is composed of different organisations from the neighbourhood offering free tax services to low or modest income residents. The members aim at offering a good quality service while sharing resources and efficiently managing the tax season. The group is always looking to engage new members in order to improve the service to residents and make sure those receive all governmental help they are entitled to.

The tax coalition achieved several key results, including the support of the CSL Library clinic to serve local residents and the creation of language and needs-adapted clinics. The coalition also worked towards a common goal of directing residents to the appropriate local services based on each organisation's capacity. Additionally, common training sessions were implemented for all volunteers to ensure consistency and quality of service.

Space Coalition

Staff: *Sean Coates*

Partners: *The Depot Community Food Centre, Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi NDG, Bienvenue à NDG,, Head & Hands , Loyola Youth Center, Westhaven Community Centre, HCNDG, Espace Knox, Notre-Dame-des-Arts, Trinity Foundation, PAAL, Office of the MNA ,Borough of NDG , Office of the MP*

The Space Coalition, established in 2009, embodies a collective spirit of hope and determination among community organisations and government officials, all driven by a shared passion for enhancing community spaces in NDG.

To confront these challenges head-on, the coalition conducted surveys to assess space needs, participated in city-wide space conferences, and engaged in one-on-one meetings with affected members. They strive to guarantee access to ample and affordable space for community organisations, channeling their collective voice to advocate for change and ensure that the needs of the community remain at the forefront of every decision.



Concertation

Sectoral Tables

NDG Intercultural Table

Staff: Reza Moafi

Co-coordinator: Bienvenue à NDG

The NDG Intercultural table aims to aid in the integration of new immigrants from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds into Quebec society all while keeping their cultural heritage alive as it contributes to what makes NDG such a unique and special place to live. Community groups work together to ensure initiatives are including all participants and encourage mix of cultures.

NDG is a vibrant cultural mosaic. To celebrate this explosion of culture in the borough, the NDG Intercultural Festival showcase the food, music and art of each culture to the residents of the neighborhood as a tool to educate people on the different traditions of the people living in our diverse community. In summer 2023, more than 500 residents and 25 local organisations attended. There were 8 community booths representing different countries such as Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Azerbaijan, China, and more.



NDG En Histoires

Staff: Michelle Caron-Pawlowski

Partners: PAAL Partageons le monde, Christopher Lyons, Nathalie Senecal, Helen Meredith, Bruce Bolton

The mission of NDG en Histoires, NDG's historical society founded in 2022, is to preserve and promote the rich histories of Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood. We pursue this through such activities as conferences, exhibitions, walking tours, archival conservation, and creative community projects.

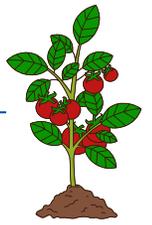
Due to budget restriction, the Council was not able to dedicate many hours to the association. They held many meetings through the year, organising a couple events include the NDG en histoires Walk, led by Christopher Lyons. This was an occasion for NDG residents to learn more about the historical features of their neighborhood.



Outreach involves connecting with and providing support or information to underserved communities, while mobilisation involves organizing and encouraging collective action towards a common goal. Both aim to engage and empower individuals to access resources and participate actively in addressing issues.

Outreach and Mobilisation Connecting and Empowering





Outreach and Mobilisation

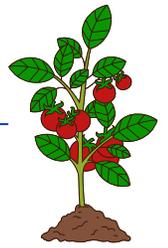
In light of the influx of new NDG residents, for 2023, the NDG Community Council continues to foster connections within our diverse community. With a focus on prioritising in-person interactions, we aim to break the barriers of social isolation prevalent in our neighbourhood. Through various capacity-building initiatives, we empower residents to actively engage in community programs and activities and become integral parts of the fabric of NDG. By connecting residents with local resources and encouraging their participation in community-driven endeavours, we strive to create a vibrant and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and connected.

It is important to note the lack of space for certain groups to gather with no program attached which increases their isolation. We have been trying to offer different small occasions in partnership with other organisations.

The Council's mobilisation efforts are dedicated to uplifting community and resident initiatives that:

- Address the social and healthcare requirements of communities.
- Foster the participation of a substantial number of individuals in collective goals and projects.
- Rally and empower specific groups of people in response to their unique needs.
- Proactively contribute to enhancing the social fabric and advancing community development.





Mobilisation

Outreach

Staff: Zhuo Yi Xu & Shady Safar

The primary goal of our outreach efforts is to disseminate pertinent community information to all NDG residents, with a particular focus on those who are most socially isolated. Our aim is to actively involve them in community activities and initiatives. We achieve this through various strategies, including:

- Setting up kiosks at public parks and community events
- Conducting door-to-door visits in apartments across NDG and in HLMs
- Strategically placing posters throughout the neighborhood

Outreach has always been a vital component of the Council's efforts to build strong relationships with residents. This has become even more crucial in the aftermath of COVID-19. All Council staff actively participate in outreach activities, ensuring the dissemination of resources and information about community events and services within their respective resident networks and we invite all organisations to join the Council in our mobilization activities.

Statistics:

Total number of kiosks: 105

Total number of poster sessions: 26 (and this does not include poster sessions/in person mailing done by our volunteers)

Total number of door to door sessions: 47

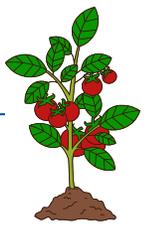
Total number of people reached directly: 5203

Challenges:

- Difficulty finding community partners with available staff for collaboration on outreach initiatives, especially during evenings and weekends, which are prime times for outreach efforts.
- Decrease in the number of dedicated outreach staff after summer 2023.

Despite challenges, we have observed an increase in resident engagement within the community. More individuals are actively seeking out resources and utilising our services, signifying a growing establishment of trust between residents and the Council.





Mobilisation

Eclaireurs



Staff: Zhuo Yi Xu

Partner: CIUSSS



In partnership with the CIUSSS Centre Ouest, the Council is committed to promote mental health among NDG residents and workers of local community organisations. Acting as a liaison, the Council facilitates the implementation of provincial ministerial initiatives aimed at community recovery during and after the pandemic. The objective is to enhance psychosocial awareness, adaptability, and resilience among residents, communities, and workers within the NDG community.

The Éclaireurs program, which used online capsules from CIUSSS, included a series of in-person mental health workshops designed to equip residents with the skills and knowledge to serve as helpers in their neighborhood. Four (4) cohorts were established, each participating in bi-weekly training sessions. As a result, 25 NDG residents became active Éclaireurs, capable of assisting others and promoting mental health within the community.

Additionally, workshops for community workers were held, covering topics such as suicide prevention (Repérage Suicide), support for asylum seekers (Mieux comprendre la situation des demandeurs d'asile), and youth mental health (GASMA + Aire Ouverte). These workshops provided opportunities for community workers to expand their understanding of mental health and enhanced the community's overall capacity through skill-building.

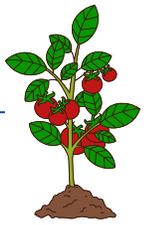
To further promote mental health among residents, additional resilience activities were organized as part of the Éclaireurs program, including events like Youth Week, eclipse viewing and Wellness Tuesdays. These efforts have significantly contributed to building a more resilient and mentally healthy community in NDG.

Youth Week

The Council spearheaded a special initiative aimed at raising awareness among NDG youth about available community resources. A neighborhood-wide scavenger hunt led participants to various community locations and organisations in a single day, with 15 youth taking part.

The impact was profound, as these youth not only remained actively engaged in community activities and initiatives following the scavenger hunt but also stepped up to volunteer their time.





Mobilisation

Bloc Net

Staff: Roger Ishimwe, Berta Kaisr & Alzubra Sheikh

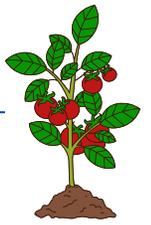
Partners: OMHM, WALKLEY CENTER, ECO-QUARTIER, CJE-NDG, CRARR

This initiative aimed to raise awareness in the streets and common areas while engaging the youth of HLM Walkley and the broader neighborhood in cleanliness and civic advocacy.

Throughout the 8-week summer program, young participants engaged in street cleaning and gardening, with 8 to 11 youth and 1 volunteer participating weekly. The program also included one job readiness workshop and four environmental awareness workshops. These efforts not only improved the cleanliness of the Walkley area but also raised environmental awareness and understanding among the youth. Each session concludes with a shared meal, fostering community and camaraderie.

Additionally, the program laid the foundation for the creation of a Walkley basketball team, fostering connections with youth outside the neighborhood. Participants also attended the "TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE" conference and a basketball tournament organized by CRARR.





Mobilisation

Community Intervention for Seniors Living in Social Housing

Staff: Roger Ishimwe

Partners: OMHM, EVA MARSDEN, YMCA, ARTHIVE, Food Depot

This project aims at breaking isolation among seniors living in social housings, and help them find various support they may need. This involves having an outreach worker weekly in two housings (Mayfair and Saint Raymond), and providing support in other senior housings in NDG when needed.

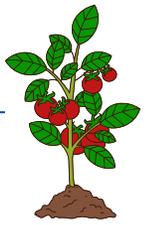
The intervention in seniors' housing improved social life and reduced isolation through various activities, enhanced technological understanding, and increased awareness of available services. Organised meetings with partners provided valuable information on senior services. However, limited time and language barriers, including seniors who do not speak English or French or cannot read, posed challenges.



Community Connectors

Community Connectors is one of the most successful mobilising activity the Council uses with residents. This year, seniors from different HLM were offered the workshops and supported through the implementation of activities for their peers.

The project included support to HLM Tenants association during the year, organisation of activities with all seniors and guest along with one on one with community connectors willing to improve specific skills.



Mobilisation

Cafe rencontres

Staff: Shady Safar

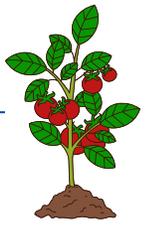
Partners: Residents, Wesley United Church

A project built in response to a resident, who was sending us a monthly email asking about the starting date of what he called a “drop in” space to break social isolation! Café Rencontre is designed for residents of NDG to combat social isolation by providing a welcoming environment for community members to gather, engage in conversation, and participate in enjoyable activities.

The program launched in October 2023 and since the beginning of 2024, participation has steadily increased, with a consistent turnout of 12 to 20 attendees weekly. The 8 main residents that started with the project became part its coordination. To date, the program has served approximately 230 clients.

It has successfully created a space where participants feel welcome and supported. It has enabled individuals to form new friendships, gain advice, and access resources to help with their challenges. The Coffee Rencontre program offers a variety of activities, including: Cooking Sessions, Coffee and Check-In, Fun Activities, Basic Technology Consultation and Access to Neighborhood Services. There is a need for more space and flexible scheduling, as residents have expressed a desire for the program to occur more frequently throughout the week.





Mobilisation

Climate Cafe

Staff: Michelle Caron-Pawłowski

Partners: NDG YMCA, Resilience NDG,
Kathy Aitken, Maureen Lafrenière, 350
Montreal, Emma Despland

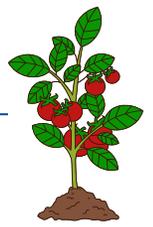


A monthly gathering for residents interested in learning about and discussing various climate change topics. Coordinated by Kara Johnston from Resilience NDG and Kathy Aitken, the event takes place in the Member's Lounge of the NDG YMCA on the third Tuesday evening of each month. Each session features a facilitator who presents a topic followed by a group discussion. Themes have included Active Hope, Emergency Preparedness in the Face of Climate Change, Activism, and Nurturing Biodiversity in our Neighbourhoods. Attendance averages around 25-30 people per session. Feedback has been highly positive, and facilitators are booked through the end of 2024.

Conversation groups

Volunteers: Francois Bertrand, Carol Lakoff, Gabriele Hopf, Maureen Breaks, Illam Mohung, Meryem Jamiloun

The Council has been running conversation groups for many years, with continuous engagement from volunteers. These groups are an excellent way to meet other participants and network. All our conversation groups are free and open to all residents of NDG. Our mandate is not education; rather, the goal of these groups is to break social isolation and increase direct contact with residents, allowing us to identify their needs. Throughout the year, we continued to offer both in-person and virtual groups in French and English. The Benny Library partnered with us, hosting two conversation groups every week. The demand remains constant, and we are happy to see new faces joining all the time.



Mobilisation

December Together

Staff: Zhuo Yi Xu

Partners: Walkley Center, Saint-Raymond Center, CLSC Benny Farm, Logement communautaire solidaire Grand, YMCA, HLM Monkland, HLM Terrebonne, Chez-Soi, St-Ignatius of Loyola, Westhaven-Elmhurst Community Recreation Association, Jeunesse Loyola, Wesley United Church, HLM Girouard, HLM Saint-Raymond, Le Mexiquois, HLM Mayfair, The Depot, Mini BiblioPLUS, PAAL, Express Indian, Boustan NDG, Burger de Ville Café 92, Bonjour Pho, La Maison du Souvlaki, Les Momos, Provigo Mehdi Taallah, La Meunerie Urbaine

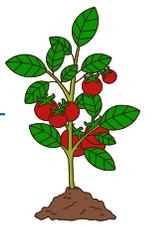


December Together aims to address several community needs during the holiday season, including fostering a sense of community among residents and organisations in NDG, breaking social isolation when most community organisations are closed, supporting the local economy by building partnerships with local businesses, and promoting community resources to participants.

For 2023, December Together ran from December 23, 2023, to January 5, 2024 featuring 16 events across NDG, involving 75 volunteers plus their family members, and engaged a total of 752 participants. It provided hot meals, offered spaces for socialization during the holidays, and highlighted new businesses that opened during or after the pandemic, thus supporting the local economy.

Despite its successes, December Together faced challenges such as staffing difficulties during the holidays due to limited worker availability and a growing demand that necessitated additional funding support.

Outreach efforts for December Together were robust, focusing on in-person promotional methods to connect with isolated residents or those unfamiliar with the NDG Community Council. The outreach team conducted door-to-door campaigns in NDG, particularly in the priority sectors of Fielding-Walkley, Benny Farm, Saint-Raymond, Westhaven, and Grand, as well as in seniors' HLMs, knocking on a total of 2000 doors. Calls were also made, especially for the Gilbert-Layton location, and staff called registered participants one day prior to the events as reminders. Additionally, event information was posted on the NDG Community Council website and included in the newsletter.



Mobilisation

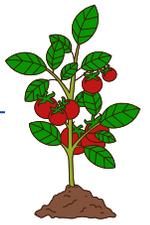
Porchfest 2023

Every year since 2015 , Musicians and bands play all kinds of music from their porches on the Victoria day weekend in May. The Council always acted as fiduciary for the co founders and organisers Ms Aurora Robinson and Ms Sara Ring.

This year, despite an unexpected power outage and a flash downpour the show went on; we had more than 90 performances and many volunteers! The NDG Community Council also offered a space in front of the Wesley United Church for resident musicians in need of a location to perform. The team joined the festival in efforts to spread awareness about available community resources and initiatives.

In addition to creating a space for musicians, giving back to the community has always been central to the porchfest's mission. Every year performers, organizers, and audience members come together to support one local cause and in 2023, the Council was proud to be selected to receive the donation. We received almost \$10,000 that we dedicated to the Art and Culture Table projects.





Mobilisation

Collective Kitchen

Staff: Berta Kaisr, Alzubra Sheikh, Shady Safar

Partners: Mosaik Resource Center, PEP, Wesley United Church

Collective is a project from Mosaik Resource Center in partnership with the Council and PEP. Together, we target families with young children under 5 years old to participate in a fun weekly family activity. Parents and children are engaged in all steps of cooking a complete meal which they will all share together. Part of the meal cooked is for families to bring home for another day.

This initiative targets food insecurity, child development and social isolation.

During the activity, our staff have deep conversations with participants and offer support as needed either on the spot or during individual follow-up meetings.

An average of 8 families participate every week.



TechSavvy

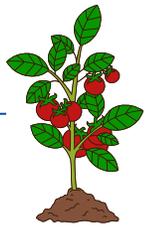
Staff: Alzubra Sheikh & Adel Ben Mabrouk

Tech Savvy goal was to develop seniors' capacity in technology work. Those days, everything became digitalised and being unable to use technology gives a feeling of defeat. The program changed coordination in the middle of the year and lost its funding. Despite those issues, we continued matching volunteers with seniors and let them learn new skills.

Meet the Candidates

Staff: Graziella Bieto-Challenger

Following the retirement of our MP Marc Garneau in 2023, there was a call for a federal partial election; 8 candidates presented themselves. The Council organised quickly the usual Meet the candidates event in the middle of the AGM season, on Monday June 12th 2023 and a webinar format was also available. Among other subjects, the community asked questions regarding the affordable housing situation.



Mobilisation

Papa et Moi

Staff: Momen Hassan, Modathir Babikir, Adel Mabrouk

Partners: Walkley Center, St-Raymond Center, Benny Library, The Depot, Community Digital Arts Hub (CDAH), Minibiblio Plus, Grove Campus, Caroline Toys Drive, Lost & Found, Home Depot, VeloRution

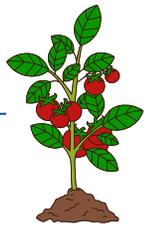
Papa et Moi is a program in partnership with St-Raymond and Walkley Centres, designed to support and enhance fathers' abilities to provide nurturing, responsible, and supportive parenting. The program significantly contributed to improving father-child relationships, promoting good parenting practices, and educating fathers on various services such as the education, banking, and health systems. It also encouraged fathers and children to read books, play games, and communicate more in French.

Statistics:

- Ramadan Iftar: 162 participants
- Father's Day: 31 dads, 12 kids
- Puppet Show: 16 dads, 17 kids
- Walkley Party: 40 fathers, 50 kids
- Electronic Music: 25 fathers, 25 kids
- Winter Festival: 30 parents, 40 kids
- Total fathers in the program: 239

The project ran on a very small budget but was able to provide work for 3 fathers of which 2 lived in NDG, specifically in the St Raymond and Wakley sectors . It also involved many fathers as volunteers. Unfortunately , the funding was not renewed and the project ended in December 2023.





Mobilisation

Participatory Budget

Staff: Reza Moafi

Participatory budgeting is a democratic process where community members directly decide how to allocate a portion of a public budget. It involves citizens in proposing, discussing, and voting on budgetary decisions, allowing them to have a direct say in funding priorities and projects that impact their local area. This process aims to increase transparency, empower residents, and ensure that public funds address community needs and preferences.

In 2023, 2 versions were offered to the residents: a Montreal wide edition and a local Borough CDN NDG.

Montreal Participatory Budget

The Montreal Participatory Budget started in 2022 where residents from all borough were invited to contribute ideas within one of the three themes: youth, equity or safety . In October 2023, 31 propositions were up for voting. The Council mobilised NDG residents for them to vote towards what they would like to see in their borough. Five winners were disclosed: Mini-Forests, Micro-Parks, Montreal Climbs, Open Air local gyms and Accessible parks. Implementation will start in 2024.

Borough CDN NDG Participatory Budget

Initiated in 2023, the Borough launched its first Participatory Budget to respond to people's needs and listen to their proposals in a new way.

Partnerships were established with the Borough CDN-NDG, local schools, and organizations, engaging all members of the NDG community in the process. Various methods, including questionnaires, online and in-person meetings, and workshops, were employed to gather and expand upon ideas.

The Council collaborated with the Borough of CDN-NDG to mobilize residents and groups submitting ideas for the \$200,000 allocated to the Participatory budget. Through online and in-person meetings with residents, collaborators, and community partners, ideas were collected to address the real needs of the community. In total, 11 ideas were submitted by the Council to the CDN-NDG borough to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. and many more by the residents, including youths from 2 local highschools.

Five projects were selected and will be implemented in the next 2 years: Securing our bike paths, Securing pedestrians crosswalks, Collective Urban Agriculture, Community Fridges and Accessible Public bathrooms.



Services Providing free or low cost services since 1942

The Council's primary service is providing information and referral. We deliver these services through multiple channels, including in-person consultations, website, email, and phone. Our ongoing efforts aim to develop innovative tools that enhance the accessibility of community resource information. This approach enables us to maintain direct communication with the population, facilitating connections with various local organisations and identifying service gaps. Additionally, we collaborate with community groups and residents to develop services, emphasizing the concept of proximity in priority sectors. By doing so, we ensure that the needs of our neighborhood are met effectively and efficiently.





Services

Tax Clinic

Staff: Modathir Babikir

Partners: Saint-Raymond Centre, Walkley Centre, Westhaven Centre, The Depot, Benny Library, Heads & Hands, Tango, Wesley United Church, Eva Marsden Center



For over three decades, the NDG Community Council has offered free assistance to eligible individuals in completing their tax declarations. Our services, typically available from March through December, expanded this year through collaboration with various partners, leading to the organisation of several tax clinics across different locations. We were able to offer support all year to residents either to produce late tax declaration or to follow up with governments in regards to their tax situation.

We hosted a total of 12 clinics across 10 locations, supported by 65 trained volunteers, of whom 40 participated actively. Additionally, 15 participants opted for the Do It Yourself (DIY) approach through online training, learning how to complete their own declaration with an online tool.

As a result of these efforts, we provided free tax filing services to over 700 residents. Clients with additional service needs were identified and either referred to appropriate organisations or given appointments for individual services at the Council. Accurate statistics from these activities are now available for strategic planning. New residents were introduced to the Council as well as the various free services available in NDG and surrounding neighbourhoods.

To enhance collaboration and efficiency, it is crucial for the tax coalition to meet early and establish a unified approach for the Council and its partners; therefore optimising the service offer in the neighbourhood while avoiding unnecessary duplication.



Services

Health & Social services

Staff: Julie Cormier, Moamen Hassan, Shady Safar, and Zhuo Yi Xu

Partners: All organisations offering services to NDG residents

This initiative aims to address the diverse needs of residents by providing personalised support. From aiding individuals in understanding official communications to assisting with form submissions, the focus is on offering tailored assistance. By enhancing access to crucial information and empowering residents to navigate complex administrative processes, this service strives to ensure that everyone in the community receives the support they need.

Through the "One on One" initiative, we have achieved significant results, including empowering residents by educating them about their rights and available government benefits, improving residents' access to critical information by offering guidance on various topics, ensuring they are well-informed about available services, resources, and support systems.. Moreover, our services enable families with limited knowledge in French or English to navigate government documents and access essential benefits, thereby improving their quality of life. Additionally, the increasing digitization of application processes poses challenges for residents, highlighting the importance of providing assistance in navigating online platforms and filling out forms.

Statistics:

- 74 residents met individually through the year, sometimes more than once, for meetings lasting between 30 minutes and 2 hours
- 3 workshops on community services or health and social services related subjects
- Administrative support and referral to partners or official service bodies
- Gathering of needs to allow better response and sharing information with the appropriate institution
- Comprehension of communications sent in French to residents, leading to a relief of stress
- Feeling of being "in control" for residents who had diverse issues with governments and institutions from being accompanied in the multiple steps .



Services

NDG MAP

Staff: Sean Coates, Zhuo Yi Xu and Berta Kaisr

We are thrilled to introduce the new 2023 NDG map, featuring a user-friendly design. As usual the front of the map highlights essential information providing convenient reference points for all and the back includes a directory of local community resources.





Services

McGill dental workshops & clinics

Staff: Julie Cormier

Partners: McGill Faculty of Dentistry, Monkland Community Center, St-Raymond Center, HLM Mayfair, HLM St-Raymond, Chez Soi, Eva Marsden Center, PEP

Dental care is expensive, many residents, along with most of the workers in our community organisations, do not have access to private insurance and cannot afford regular appointments at the dentist office.

For a 4th year in a row, we partnered with the McGill dental Faculty to offer Oral Health workshops to our residents. Two teams of students were assigned to the Council; one worked with families of young children to offer workshops to parents and children on dental hygiene and the other team worked with the seniors in 2 different HLMs.

Through this partnership, we were also able to bring four free dental clinics to the neighbourhood: in October and February at Monkland Community Center, in September at the HLM St-Raymond and in April at Chez Soi NDG. A total of 116 residents were seen by the dental team at those clinics.

In order to ensure that the seniors residents continue their treatments and attend their followup appointments at the McGill faculty downtown, we offered transport and accompaniment to 21 residents on 3 separate Saturdays morning.





Services

Space for the community

The Council’s 3 meeting rooms are extensively shared amongst our staff and the community: the english/french second language conversation groups, resident gatherings and meetings, AGMs, training sessions, and more! This space lending service keeps our office a bustling hub of activity. This year, a grant helped us making this space a technology hub for the residents. Material was added, allowing residents to use internet, meet for technology training with volunteers or print documents.

Our members are always welcome to use our space for free - we know that some residents groups and organisations have trouble accessing free space and we are proud to be able to provide this service.

Commissioner of Oath

A Commissioner of Oaths is a person who is authorised by the Province of Quebec to take an oath when you sign an affidavit or statutory declaration.

The Council is currently awaiting the renewal of the Authorities to continue offering this service.

Le Bonhomme à Lunettes

Seeing clearly is not a luxury, it's a necessity.

Le Bonhomme à lunettes has been offering affordable glasses for over 15 years. They save you money on this essential purchase without sacrificing quality or service. They fill all prescriptions and offer all types of lenses on the market (including several lines of progressive lenses), as well as a vast selection of frames for men, women and children.

The Glasses service is currently operating at the NDG Community Council - 5964 Ave. Notre-Dame-de-Grâce every Monday between 1-4 PM - By reservation only.

AFFORDABLE EYEWEAR FOR ALL!

Bonhomme à lunettes
Since 2007

Serving everyone, regardless of income
Great savings
Community-based service
All options and prescriptions
Great choice of frames
Guaranteed service quality
Receipts for insurance
S20 options for those on social assistance

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bonhommealunettes.org

Philippe Rochette opticien
Member of l'Ordre des opticiens du Québec



Services (Fiduciary)

NDG Art Hive



The NDG Art Hive is a free, accessible, bilingual community art studio that has been offered in a variety of locations in NDG since 2015.

In 2023-2024 we offered several hours per day of programming, five days per week across six different sites in NDG including pop-ups at Benny Library, and a Saturday outdoor art hive in Park Georges St-Pierre.

Our total participation count was over 2,000 seniors, families and individuals including seniors from HLMs (social housing buildings on Bourret, Monkland, Saint-Raymond, Girouard) who appreciated having this welcoming and inclusive activity in the common room of their buildings.

Unfortunately, our New Horizons for Seniors grant, Canada Summer Jobs grant and Quebec Amie des Aînées grants weren't accepted which forced us to end the contract for our Coordinator and closed our activities as of September, 2024.

We used that time to recruit new volunteers, take a much deserved break and reach out to new funders.

Special thanks to our community partners, the OMHM, and the NDG Community Council and Notre Dame des Arts for offering fiduciary support. We look forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary in the summer of 2024! Donations of art supplies and money are always welcome. Contact Marlo at 514.482.4435 or email ndg.arthive@gmail.com for more info.

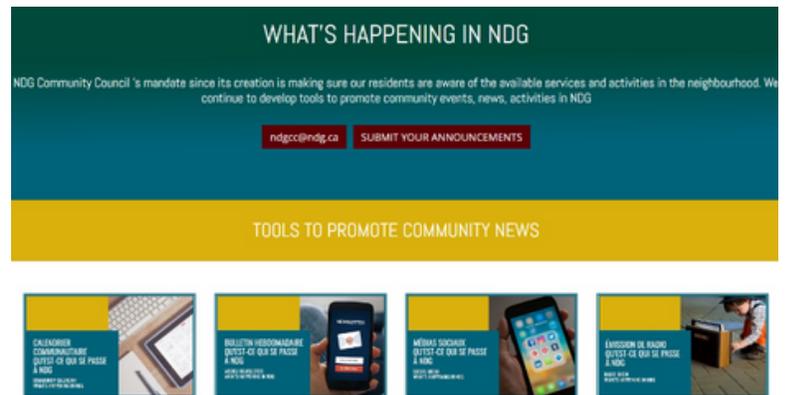




Services

Communication

From its inception, the Council has been committed to ensuring that our residents and partners are informed about the range of services and activities available in the neighbourhood. We strive to enhance and expand outreach efforts to promote community news, local initiatives, projects, and events in NDG. Employing a variety of tools, we facilitate connections between residents and partners throughout NDG.



- Website ndg.ca. The website serves as a vital tool for the Council to bolster its online presence and engage effectively with its target audience.
- Facebook Official Page: 2024 - 2107 Followers (5% increase)
- Instagram Account: 2024 - 633 Followers (22.6%)
- Google My Business (GMB) & Maps: Used to be shown on Google Maps, collect reviews, and make posts to share news. 2024 - 42 reviews, Rating 4.9 (2023 -31, 4.8 Rating). Business Profile interactions April 2024 - 308 (calls, website clicks, directions search)
- “QU'EST-CE QUI SE PASSE À NDG | WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NDG”

We continue to grow various channels under this brand name with the objective to promote local initiatives, foster collaboration between community groups and residents, and empower individuals to take an active role in shaping the future of NDG. These are the following channels :

- Calendar - The Community calendar is a tool to share NDG news and events, plus it's a good opportunity to share services for NDG Organisations. All announcements will be searchable in Google if it has been posted for several months.



Services

Communication

Some Statistics: CAFE RENCONTRE NDG / Drop-in (Published 2023-10-30 - 6577 Hits at the moment of this report). Cuisine collective NDG Collective Kitchen (Was published 2 months - 3979 Hits). RADIO SHOW - QU'EST-CE QUI SE PASSE À NDG | What's Happening in NDG (Published 2023-06-13 till now - 13588 Hits)

- **Weekly Newsletter:** The newsletter is an initiative based on recommendations from a Round Table Meeting. It promotes events, job offers, and other activities in NDG. Every Wednesday at 10 am, 50 times per year.

Statistic: 2024 - 1792 Subscribers. Open rate 2024 - 40-45% (600-700). (2023 - 1724 Subscribers, Open Rate 30-36% (500-600))

- **Public Facebook Group:** Created in October 2021 to collect community news throughout the week and facilitate the process of sharing activities from organisations' pages.

Statistic: 2024 - 1354 members (46.8%).

- **Radio CJLO - Every Thursday 11am**

A collaboration project between the Council and CJLO Radio to reach different demographic groups. In 2020, Council staff and volunteers were trained to manage and present the radio program. The show was scheduled to start on March 16, 2020 at 7pm. Well we all know what happened that day!

Resuming the discussion in 2023, Since May 18 2023, we have had 34 episodes hosting more than 19 partners. The facilitation is done by CJLO's experienced team while the Council continued the outreach efforts to secure participation of partners.





Testimonials



NZ
Local Guide · 10 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ a year ago

Free tax declaration submission(conditional),
Super friendly staff

↩ Reply  2



Teri-Lee Walters
4 reviews

★★★★★ a year ago

They are great! Very helpful and supportive people.

↩ Reply  1



Jon E
12 reviews · 6 photos

★★★★★ 3 weeks ago **NEW**

Cafe Recontre every Monday,coffee and small snacks will be served.
Great place to meet people.



bhalab holoubi
Local Guide · 24 reviews · 87 photos

★★★★★ 7 months ago

It is a great place to find help specifically for new immigrants.

C'est un excellent endroit pour trouver de l'aide.

[See translation \(English\)](#)

↩ Reply  Like



Afzal Sheikh
Local Guide · 174 reviews · 1,619 photos

★★★★★ 11 months ago

Excellent community services

↩ Reply  Like



Annexe 1: Volunteers

Every year, we receive such a great amount of volunteers supporting our mission and our values that we always end-up forgetting some names! Please forgive us, if you are not named, you are not less important. All of you made NDG a better place to live.

General

Pierre Blouin
Maureen Breaks
Nooshin Maghrebian
Chesil Grant
Dora Tyson
Ken
Grace Uwera
Esther Rugoli
Sandra Kate Molloy
Esther Fukuyama
Adrian H. Dragan
Aimée Lusheke Ajara
Joan Hongoh
Larry Shevell
Madelene Sebaldt
Soraj Ghaibour
Martine Duplessis
Matthew Kendacgis
Soraya Jolee Pierre
Beatrice Proulx
Veronique Barbet
Guy Bertrand
Jennifer Cheng
Ted Lavien
Yutong Chen
Verónica Esparza
Yuexun Yin
Huiping Nie
Liane Côté
Claudine Vd Heuvel
Xavier Oriol

Conversation groups

Carol Lakoff
Francois Bertrand
Maureen Breaks
Gabriele Hopf
Illam Mohung
Meryem Jamiloun
Pooria Emrani

Tax Clinics

Alita Gorospe
Ashwinth Mudumbi
Bikram Maharjan
Bruce Brown
Catherine Vinalon Bance
Debbie Robertson
Dominic LHeureux
Ekaterine Chighladze
Emma Nasol
Fozia Mahboub
Francisco Gerdes
Girli Ayodoc
Grace Aludo
Guy Hervé Okonda
Harvey Henk
Hélène Nguyen
Iryna Kucheriavenko
Jea Suson
Jesstine Mendoza
Jing BAI
Joseph Victor
Justin Cheng
Krystelle Coulibaly
Karine Rojas
Katrine Joyce Caoile
Kevin Gamo
Lakambini Punzalan
Lianne Cote
Liudmyla Voropaieva
Manilyn Dacuro
Maria Socorro Remolacio
Maribel Cayabyab
Mary Ann Morano
Mary Grace Regondola
Mary Jane Abucay
Maryna Mazhynska
Michelle Quirequere
Mirazol Actub
Moussa Sangaré

Tax Clinics

Negar Khorshi
Pari Karimi
Qi Gao
Quinn Cromm
Rashmi Sirsikar Nagesh
Rebecca Williams
Reyhaneh Khoushbin
Ross Duldulao
Saeideh Dermani
Sandra Prillo
Sarah Nassimbwa
Sepideh Dermani
Shelin mae Escobia
Sherie Anne Garcia
Shirley Simpson
Stavroula Roumeliotis
Syeda Khizra Saleem
Tayebeh Mahmoudi
Ting Du
Viviane Bonifacio

December Together

Bohan Yao
Fang Joanne
Paula Gascoigne
Yusheng
Jacky Lee Li
Liang
Li Fang
Ping Liu
luc dubrule
Lorraine Sullivan
Dominic LHeureux
Anita Contreras
Ying Fu
Tomiwa Orolu
Shirley Simpson
Véronique Barbet
Xavier Oriol
Bérénice Alanis
Renata Militzer
Yien Lyu
Yanfei
Morgan
Sivan Slapak

December Together

Anchal Sharma
Madelene Sebaldt
Voula Roumeliotis
Zeinab Rostami
Xiangyi Wang
Pari Karimi
Fabienne Pollet
Mohamed Ismaiel
wenjun chen
Sandra Holder
Yassine Jebbar
Yassine Hakimi
ken n
Manuel Etchessahar
Woo-Mi Yoo
Thaís Roriz de Azevedo
Ikliil Guissi
Vicky
Lucie Guénette
Victoria Giler
Lianne Cote
Jing sun
Helen Xiang
Carole Zucker
Mathieu Friolo
laurence marquis
Lydia Udeh
Kathleen
Sandy
Zahra Daryaei
Zhangqiong Liu
Jiawen Luo
Randy Pinsky
Allison O'Reilly
Maryna Mazhynska
Adriana
Dorothy Spevack
Tomiwa Orolu
Ziwen Xu
Saidatu
Shirley McCarthy
Julie Turcotte
Ric Duenez
Jack Fortier
Jean-François Filion



Annexe 2: Acronyms

A

ACPL: L'Association canadienne des parcs et loisirs (Canadian Parks and Recreation Association)

AGA: Assemblée générale annuelle

AGM: Annual General Meeting

C

CA: Conseil d'administration

CACIS: Canada Approches communautaires et inégalités de santé (Canada Community approaches and health inequalities)

CCSMT: Centre de Coordination de Soins de Montréal-Terrebonne (Montreal-Terrebonne Care Coordination Center)

CDAH: Community Digital Arts Hub (Centre communautaire des arts numériques)

CDC: Corporation de développement communautaire

CDH: Concertation des directions d'habitation (Housing Directors' Group)

CDN: Côte-des-Neiges

CIUSSS: Centre universitaire intégré de santé et de services sociaux (Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre)

CJE: Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi

CMTQ: Coalition montréalaise des Tables de quartier (Montreal Coalition of Neighborhood Tables)

COMTL: Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (Integrated University Health and Social Services Center of the Centre-West of Montreal Island)

CPE: Centres de la petite enfance (Early childhood centres)

CRARR: Center for Research-Action on Races Relations

CSL: Côte-Saint-Luc

D

DCSLDS: Direction de la culture, des sports, des loisirs et du développement social (Department of Culture, Sports, Leisure and Social Development)

DRSP: Direction régionale de santé publique (Regional Public Health Department)

E

EDI: Équité, diversité et inclusion (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

EQDEM: Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la maternelle

EXO: EXO - Réseau de transport métropolitain (EXO - Metropolitan Transportation Network)



Annexe 2: Acronyms

F

FLAC: Fonds Lucie et André Chagnon

H

HCNDG: Housing Committee of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Comité du logement de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)

HLM: Habitations à loyer modique (low-cost housing)

HR: Human resources

I

INRS: Institut national de la recherche scientifique (National Institute of Scientific Research)

J

JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Justice, équité, diversité et inclusion)

L

LCSG: Logements Communautaires Et Solidaires Grand (Grand Community and Solidarity Housing)

M

MTESS: Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Solidarity)

MNA: Member of the National Assembly (député)

MP: Member of Parliament (député)

MVF-PE: Milieux de vie favorables - Petite enfance (Supportive living environments - Early childhood)

N

NDG: Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

O

OBNL: Organisme à but non lucratif (non-profit organisation)

OCF: Organisme Communautaire Famille (Family Community Organisation)

OMHM: Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (Municipal Housing Office of Montreal)

OSBL: Organisme sans but lucratif (Non-profit organisation)



Annexe 2: Acronyms

P

PAAL: Partageons le monde

PEP: Parents Engagés pour la Petite Enfance (Parents engaged in early childhood)

PIC: Projet Impact Collectif (Collective Impact Project)

PRIIIME: Programme de subvention à l'emploi (Employment Subsidy Program)

PSOC: Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires (Support program for community organisations)

Q

QCGN: Quebec Community Groups Network (Réseau des groupes communautaires québécois)

R

RICPEM: Regroupement des instances de concertation en petite enfance de Montréal (Coalition of Early Childhood Consultation Bodies in Montreal)

RIOCM: Regroupement intersectoriel des organismes communautaires de Montréal (Intersectoral Coalition of Montreal Community Organizations)

ROMEL: Regroupement des organismes du Montréal ethnique pour le logement (Coalition of Ethnic Montreal Organizations for Housing)

S

SAB: Soutien à l'action bénévole (Support for volunteer action)

SHDM: Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal (Housing and Development Corporation of Montreal)

SPVM: Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (Montreal Police Service)

W

WECRA: Westhaven Elmhurst Community Recreation Association (Association de loisirs communautaires de Westhaven Elmhurst)



Thank You!



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Programme de Soutien aux Organismes Communautaires

Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal



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