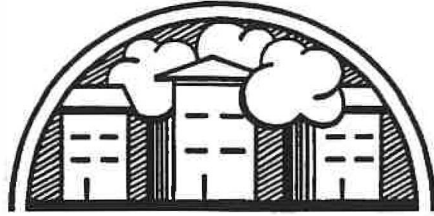


Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council

Annual Report

1994 - 1995



Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council

Annual Report

1994 - 1995

NDG Community Council 1994-95

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Steve Laudi, president
Mervyn Weekes, vice-president
Michèle Perron, vice-president
Charles Draimin, treasurer
Lisa Crevier, secretary

Directors

Philip Amsel
Zelda Freitas
Jim Olwell
Sheila Prupas
Gail Tedstone
Alena Valdystyn
Daphney Williams

Honorary members

Warren Allmand
Katie Hopkins
Anne Usher

Active committees in 1994-95

Food Needs committee
Housing committee
Membership committee
Forum committee
Evaluation committee
NDG 2000 Support and Action Committees

Staff

Permanent

Coordinator and Administrator: Isabelle Cotteceau
Community Development: Jason Hughes
Food-Depot Coordinator: Michael Kay
Info-Depot Coordinator: Laura Nicholson followed by Consuelo Guy
Housing Project Coordinator: David Over

Temporary

Administrative Assistants: Carlos Saavedra
CIRC: Gheorghe Nistor, Michel Paquette, Cecilia Garcia
Entrepreneur Centre: Carolyn Yates
Food-Depot Assistants: Alex Montreuil, Patricia West, Ramcharitar Jagdeo Singh
Housing Assistant: Sophia Gubbins
Info-Depot: Daniel Ahmad, William Meredith
NDG 2000: Cecilia Garcia
NDG Map: Giovanna Longhi
Reception: Nathalie Armstrong, Wieslawa Starczewska, Marguerite Giroux, Rodica Bunciuc

Students (stages)

Bart Whelton (Housing Project), Jenny Calder, Robert Fyfe (Food-Depot)

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Coordinator's Report	1
The Food Needs Project	2
The Food Depot	2
Statistics	2
Staff	2
Finances	2
Food Issues	2
Partnerships with other groups	3
Sub-Committees	3
Objectives 95-96	3
Info-Depot	3
Staff	3
Volunteers	4
Activities	4
Objectives 95-96	4
The Housing Comittee Projects	4
Housing Survey	4
Benny Farm	5
Coalition Work	5
HLM Campaign	6
Les Habitations Communautaires NDG	6
NDG Entrepreneur Centre	6
NDG 2000	7
The Public Security Action Committee	7
The Youth Action Committee	7
The Action Committee for Accessibility	7
CIRC (Interracial and Intercultural Coalition)	7
The NDG Caucus on Economic Development	7
Forums	7
Map of NDG	8
Community Development	8
Ressources Populaires	8
CDEC Côte-des-Neiges/NDG	8
Monkland Centre	9
Support to NDG Groups and Organizations	9
Participation in Various Events	9
Newsletters	9
Committee Work	9
Community Representation	10
The NDG Citizen of the Year Program	10
Financial statements	11

President's Message

Dear Members,

The past year at the Council has been a very fruitful one for the organization. Volunteer participation, partnerships with new groups and established organizations and support for new projects all continued to flourish. The Council continues to act as an important networking hub for local community development and is a very exciting place to be.

This year the Council took a page from the past by reformatting the Info-NDG resource guide of a few years ago. The result was a map of NDG listing the addresses and phone numbers of close to 300 local organizations and services. With its handy, user-friendly format the map was an instant success. The map project helped all to see the truly vast scope of community organizations, associations and institutions that work to make NDG the remarkable community that it is. In addition, the map worked to connect residents with groups that respond to their interests and needs.

The map was just one way that the Council worked to bring together local residents. New projects such as Les Habitations Communautaires NDG, growing projects such as the NDG Entrepreneur Centre and established projects such as the NDG Food Depot are able to function only through the interest and support of individuals who give their time and knowledge to improve the quality of life in NDG. We thank and congratulate those people for their tireless work.

I believe that the coming year will provide many opportunities for residents to participate in improving the quality of life in our community. We at the Council look forward to continuing our work this year and to establishing new leadership, dynamic partnerships and innovative mechanisms for community empowerment. We invite all of you to join us in this task.

*Steve Laudi
President*

Coordinator's Report

This year the NDG Community Council fulfilled its mandate of community development. We were involved in a great number of projects in collaboration with residents and local organizations to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. This was accomplished with the active involvement of a large number of volunteers and the constant support of a dedicated staff team.

We organized many public forums on various issues and worked to improve the visibility of the Food Depot and consolidate the service at Info-Depot. The Council also played a vital role in two committees of NDG 2000. This work included the production of a resource map of NDG and the organization of the Intercultural Festival in the Fall of 1994.

We have also developed an increased role in the area of community economic development. The Council is currently offering partial support to the NDG Entrepreneur Center as well as participating in the NDG Caucus on economic development. We are also represented on the board of the CDEC CDN/NDG by Arnold Bennett.

I would like to give special mention to the exceptional work done by the volunteers of the Housing Committee who have worked very hard on many dossiers. The committee worked very hard on the defense and the promotion of social housing in NDG and also established Les Habitations Communautaires de NDG (in collaboration with ROMEL) a non-profit housing corporation working to provide affordable housing for our community.

In addition, this year saw the launch of our new Citizen of the Year Program. The interest generated by this new program will ensure its continuation in the years to come.

The coming year will bring many new challenges but also new opportunities. I invite you to join us at the Council and work to build a better tomorrow for all of NDG.

Isabelle Cottenceau
Coordinator

Food Needs Project

The Food depot

1994-95 was a rough year for both the food depot and many of its service users. The number of people using our services skyrocketed. Some of these people needed to use our services more often and many were coming to us in more desperate situations: entirely without food or entirely without a source of income. However, on a brighter note, many positive steps were taken in terms of improving and rationalizing our services as well as building on our relations with the larger community. It is to be hoped that all of the above will allow the food depot to take part in more community-based and participatory projects. With the generalized attack aimed at demolishing Canada's social safety net, there is no other choice.

Statistics

This fiscal year is replete with shocking statistics on the rise of poverty in our neighborhood. The food depot served 20,470 people at the food bank itself, which is 18% more than fiscal 1993-4. We also gave food to people through our partnership projects: 51 people twice a month through Premier Pas and 90 seniors per month through the CLSC Côte-St-Luc program for isolated seniors. As usual, about 70 new households each month use the food depot for the first time.

A breakdown of these statistics also provides a clearer picture of the nature of poverty. 93% of our service users received welfare and only 1% UI while 3% had no income whatsoever. These highlight the fundamental cause of poverty: a lack of jobs. A study of government-supplied, poverty-related statistics put together by the food depot shows that the Helped-Wanted Index has halved since 1991, illustrating both levels of governments' lack of seriousness in dealing with poverty through job creation. The age distribution of food depot users illustrates the pervasive nature of poverty: each age category has a deep incidence of poverty, including those aged 20-34, prime working ages. Alarmingly, 29% of our service users are below the age of 14. Similarly, the language breakdown shows that poverty occurs in all cultural communities.

Staff

There was just one staff change at the food depot, Ramcharita Jagdeo Singh finished his Extra program. We thank him for his services to the food depot and wish him the best in the future. His place was taken by Nick Hlibchuk, who does general maintenance for the depot.

Finances

On a financial level, this was also a very rough year for the depot. Apart from the increase in service usage, which was a strain on the coffers, there were several factors which reduced the money we received. This Christmas the money we raised declined by about \$7000.00, mostly due to the fact that other food banks were collecting in our area. The contributions from foundations declined by about \$8000.00, mostly because we received unsolicited donations from foundations the year before.

Apart from buying food from suppliers at cheaper prices, we have made several other attempts to increase our funds. For the first time, we have had to have a food drive in the spring; which was fairly successful. It was comprised of a press conference, an Open House, a benefit choir concert, a sale of crafts by an artisans' collective and a soccer tournament. People were also invited to drop food off at various points around our service area and also to fill grocery bags that we had inserted in the Gazette. This last method was by far the most successful. In the future we also have plans to approach foundations, hold our annual spaghetti dinner and play softball to raise food.

Food Issues

Over the past year several changes have taken place in terms of the distribution of food. First, our "menu" was tinkered with to provide a more nutritious supply of groceries while trying to keep costs low. Therefore, we no longer give out meat -- too expensive and difficult to handle -- which we replaced with other foods. Additionally, we have looked for -- and found -- suppliers with cheaper prices for our staples. This has knocked a significant portion from our food budget, however we are really spending a bit more as we have had to keep pace with the 18% rise in service usage.

We have also started to have information on nutrition (recipes, shopping tips, hints on good nutrition, etc.) on hand. The CLSC had a nutritional information kiosk at the depot for a day and many people took advantage, asked questions and took the information offered. Plans are being made to produce a cookbook with recipes using food the depot gives out.

Partnerships with other groups

We maintained our links with several projects: Premier Pas/First Steps a nutrition and counseling program for pregnant women at high risk of giving birth to low-weight babies; the Young Parents Program, a support group for young parents providing access to supplies, information and recreation; and the Community Senior Meal Services Committee whose mandate is to ensure that all seniors have access to food regardless of the physical, cognitive or financial situation.

We have also been involved in other new partnership projects. Together with the CLSC in Côte-St-Luc, we provided food to isolated seniors and other people in their building in the Snowdon area while the CLSC provided the organizational component: a structure, regular meetings, support and information. Right now, the program is being entirely run by the participants themselves, with the food depot still providing food. We are also involved in a group composed of West End food banks that is now sharing material and intellectual resources and hopes to work together on fundraising and publicizing issues of poverty. Also, we are working with La Coalition pour la survie des programmes sociaux which is a city-wide coalition organizing actions dealing with threats to social programs. We also participated in the NDG Ad-Hoc Coalition for the Axworthy Commission (see below).

We have also received a great deal of help from local churches and schools. A thank you to all of these groups for their invaluable support.

Sub-Committees

There are two sub-committees of the Food Needs Committee: autonomy and fundraising. The autonomy sub-committee was established to examine the question of whether it was feasible for the food depot to separate from the Community Council. It has had several meetings and produced an interim report stating that autonomy is feasible but must be approached with caution. The fundraising sub-committee has just been

established and has yet to meet, but its aim will be to improve the depot's financial position.

Objectives 95-96

The main objective this year is to improve our financial situation, many of the means to be used are described above. Also, we would like to work with other food banks on both fundraising and sensitization. We will re-evaluate our entire operation.

Info-Depot

The NDG Info-Depot is an information, referral and advocacy service operating out of the same location as the Food Depot. It provides Food Depot service users and others in the local population support in accessing information on welfare, Unemployment Insurance, job training programs, community resources, housing and much more. In an informal, yet structured setting, the Info-Depot assists its service users in acquiring the information they need to resolve problems and access information on their rights and responsibilities. When necessary, it advocates to ensure that the rights of these individuals are respected by organizations and the institutions that serve them. For many of these people the information provided through the Info-Depot offers assistance with long term effects. The experience of getting help from a stranger who treats you respectfully as a community member, the discovery that problems can be solved and difficult situations resolved through effort and cooperation; and the understanding that change can be affected and closed doors opened are empowering realizations. By providing answers, Info-Depot helps improve the quality of life of an individual.

The Info-Depot is currently open two afternoons a week, Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm to 4pm. With an immediate potential client base of 4000 people (individual service users of the Food Depot)

Staff

The Info-Depot has had two staff changes in the last year. Daniel Ahmad was replaced by Laura Nicholson in the fall of 1994. Laura left when she got a full-time job at Project PAL in Verdun. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Dan and Laura for the fine jobs they did. The new coordinator is Consuelo Guy, who replaced Laura

in March of 1995. Consuelo did a year STAGE at the Food Depot in 1991-92 and has recently finished her studies in Social Counseling.

Volunteers

The Info-Depot has been blessed with five wonderful volunteers in the last year. Marcey Selman, Connie Blair, Carol McQueen, Wanda Dutkiewicz and Elena Medici answer the phones and respond to walk-in service users on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The volunteers have participated in various training sessions such as Welfare Workshops with St. Columbia House and The Coalition For The Rights of Welfare Recipients.

Activities

Although the Info-Depot is only open six hours a week, this year we received almost 700 requests for information, referral and occasionally the need for advocacy.

Welfare:	123
Housing:	144
Taxes:	200
Other:	228

The Info-Depot held its second annual Tax Clinic in March 1995. Again it was a great success and 56 welfare recipients had their Federal and Provincial taxes completed for free. The demand was far greater than we were able to accommodate, therefore many people had to be referred to other organizations.

The Info-Depot in conjunction with the Housing Committee of the NDG Community Council, the Senior Citizens Council, and the New Hope Center for Seniors participated in a major campaign to get more people to apply for HLM housing (Habitation Loyer Modique). Over 7,000 pamphlets were distributed. The Info-Depot provided assistance to individuals in filling out the application forms for these units.

Objectives 1995-1996

- To work in concertation with the Food Depot and Housing Committee in a way that maximizes use of resources.
- To keep up to date with the various changes in the Welfare, Legal Aid and Unemployment laws and policies and pass this information on to the service users and the general public.

- Outreach to the sector of the population that are not Food Depot service users. This will be done by launching a campaign of house to house distribution of pamphlets, and working with the media.
- To improve the service of the Info-Depot, there will be ongoing volunteer training, continual expansion of our referral capabilities through updated books and networking with other organizations.
- To diversify how we disseminate information: for example we will have a Moving Clinic in June and by holding informational sessions.

The Housing Committee Projects

The Housing Committee of the NDG Community Council is a table of local organizations and individuals interested in the promotion of social and affordable housing and the related issues of urban planning and tenants rights. The committee believes that housing is a fundamental social right. It works to make residents aware of the causes of housing problems and encourages them to work collectively to improve conditions through the promotion of policy alternatives, and participation in specific actions and projects.

The past year has seen major changes in the role of the Council around housing issues. In June 1994 the Housing Project of the Council was closed. The result of this decision was the loss of the permanent full time staff person in charge of the housing dossier and the closing of the tenants" information line. While this change meant that the Housing Committee was without full-time staff support for most of the past year it did not stop the Committee from being involved in local housing issues.

Housing Survey

In the late autumn of 1994 the committee began a comprehensive survey of private and public rental housing in NDG. The survey was conducted by telephone with volunteers calling local residents to ask them questions concerning their apartments. Unfortunately the volunteers had difficulty finding residents interested in participating in the survey and the project was never completed. The Committee is currently re-evaluating the project.

Benny Farm

It has been four years since the redevelopment of Benny Farm was first announced and local residents still do not have a clear idea as to when construction will begin on the first barrier free units for the current residents.

In the fall of 1994, the redevelopment proposal of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), upon the recommendation of the Bureau de Consultation de Montreal (BCM), was finally approved by Montreal City Council. While the city refused the BCM recommendation that the CMHC be allowed to demolish all of the buildings on the site it, for the most part, agreed to the proposals of the CMHC. The federal agency was granted its wish to sell off 2/3 of the 16 acre site for the construction of some 800 condominiums.

Since that time the Committee has continued to take an interest in the project. To date that interest has focused on five key issues. They are:

- 1) When the construction of the units for the current residents will begin. *At the time of this writing, the Committee has no clear indication as to when construction will begin although there is some talk of a late summer groundbreaking.*
- 2) How long is the CMHC willing to wait for an acceptable offer on the remaining 2/3 of the land. *The Minister responsible for the CMHC has indicated, in a letter dated December 13, 1994, that:*
"There is no standard as to how long CMHC might be willing to wait to sell a given piece of land. Judgements of this nature are made depending on the specific circumstances of each case." This response does nothing to alleviate local concerns that Benny Farm will become an urban hole if the redevelopment process continues over many years.
- 3) Offering support to Warren Allmand M.P. in his efforts to obtain a copy of the Federal Treasury Board mandate, concerning the redevelopment of Benny Farm, through the Freedom of Information Act. *To date we have no information regarding Mr. Allmand's efforts to obtain this document.*
- 4) That the current waiting list be re-opened so that veterans or other seniors can have access to the barrier free units that are being built. *The proposals to date make no provision for*

continued subsidized access for veterans or seniors, beyond the current residents, in the new units.

- 5) That non-profit groups be granted a right of first refusal on the remaining 2/3 of the land so that these units can be developed as true affordable housing. *Minister Dingwall has said that he will look into this option but to date we have received no firm answer regarding this request.*

The concerns surrounding the redevelopment of Benny Farm continue to be of interest to the Committee. We believe that there remains a willingness to create a community based alternative to the CMHC's proposals. An alternative that would include space for the veterans currently on the waiting list, the many young working adults who cannot afford to buy homes in NDG, the growing number of low-income seniors who have no assured place in the new development and the thousands who could benefit from geared to income housing.

While the community anxiously waits to see how developers will fair in their efforts to sell these 800 condos (at an estimated cost of between \$135,000 and \$150,000 per unit) the committee will continue to monitor the project.

Coalition work

The Committee continues to be involved in two provincial coalitions actively working to improve social housing and tenants rights in Quebec.

FRAPRU: Le Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain is a province wide coalition active in the promotion and the protection of social housing in Quebec.

RCLALQ: Le Regroupement des Comités logements et Associations des locataires du Québec is a province wide coalition that's main purpose is to promote justice for tenants' rights within the parameters of the Civil Code.

The Housing Committee maintained its participatory membership with the coalitions and supported campaigns through letters and petitions. Due to the loss of the staff person responsible for housing the Committee was unable to take an active role in these coalitions. The Committee will be discussing ways to address this situation in the months to come.

HLM Campaign

In March of this year, the Committee, in conjunction with other community organizations, launched a publicity campaign to encourage residents who are eligible for subsidized housing to get their names on the Office Municipal d'Habitation (OMH) waiting lists for HLM (Habitation Loyer Modique) units.

The campaign was in response to efforts by the OMH to cut back the number of housing units available to seniors by over 1000 units, 100 of which were in NDG. The OMH claimed that the declining number of seniors on the waiting lists justified this action.

The Committee felt that the current waiting lists did not adequately reflect the real needs of the community and it was clear that the OMH had done little to promote the waiting lists for these units in communities across the city. It is for this reason that local community groups took on the task themselves.

Over 5000 English and 2000 French pamphlets have been printed and distributed to over 50 locations in the community. Residents interested in applying for an HLM unit can receive support from The NDG Senior Citizens' Council, The New Hope Centre for Seniors and the NDG Info-Depot. The campaign will continue into the summer with OMH waiting lists being monitored to gauge the effectiveness of the campaign.

Recently the OMH decided to reevaluate its decision to cut back the number of seniors units across the city. This reevaluation saw some of the buildings slated for conversion allowed to keep their original vocation and others given a one year moratorium on conversion. The effect of this locally was a reprieve given to the residents of Les Habitations St. Raymond. This reprieve was the result of much effort on the part of HLM tenants and local organizations to pressure the OMH to recognize the need for low-cost housing for seniors. All those involved in the campaign to get the OMH to change its decision deserve our thanks and congratulations.

Les Habitations Communautaires NDG

For years community organizations have worked to develop more effective and self-reliant means of providing long term affordable housing for low and middle income earners. In the fall of 1994 various members of the Committee began work on

a project that has dramatic potential to respond to this issue as well as being a profound developmental tool and a service link in NDG. This group, composed primarily of volunteers, began working with ROMEL (Regroupement des organismes du Montréal ethnique pour le logement) on setting up a community non-profit housing corporation for NDG.

In March of this year, Les Habitations Communautaires NDG was born. A primary aim of the group is to create a democratic and widely representative group that would use local expertise, resources and labour to create adequate and affordable housing in our community. In addition the group would like to investigate the possibility of setting up a local Community Land Trust (CLT). A community land trust is a private non-profit corporation set up to acquire lands in a community and hold them in perpetuity for the use and benefit of local and future residents.

Recently the group purchased its first two buildings located at 4850 and 4870 Walkley. The buildings had been almost completely vacant for most of the past decade and were in serious need of renovation. They also presented an excellent opportunity to make an important community intervention. This work will be done through the summer and the group is looking at a September or October occupancy date.

This project shows the commitment of local individuals, using their own resources, to act creatively around issues of local housing and development.

The Committee asked the Council to provide minimal staff support (one day per week) to aid the developmental group in its applications for funding and in establishing itself as a non-profit corporation.

The NDG Entrepreneur Centre

The idea of a local Entrepreneur Centre to help establish a strong, local centre for community economic development became a reality this year. Through hard work, patience and good fortune the NDG Entrepreneur Centre established itself as a multi-business office centre with clear objectives to promote community job training programs, entrepreneurial training and entrepreneurship.

This year the Centre celebrated its first year of operation by moving to larger premises at 2110 Décarie, suite 100. From last year's modest beginnings in 1000 sq.ft. of office space to this year's expansion to over 4000 sq. ft. (with 16 offices and over 500 sq. ft. available for meeting and training space) the centre is poised to be an important player in local community economic development.

With the increase in space came an increase in the client base and expanded community input into the role and direction of the Centre. The Centre currently has 9 resident office-service users. Revenues generated from these clients provide the Centre with its core funding (covering overhead costs but not including salaries) essentially making the project self-financing. Our current financial projections indicate that the Centre will be able to hire at least one staff person on a full time basis in September 1995. Until that time the Centre is benefiting from a job development grant (PDE) from the federal government that provides staff and staff training for four people.

Over the next year the Centre will concentrate on building its training programs so that it may offer innovative and relevant programs to the NDG community.

The Centre recently established itself as a non-profit corporation and its Board of Directors is currently working on By-Laws to guide the organizations structure and development. The Council continues to offer support to the Centre by providing staff to the project two days per week.

NDG 2000

In the past year the Support Committee for NDG 2000 (a standing committee of the Council) has continued to work to organize the quarterly general assemblies of NDG 2000 where members shared information and discussed various issues.

Thanks to a VMS grant (Vivre Montréal en Santé), the support committee was able to hire a part-time staff (Cecilia Garcia) to coordinate support of the coalition. The grant also permitted an increased visibility and support to citizens' participation and to committees' actions in the community.

This year, NDG 2000 action committees continued to work on different issues.

After its public meeting concerning security in NDG parks, the **Public Security Action Committee** continued to be very active trying to implement needed changes in the community and working on its security audits of other public places. Working from Tandem NDG office, it also organized a very successful Tour de NDG à bicyclette in the Spring of 94.

The Youth Action Committee set up a very successful Youth Job Bank during the Summer months. Manon Deslauriers was hired on a CHALLENGE program. She enlisted more than 40 youths and found work for most of them doing a variety of jobs. The program continued to run on a part-time basis for the Fall and Winter months from the Head & Hands' office.

The Action Committee for Accessibility worked in conjunction with the Community Council on the production of the resource map of NDG in which it included a list of accessible government buildings in NDG. The map was published and distributed during the Winter months.

CIRC (Interracial and Intercultural Coalition) was extremely busy preparing an Intercultural Festival (October 1-10) to celebrate NDG's cultural diversity. More than 20 different ethnic communities presented their cultural richness and variety through many activities (dance, theater, music, arts and crafts, Interfaith Service, etc.). A few thousand people participated in this successful week and the committee is busy preparing its next Festival for the Autumn of 95.

The NDG Caucus on Economic Development became again an NDG 2000 action committee. The Caucus continued to evaluate and support local initiatives as well as working with the local CDEC.

Forums

The Forum Committee of the NDG Community Council held 8 public Forums in 1994-95 :

- Meet your M.P: Warren Allmand, on April 11, 1994.
- Meet the Candidates Night (Provincial elections) on August 30, 1994.
- Meet the Candidates Forums for the 1994 Municipal elections on October 17 (NDG

district), October 20 (Décarie district) and October 26 (Loyola district).

- Working: Jobs in a new Economy, on November 24, 1994
- Perception of violence in our community, on February 20, 1995

Attendance and media coverage varied for each of these meetings. Overall, more than 500 persons were directly involved in these activities.

Map of NDG

The NDG Community Council along with NDG 2000 Action Committee on Accessibility produced a Community Resource Map. This map was the result of a collective effort. Data collection was begun, in the Spring of 94, by Giovanna Longhi a volunteer at the Council. Giovanna was then hired through a Summer Employment Program and worked closely with members of the NDG 2000 Action Committee on Accessibility. Last Autumn, the information gathered was checked again with the help of the NDG Senior Citizens' Council and the Service des Loisirs, des Parcs et du Développement Communautaire de la Ville de Montréal.

Thanks to a grant from Vivre Montréal en Santé, 10,000 copies of the map have been printed and most of them distributed free of charge with the help of community organizations and institutions throughout NDG. Another distribution of the map is scheduled for the Summer months and aimed at new arrivals in the community.

Community Development

Ressources Populaires

The Ressources Populaires is a local coalition of community groups dealing with issues of poverty and community development. This year the Council and the Food Depot both took a more active role in the Ressources Populaires. Staff members Michael Kay and Jason Hughes were elected President and Treasurer respectively.

The organization's mandate is to purchase a building for all member groups as well as offering member groups financial support. Last fall a student stagiaire was hired to complete a study

looking at the feasibility of the coalition buying a building. The study was deposited with the group in February of this year and although many of the questions posed by the group had not been answered the main obstacle was clear; the group did not have enough money to buy a building of sufficient size for all member groups. The report looked at what it would mean for the group to finance a mortgage over the course of twenty years and in the final analysis the group felt that it would be impossible.

At that point a meeting was held to determine what course of action to take in light of this information. After much discussion it was decided that it might be feasible for the group to purchase a building for one or two of the member groups. Currently a sub-committee is looking into this possibility.

Ressources Populaires meets on a bi-monthly basis and provides an excellent opportunity for local groups dealing with issues of poverty in NDG to exchange information.

CDEC Côte-des-Neiges/NDG

The Council continues to be involved in the local CDEC. This year Arnold Bennett volunteered to represent the Council on the CDEC board. It was an eventful year at the CDEC. In the summer of last year the NDG Caucus on Economic Development decided that it was necessary to adopt a common position to push the CDEC to respond to NDG's needs in community economic development (CED). Some local organizations felt that the CDEC had become too bureaucratic and that not enough concrete work was being done to support local CED projects. This effort was successful and individuals were found to represent NDG at the CDEC.

Through the establishment of various committees the CDEC began a process of re-evaluating its action plan and orientations. The result of this process was that many of the long standing positions of NDG organizations were reflected in the action plan.

These included:

- 1) Taking control of setting the criteria for government employability and small business development programs. (This would mean that the CDEC would not just be administering directives passed on by the government).

- 2) Hiring staff specifically assigned to do CED work in the two communities of the arrondissement.
- 3) Consolidating and supporting projects already developed by the community. Particular emphasis was placed on Charade de Modes and FRAME (projects of the NDG Anti-Poverty Group) and the NDG Entrepreneur Centre. The aim of this support is to make them self-sufficient within two years.

The Council will continue to be involved with the CDEC CDN/NDG.

Monkland Centre

With Huguette Moreau as our representative on the board of the Monkland Centre, the Council was able to continue its work at this important community centre.

Support to NDG groups and organizations

Over the year, the NDG Community Council was solicited on numerous occasions to provide support for emerging groups and organizations. It varied from giving simple advice on how to fill up incorporation papers to ongoing support through all the stages of becoming independent. The Council's board worked on preparing a tool to screen increased demands and, at the same time, facilitate this support.

In 1994-95, the NDG Community Council provided concrete help to the NDG Babysitting Cooperative. Although the NDG Babysitting Cooperative is now an independent organization, the NDG Community Council collaborated in producing a Parents Ressource Guide for their members.

The NDG Community Council also helped organize and promote the NDG Community Christmas Dinner. Thanks to coordinator Susan Clark, this event was again a big community success with the participation of more than 500 people!

Participation in Various Events

Steve Laudi, our president, was invited to oversee the official opening of Sherbrooke Forest Tenants' Centre and underlined the Council's involvement in this organization.

The Council was also present at the special Family Day Event organized by the CLSC NDG-Mt. O. at the Monkland Centre. Info-Depot organized a booth that presented the Council's activities.

As usual, the NDG Community Council had a booth at the annual Sunday in the Park organized by Head & Hands in the Summer of 94.

We also attended a special student's day at the McGill School of Social Work where we met many potential students interested in our services.

This year again, the NDG Community Council participated in Centraide's effort to mobilize volunteers and donators in the western part of the city. A special event was held to that effect in the Autumn of 94 at Plaza Côte-des-Neiges.

Newsletters

Five newsletters were published this year summarizing the Council's activities and inviting the Council's members to participate.

Committee work

Two other committees were very active this year:

The membership committee launched a membership campaign in the Spring of 95. NDG citizens were solicited at our various activities and a pilot mail campaign was set up. The committee also looked at more innovative ways of increasing the NDG Community Council's visibility in the community such as the NDG Citizen of the Year Program.

The evaluation committee looked carefully at the Council's role and activities in our community over the year. Its basic mandate was to present recommendations to the Board of the Council. The evaluation committee was scheduled to report at the beginning of the 1995-96 year.

Community Representation

The Community Council participated in an NDG initiative to present a brief to the Axworthy Commission on reform of social programs. Although hamstrung by a very restrictive schedule -- in which groups were given about one month to read, think about, organize with other groups, respond to, write and ratify the various documents

-- we prepared what we think to be a very useful report. Our main emphasis was that beyond questions of justice and equality, maintaining and increasing social programs was good for the larger economy. We pointed to the factors that led to the Great Depression and to those solutions which made the economy boom: wealth redistribution in favor of the wealthy in the case of the former and wealth redistribution to the workers and low-income people in the latter. Therefore, we recommended that social programs should be reformed, but from the point of view of improving them by increasing their range and, in many cases, their level of payments. Additionally, we recommended -- as a means to ensure fair treatment, economically and socially -- a Guaranteed Annual Income as the main foundation of a social safety net. We met with a cool reception from the committee, half of the committee members were not even present and in the question period following our presentation there was not one question that pertained to the ideas expressed in our report.

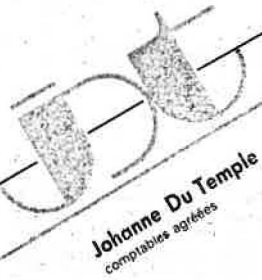
The NDG Community Council also prepared a brief concerning the Montréal's Public Consultation Policy. Here again, although we had a very restrictive schedule, community organizations were invited to share their concerns over this issue. We prepared and later presented a short brief where we discussed actual and potential means of improving public consultation process. We underlined the importance of public consultation but also wanted to see improvements in the full process, including a comprehensive information about public consultation as well as a more transparent decision making process.

The NDG Citizen of the Year Program

This new program, an initiative of the Membership committee, wants to encourage and recognize the contribution of the many individuals who, through their initiative, volunteer involvement or outstanding work are improving the quality of life of the NDG community and its residents.

NDG citizens and organizations were solicited to submit nominations for this year's program. The jury, composed of Miriam Green, an NDG resident and former head of Ville-Marie Social Services, Dr. Denis Roy, from the Département de Santé Communautaire, and Mr. Jean Morin, head of St-Luc school had to select from a number of very impressive nominations and its choice was difficult. Finally, two persons were selected as co-winners for their outstanding contribution to the NDG community in 1994: David Woodsworth and Anna Cockerton.

They were both honored at the awards reception held at the Monkland Centre before our 1995 Annual General Meeting. Steve Laudi, president of the NDG Community Council, underlined the importance of the contributions made by all nominees and the model they represent for all of us.



Auditors' report

To the members of
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council Inc.

We have audited the balance sheet of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Council Inc. as of March 31st, 1995, and the statements of Accumulated surplus, Fixed assets surplus, and Revenue and Expenses for the year ended. These Financial Statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Council derives revenue from the public in fundraising activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Council and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, assets and surplus.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the donations referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council as at March 31st, 1995 as well as the results of operations for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles set out in note 2, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Johanne Du Temple

Chartered Accountants

Montreal, 19 April 1995

1255 Université bur. 306
Montreal (Quebec)
H3A 2B4
Tel.: (514) 393-9270
Fax: (514) 374-0827

Notre Dame de Grace Community Council Inc.

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 1995

ASSETS

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 11,012	\$ 24,946
Accounts receivable	11,240	9,361
Prepaid expenses	354	543
	<u>\$22,606</u>	<u>\$ 34,850</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Computer equipment - at cost	12,883	10,630
Office equipment - at cost	715	715
Accumulated depreciation	(9,623)	(8,977)
	<u>3,975</u>	<u>2,368</u>
	<u>\$ 26,581</u>	<u>\$ 37,218</u>

LIABILITIES

CURRENT		
Account payable - note 3	9,534	\$ 9,566
Deferred contributions - note 4	3,775	16,329
Current portion of long term debt note 5	1,916	-
	<u>15,225</u>	<u>25,895</u>
LONG TERM DEBT		
Long term debt - note 5	631	-
	<u>15,856</u>	<u>25,895</u>

EQUITY

Accumulated surplus	6,750	8,955
Fixed assets surplus	3,975	2,368
	<u>10,725</u>	<u>11,323</u>
	<u>\$ 26,581</u>	<u>\$ 37,218</u>

Statement of accumulated surplus

for the year ended 31 March 1995

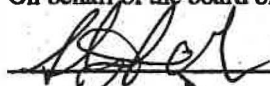
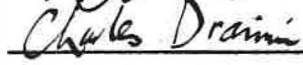
	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 8,955	\$ 10,621
Deficit for the year	(2,205)	(1,666)
	<u>\$ 6,750</u>	<u>\$ 8,955</u>
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 6,750</u>	<u>\$ 8,955</u>

Statement of fixed assets surplus

for the year ended 31 March 1995

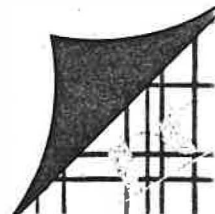
	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 2,368	\$ 2,059
Plus : Acquisition of the year	2,253	1,234
Less: Depreciation for the year	(646)	(925)
	<u>\$3,975</u>	<u>\$ 2,368</u>
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$3,975</u>	<u>\$ 2,368</u>

On behalf of the board of directors


 _____, Director

 _____, Director

Statement of revenue and expense
for the year ended 31 March 1995

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
REVENUE		
Self-financing general		
Membership fees	1,588	1,744
Donations	1,070	552
Insurance and tax refund	4,352	-
Interest	-	120
GST and PST refund previous years	-	3,045
Miscellaneous	668	164
	<u>7,678</u>	<u>5,625</u>
Self-financing Food Needs committee		
Sublease	5,015	5,157
Donations	50,585	53,311
Subscription campaign	2,164	1,751
Ministère des Affaires municipales et d'Etat au développement des régions	3,000	3,000
GST and PST refund previous years	-	1,064
Interest	-	157
Miscellaneous	1,986	-
	<u>62,750</u>	<u>64,440</u>
Grants and projects		
Centraide Montreal - General activities and research	112,350	112,350
Direction générale de l'éducation des adultes	2,398	3,980
Ministère des Affaires municipales et d'Etat au développement des régions	1,000	1,000
Programme Aide Intégration Emploi	7,165	5,475
Employment and Immigration Canada		
Job development Program	-	1,714
Challenge Program - Summer employment	2,145	-
Article 25	3,000	-
CSSSRMM - Program EXTRA	6,700	6,400
Inter-Week project	-	564
NDG 2000 Projects		
Fundraising event Festival	1,084	-
MAIICC	12,500	4,500
Vivre Montréal en Santé	15,629	-
Entrepreneur centre project	32,552	6,868
	<u>197,063</u>	<u>142,851</u>
	<u>267,491</u>	<u>212,916</u>
EXPENSES		
Operations - schedule	113,078	96,367
Food Needs committee - note 6	62,750	64,440
Housing Project	5,816	20,330
MAIICC	-	3,650
Direction générale de l'éducation des adultes	-	228
Programme EXTRA	8,634	5,520
Job Development Program	-	1,714
Programme Aide Intégration Emploi	7,336	5,828
Programme Article 25	3,054	-
Challenge Program - Summer employment	2,075	-
NDG 2000	28,304	-
Entrepreneur Centre Project	34,856	9,727
Administration - schedule	6,221	8,928
Current GST and PST refund	(2,428)	(2,150)
	<u>269,696</u>	<u>214,582</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ (2,205)</u>	<u>\$ (1,666)</u>



Notes to the financial statements

31 March 1995

Note 1 Statute and nature of activities

The COUNCIL is incorporated under Part III of the Quebec companies Act and is a non-profit organization. The COUNCIL is registered as a charitable organization. The purpose of the COUNCIL is to act as a clearing-house for the promotion of social welfare in the community, to organize, operate and support community projects.

Note 2 Significant accounting policies

Grants

Grant revenues are recorded on the basis of the expenses incurred and the estimates approved by granting agencies.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are expensed in the period of acquisition. They are presented on the balance sheet at cost less depreciation, calculated using the declining balance method, at 30% per year.

Fixed assets surplus

Fixed assets surplus represents the net value of fixed assets. Acquisition of fixed assets increases the fixed assets surplus and depreciation reduces it.

	1995	1994
Note 3 Accounts payable		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 3,918	\$ 4,486
Accruals	5,616	5,080
	<u>\$ 9,534</u>	<u>\$ 9,566</u>

Note 4 Deferred contributions

Fundraising proceeds not used - Food Needs Com.	3,404	13,829
MAIICC	-	2,500
Vivre Montréal en Santé	371	-
	<u>\$ 3,775</u>	<u>\$ 16,329</u>

Note 5 Long term debt (Entrepreneur Centre project)

Term loan, interest 9.5 %, monthly payments of \$161, principal and interest, maturing August 1, 1996.	\$ 2,547	\$-
Less : Current portion	(1,916)	-
	<u>\$ 631</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Note 6 Food Needs committee and Entrepreneur project expenses

The utilization of funds was not audited. Each committee has a separate bank account and keep separate books. In the statement of revenue and expense, the amounts presented are as registered in the books of the committees during the year.

Note 7 Statement of changes in financial position

The statement of changes in financial position has not been prepared since it would add no relevant information for the financial statement readers.

Schedule

Operation and administration fees

for the year ended 31 March 1995

	1995	1994
OPERATION FEES		
Salaries and benefits	\$84,885	\$ 67,892
Office expenses, printing and photocopies	3,645	2,587
Rent and maintenance	12,660	12,499
Telephone and heating	3,321	3,688
External representation	353	-
Transportation	-	1,967
Memberships	386	418
Acquisition of fixed assets	2,253	1,395
Equipment rental	3,332	2,699
Programs	1,489	186
Staff training	413	192
Training and work expenses	-	378
Sublease refund	-	1750
Miscellaneous and variance	341	716
	<u>\$113,078</u>	<u>\$ 96,367</u>

ADMINISTRATION FEES

Insurance and taxes	\$ 2,941	\$ 3,062
Professional fees	2,822	5,604
Bank charges	458	262
	<u>\$6,221</u>	<u>\$ 8,928</u>

