

**Conseil communautaire de
Notre-Dame-de-Grace
Community Council**

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UN ORGANISME DE
AN AGENCY OF



Centralde
Montreal

1988 - 89

ANNUAL REPORT

**NDG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
1988-89**

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THE NDG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1942, the NDG Community Council is a volunteer based community organization which enables people to work together to improve the quality of life in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. The Council is a registered non-profit organization funded by Centraide which also relies on the support of individual donors.

As a local coordinating body committed to promoting social change, the Council organizes and supports new projects in response to the needs arising from the community. Over the years this work has fostered the development of various independent organizations that play an active and vital role in the community.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

This year the executive and board of the Community Council continued to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee made in 1986/1987. Plans have been made for a fundraising event which we hope to hold in the fall. Membership and publicity were studied and one result has been the updating of the brochure which describes the aims and activities of the Council and which has a membership form attached. It is hoped that this will make it easier for people to join. The progress of three standing committees of the council i.e. Food Needs, Police Relations and Housing were reviewed.

The Council moved to its new premises during the summer. Staff members now have their own offices and there is space for meetings which has made life considerably easier for everyone. An open house was held on May 18th.

We were saddened by the resignation of Sharmaine Nelles in October. A selection committee was formed and the position advertised. We feel very fortunate to have Denise Ainsworth as our new coordinator. She has proven to be a very able worker and her dedication, quiet humour and expertise are much appreciated.

WORK OF THE YEAR

The standing committees of the Council achieved excellent results due to their hard work over the year. All three committees have attracted knowledgeable and dedicated workers from throughout the community. At the first forum of the year those present were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding future subjects for forums. Based on these results the forum subject matter was selected. It is clear that issues still exist in N.D.G. many of

which were raised during the forums. The Council next year will study its role in helping to address some of the issues raised. The Classical Music Festival had another successful year. Board members have been working closely with the volunteer organizers of the Festival to try to find new sponsorship of this event.

A newsletter was started in the late winter to inform members and groups about the activities of the Council and other organizations in N.D.G. It was thought that there was lack of information about new projects, new organizations etc. and that a newsletter would be helpful in keeping people up to date about community resources.

Board members have been involved in almost all aspects of the Council's work. Some board members have been involved with one or more of the standing committees of the Council and have given enormous amounts of their time and expertise. Thanks are owed to all board members who contributed so much during the course of the year. We would to thank our outgoing board members Anne-Marie Normandeau, Shari Polowin, David Mason, Irwin Davies and Ray Parry, our treasurer. Ray has done an outstanding job in ensuring the financial viability of the Council, however he will not be able to continue as treasurer for a while due to personal reasons. We wish to thank him for all that he has contributed and wish him well in the future. We would also like to mention Paulette Arsenault, Brian Webber, Marianne Smith and Kim Brown who were unable to continue on the board and submitted resignations during the course of the year.

Centraide has increased the allocation for 1989/90 year so that three quarters of the salary of the food depot worker are covered. The remaining one quarter of the salary will be the responsibility of the Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The orientation of new members to the Board of the Community Council took place on September 17, 1988. Because of the long summer period between this meeting and the Annual Meeting in June, 1988 - and, because of on-going Council business - Board members attended a special meeting on June 20, 1988. From September, 1988 through May, 1989, there were twelve Board meetings - with the duties of Recording Secretary and Chair shared by Board members. Various sub-committees of the Board that dealt with matters related to finance, fund-raising, special events such as the Classical Piano Festival and membership convened often and informally through the 1988-89 Council year.

The Executive of the Community Council convened monthly from August, 1988 through May, 1989 - with two special meetings

occurring in October, 1988 to discuss Board objectives for the new year. The roles of Chair and Recording Secretary during 1988-89 were shared by Executive members. The role of Corresponding Secretary for the Board/Executive of the NDG Community Council was undertaken by Nancy Miller.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our finances at the end of March, 1988 show that the Council has operated at a credit and that we have managed to function at our new, larger premises on a sound financial basis.

This year, we received a Job Development Grant that was applied for in conjunction with the NDG YMCA and Head and Hands. We also received a Challenge '88 Grant and provincial grants from the Ministere de l'Education (O.V.E.P.) and local constituencies.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The many accomplishments of the Council as illustrated in this annual report are due to the careful planning, goal setting, team spirit and effort of many individuals. Since starting to work at the Council in November of 1988, I have been able to witness firsthand their active participation, hard work and commitment and it has been my great pleasure to work with them.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their involvement in meetings and in sharing tasks ranging from chairing monthly forums to organizing events such as our recent open house. Apart from attending regular board meetings some members of the board have also been active on various other Council committees such as Pam Dillon who chairs the Food Needs Committee and has participated in meetings about the Classical Piano Festival and Sandra Frosst who sits on the executive, the Food Needs Committee and chairs its Fundraising Committee as well as the Police Relations Committee. In addition, I would like to give the executive members Barbara Davis, Nancy Miller, Sandra Frosst, Liesel Urtnowski and Ray Parry a special thanks for the support and guidance they have provided to me. I have especially appreciated their openness to give and receive feedback on the work we do together.

Another team of individuals that I feel privileged to work with are the staff of the Council. Karen Takacs who coordinates the Housing Programme and Edward Cho who coordinates the Food Needs Project have proven themselves to be extremely capable and enthusiastic in their approach to the daily challenges of their work. We have also been fortunate to have on staff since

January, Stephanie Aylwin, who was hired on as an administrative assistant as part of a Job Development Training Program. Working in tandem with them in the office has been a very rewarding and motivating experience.

Much of the "behind the scenes" work in the office is to the credit of the following volunteers who at some point during the past year provided us with invaluable technical support. Our thanks go to Thelma Solin, Diane Pfeiffer and Fran Rourke, our typists; Daniel Touvette, Rita Frohlich, John Televantos and Alice Cousineau who were busy with a variety of office tasks and to our translators, Normand Lebeau, Richard Lemieux, Bertrand St-Arnaud and Huguette Moreau.

We would also like to express our appreciation to members from our community who devote so much time and energy to take part in the work of the Food Depot and the Food Needs Committee, the Housing Information Service, the Housing Committee and the Police Relations Committee. Once again this year, Milda Ruffo and Aileen Kilbertus did the tremendous job of organizing the Classical Piano Festival and we extend to them our gratitude for their commitment to this unique event. A special mention of appreciation also goes to Nancy Miller for her diligence in helping with the preparations for the Festival and for her liaison work with the Festival organizers in the ongoing quest to find a new sponsor.

As well this year we have had a dedicated group of students from CEGEPs and universities in the Montreal area who have greatly assisted us in carrying out the work of the Council. My personal thanks go out to Denise Boyer, Sandra Leslie and Jason Andreola, students from Dawson College who worked with me and with members of the Police Relations Committee to carry out a research project with senior citizens.

We have been pleased to "reintroduce" our newsletter to our members and to the residents of NDG. Our first issue for 1989 came out in March and focussed on the Council's projects, the pilot recycling project in NDG and upcoming events in the community. We plan to make the newsletter a regular activity, thus a new issue will be printed three to four times a year. It is meant to be a community newsletter thus we will be actively looking for submissions from groups throughout NDG. We are also currently in the midst of putting together a new Council pamphlet and searching for a suitable logo, both of which we will have ready in the very near future.

This past year has seen the Council undergo some major changes with two additional staff people, a larger office and a new Housing Programme. This has meant that the Council board and executive have found themselves faced with new situations that

have arisen as a result. Undoubtedly, this will continue to be an ongoing process as the structure of the Council changes and adapts to better meet the needs in the community. In the fall we hope to have a staff/board "retreat" which would allow us a special opportunity to get to know one another better, plan events for the upcoming year and do some problem solving on particular issues. One of the issues that we devoted time and attention to this year was fundraising and this will continue to be a priority for the Council. A fundraising subcommittee of the Board met this year to discuss ways that we could diversify our funding sources and plan annual fundraising events for the future. On the subject of finances, we would like to extend a final note of thanks to Centraide Montreal for the continued support they provide for our programs and activities.

MONTHLY PUBLIC FORUMS

SEPTEMBER: "REFUGEES IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD"

Nadine Lemaitre, director of the Centre MultiEthnique in NDG spoke about the work the centre does in welcoming new immigrants and refugees to the community. She highlighted how the community could provide support to the centre through donations of clothing and money and encouraged residents to visit their facilities at 4680 Belmore Ave. Refugees from Iraq and Panama were also on hand to talk about their experiences since coming to Canada. Twenty-five people attended.

OCTOBER: "HUNGER AND POVERTY IN NDG"

Speakers included Sandra Frosst, Karen Takacs and Edward Cho from the NDG Community Council and Sandra Caponni from the NDG Anti-Poverty Group. The link between housing and hunger was made as many low income people pay anywhere between 50% and 90% on rent, thus necessitating the need to go to the food depot at the end of the month. The history of the Council's Food Needs Project was presented along with statistics about the numbers of people using the NDG Food Depot. It was also pointed out that governments make policies that take for granted that some people will have to rely on food depots. Fifty people attended.

NOVEMBER: "MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT"

Candidates for the federal election explained their stand on issues and answered questions from the audience. Present for the debate were; Liberal incumbent, Warren Allmand, Maria Peluso (NDP), Robert Adams (Christian Heritage), Earl Wertheimer (Libertarian), Al Feldman (Rhinoceros) and Stephen Bruneau (Green Party). 250-300 people attended.

JANUARY: "CRIME PREVENTION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD"

Speakers were Fabienne Pierre-Jacques, Dina Caon and Lisa Jensen from Operation Tandem, Roy Gittens of the NDG Black Community Association, Brenda Donnelly from Walkley Tenants Association and Pierre Biard from the Crime Prevention Unit at Police Station 15. Members from Operation Tandem spoke about the crime prevention work they do through Neighbourhood Watch and their Senior Security and Youth Programmes. Twenty people attended.

FEBRUARY: "RECYCLING IN NDG"

Speaker, Philip Van Leeuwen, of ECOSENSE highlighted the benefits of reusing and recycling materials as well as the need to dramatically reduce the production and consumption of materials that are environmentally harmful. Simon LaFrance, a consultant with Serrener Inc. spoke about the disposal of toxic waste and leaf composting and city Councillor Sharon Leslie reiterated the City of Montreal's commitment to gradually introduce recycling to Montreal. Seventy people attended.

MARCH: "THE CITY OF MONTREAL'S HOUSING POLICY: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?"

Karen Takacs, Coordinator of the NDG Community Council's Housing Programme, gave an overview of the Housing Programme and explained why the Council is interested in the City's housing policy. Through its' programmes, the Council comes in contact with many people who are paying too much rent relative to their income and/or who are denied access to housing because of the discriminatory practices of landlords. City Councillor, Arnold Bennett, gave a summary of the policy and Pierre Gaudreau of PROUD (People's Rights Over Urban Development) presented their critique of the policy. Dana Vocisano from Head and Hands and David Woodsworth from the NDG Senior Citizens Council spoke about the housing concerns of youth and seniors respectively. Forty people attended.

APRIL: "THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER PSYCHIATRIC CARE"

Chris MacFadden, Director of Forward House, Ivan Drouin, Director of Transition Communautaire (TRACOM) and George Bastien, Director of Project Arc spoke about the support services their organizations provide to individuals who have at one time been hospitalized under psychiatric care. It was noted that one of the biggest problems these individuals face is poverty as many have no choice but to rely on welfare to survive. Dr. Allan Fielding, a psychiatrist from the Allan Memorial Hospital, drew attention to the spectrum of services that would be needed to adequately meet the needs of the "psychiatrized" and to what extent these services are sorely lacking. Some participants at the forum expressed the need for support groups for people who have a family member suffering from mental illness. Thirty people attended.

MAY: "DAYCARE"

Nancy Goad-Robillard, president of the Quebec Association of Professional Pre-School Development (QAPPD) and Larry Depoe, president of the Association of Early Childhood Educators (AECE) spoke about the federal government's policy paper on Daycare entitled "A Better Balance" and presented their views on the implication of the policy on existing daycares. In addition, the situation daycares currently face, with a lack of available spaces, serious cuts in government funding and poorly paid educators, was also raised. The speakers also gave practical guidelines parents could use when looking for quality care. They encouraged parents to ask as many questions as possible regarding a center's health policy and whether records are kept and what their policy is toward discipline. It was further suggested that parents observe the centre during free play and structured activity and see if there was adequate space to accommodate the number of children registered. Fifteen people attended.

FOOD NEEDS PROJECT

This is the fourth annual report of the Food Needs Project. In July Edward Cho became the first paid coordinator hired by the NDG Community Council. On October 15, 1989 the Food Depot celebrated its' third anniversary.

This past year has been an exciting and productive one. The Food Depot continues to serve people in our community who are hungry and the overall Food Needs Project has expanded in many areas, as this report will show.

ACTIVITIES

The Food Needs Project was involved in many activities this past year. They included:

FOOD DEPOT

The Food Depot continued to serve the poor and hungry in the community by opening its doors three days a week. Volunteers devotedly gave their time to assure that the service operated smoothly. Many hours were spent packaging food, filling the shelves, shopping for discount groceries, picking up donated food, keeping statistical records and maintaining the physical upkeep of the Food Depot.

FUNDRAISING

Volunteers were kept very busy raising money for the Food Depot. The fundraising activities are listed in the FINANCE section of this report.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings were held regularly to enable the volunteers to plan for activities, discuss issues and problems and be updated of other ongoings of the Food Needs Project.

Over the year, the Food Needs Committee met as a whole 5 times, the Fundraising sub-committee met 6 times and the Food Depot volunteers met 2 times.

PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

In October, 1988, the Food Needs Project received an OVEP grant to offer various educational workshops to the general public. The workshops were geared towards two main groupings - social welfare recipients and volunteers working in community agencies or settings.

Workshops that have already been offered include housing and tenants rights, preparational job search and the realities and needs of the poor, the elderly, the psychiatricized and refugees. Workshops that will be offered this Summer will focus on effective communication, fundraising, changes in the social welfare law and budgeting/preparing food on limited income.

PRESENTATIONS

Numerous presentations were made to promote the work of the Food Depot and to make people more aware of the hunger problem that exists in N.D.G. The presentations enabled the Food Needs Project to further solidify the ongoing support that they presently receive from groups and individuals and to recruit new supporters. Support is provided in terms of money, food donations and volunteer time.

The Food Needs Project presented at Loyola High School, the Church of St. Mathias of Westmount, the Department of Applied Social Science of Concordia University, Montreal West Women's Club, Montreal West United Church, Willingdon Elementary School, Vanier College, the Air Canada Pioneer Club, Ecole Notre Dame de Grace, the Home Day Care and at the NDG Community Council's October forum.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH INFORMATION PACKAGES

During the summer, information packages were sent out to all of the local churches, schools and a selected number of community agencies. These packages were to inform organizations of the work of the NDG Food Needs Project, to solicit support and to solicit invitations to make presentations.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Through pulling together other local community groups and churches, the NDG Food Needs Project spearheaded the organization of a community christmas party. Twenty-two groups took part in this successful event which was held on Christmas Day at the Church of St. Columba. 125 people attended.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET LISTING

In order to assist local churches and community agencies on where people could go to receive christmas baskets, the Food Needs Project compiled a listing of such available places. The list was circulated and distributed within the community.

FOOD DRIVES

Throughout the year, the Food Needs Project organized and held a number of food drives. At Sunday in The Park, 10 large boxes of nonperishable food were received. Other food drives were held at a church located in the Laurentiens, the Church of God and at a housewarming.

INFORMATION BOOKLETS AND STATISTICAL REPORTS

After researching, compiling, calculating and analyzing a lot of information, the Food Needs Project was able to put out a number of different information booklets and statistical reports. The booklets and reports were given to the volunteers, sent to supporting organizations and used for promotional work. They included an orientation and training booklet for new volunteers, a detailed listing of available food banks and community meal/cafeterias in Montreal and two statistical reports on the clientele and service provided by the NDG Food Depot.

LIAISON WITH OTHER CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

To continue to assure that clients of the Food Depot be as best served as possible, the Food Needs Project did a lot of liaison work and referrals to other local community and educational agencies. The project was in close contact with the following organizations - supporting churches of N.D.G., Montreal West and Westmount, the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients, Multi-Caf, Centre Multi-Ethnique, the NDG Anti-Poverty Group, the NDG YMCA, the NDG Senior Citizens Council, Head and Hands, the P.S.B.G.M., the CLSCs in NDG and Cote St. Luc, the Loyola Chaplain and Department of Applied Social Science of Concordia University, Dawson College, the Fraser Hickson Library, the Fifty Plus Club and Police Station 15.

ONGOING GOALS OF THE FOOD NEEDS PROJECT

The Food Needs Committee set several goals for the 1988-89 year, and upon evaluation, is pleased with the amount of energy and effort that went into addressing them. It seems clear, however, that work remains to be done in these areas. The Committee has thus reaffirmed the following goals for the coming year. A brief comment about the present status of the work accompanies each goal.

1. To develop more sources of free food and money to further enable the Food Depot to carry out its work.

This year, a lot of promotional work helped the Depot to receive many money and food donations from new sources including local churches, schools, businesses and concerned individuals.

2. To continue to motivate and provide further training for the volunteers.

With the hiring of a paid coordinator, there was more time available to work with volunteers and recruit new ones. On the job training and workshops were provided.

3. To develop closer ties with other community groups concerned with hunger and poverty.

As reported in the ACTIVITIES section, the Food Needs Project has made major strides in this area.

4. To monitor the implementation of the new welfare law so that recipients would be informed about their rights and responsibilities.

Through the work of the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients, clients of the Food Depot will be informed of the changes in the new welfare law and what are their basic rights and responsibilities. It is the intent of the Food Needs Project to become more involved with the Coalition in order to take on a stronger position to fight against issues that lead to poverty and hunger.

5. To update the socioeconomic profile of N.D.G. in order to sensitize people to the extent to which poverty does exist in our community.

There has been no work done on the update of the socioeconomic profile of N.D.G. because Statistic Canada has only recently come out with the needed information. It is hoped that this work can be done in the Summer or Fall of 1989.

6. To address and take action on the needs that arise during Christmas.

Two ways were through actively getting local community groups to host a Christmas party and by providing a resource list of where people could obtain Christmas baskets. These two services will be provided again next year.

7. To find ways of assisting young poor families in need of diapers and baby food.

Attempts were made to secure diapers and baby food from a company specializing in these products. The Food Depot did receive occasional donations of these items. In addition, a community committee was recently formed

to address these issues and explore ways to problem solve and share resources.

8. To explore ways of overcoming the lack of transportation to be more open to the frail, ill and handicapped who are in need of the Food Depot service.

A subcommittee was formed in November 1988 to explore transportation alternatives, but never really got going. This issue will be readdressed in the upcoming year.

FINANCES

During the fiscal year of 1988-89, the Food Needs Project was very successful in collecting money to purchase groceries for the Food Depot. Monies were received through donations and fundraising activities. The revenues came from the following sources:

1. Fundraising Activities (\$ 7,152.10 - 37%)

The Food Needs Project was extremely prolific in raising money through the various fundraising events that were held. In total, there were 7 which included a raffle, a volleyball marathon, two bake sales, button sales, a "Share the Joy" giving program, christmas carolling, and a Sunday-In-The-Park booth.

2. Church Donations (\$ 5,747.00 - 30%)

As in previous years, many local churches helped support the work of the NDG Food Depot by providing a lump sum donation or through contributing money on a monthly basis. Thanks go out to the following churches - St. Columba's, St. Thomas, Unity Truth Centre, Montreal West United, Wesley United, First Baptist, St. Ansgar, Knox Crescent Kensington Presbyterian, St. Phillips, St. Matthews, St. Mathias, Trinity Memorial, Robert Campbell Memorial, and the Theotokos Orthodox Church.

3. Community Group Donations (\$ 3,399.19 - 18%)

There were many community organizations which graciously donated money to the Food Depot. Several of these organizations held special events to raise funds which were then turned over to the Food Needs Project. Two examples included Willingdon Elementary School which raised in excess of \$ 500 through christmas carolling and the NDG Play and Care Centre which collected over \$ 200 through a bake sale.

4. Individual Donations (\$ 2,965.75 - 15%)

Sincere thanks go to each and every one of the contributors because each and every dollar enables the Food Depot to buy that extra dozen eggs, the extra pound of margarine, et cetera.

FOOD DONATIONS

Many organizations held major food drives for the food Depot during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays. The immense quantity and assortment of food received was truly phenomenal. Many thanks go to the following organizations who contributed throughout the year.

CHURCHES

Ephraim Scott, St. Mathias of Westmount, St. Columba's, Trinity Memorial, Queen Mary Road United, Unity Truth Centre, St. Augustine's, St. Matthews, Montreal West United, Wesley United, St. Savior, St. Ansgar, the Church of God and Robert Campbell Memorial.

SCHOOLS

Willingdon Elementary, St. Monica's Elementary, Loyola High, Westhill High and the Prep School.

COMMUNITY GROUPS OR CLUBS

I.O.D.E., the City of Montreal Recreational Centres for NDG, Montreal West Women's Club, NDG Girouard Residence, the student residence of Concordia University, Ville Marie Social Services, Montreal West Curling Club, Contactivity, Terrebonne Residence, NDG Play and Care, Monkland Residence, Home Day Care, NDG YMCA, and le Centre Multi-Ethnique.

BUSINESSES

Keller's Bakery, Trevor Goodger Hill Inc., the Cheese Shoppe, Universal Health Care, Bank of Montreal, Fleur Sauvage, Van Horne Bagels, Cantors, Kruger Pulp and Paper and Aliment Sante. Chalet B.B.Q., Catelli, Pizza Pizza and Wendy's Restaurant for the food received for the volleyball marathon.

HARVEST MONTREAL

Special thanks go to Harvest Montreal which contributed an assorted variety of food to the NDG Food Depot on a weekly basis.

RAFFLE DONATIONS

Thanks go out to the following community and business organizations which contributed prizes to the fundraising raffle event - the NDG YMCA, the Audio Centre, Campbell Gallery, le Chateau Champlain, Peel Cycle, Winston Fitness Centre, Pizza Pizza, McDoherty Ice Cream Parlour, Franni's, Chalet B.B.Q., Papeterie Harvard and Kent Pizzeria.

VOLUNTEERS

The lifeline of the NDG Food Needs Project are the volunteers. Without them, the services provided by the project could not possibly be carried out. The volunteers do everything from working at the Food Depot as packers, screeners and shoppers to fundraising, making public presentations, organizing workshops, translating to attending meetings.

This year, there were over 100 volunteers who contributed to the project. Of these 100, about 45 were involved on a regular basis. Besides these core volunteers, there were many others who assisted the project on a more temporary basis. These included for example, the participants from the volleyball marathon and many of the raffle ticket sellers.

The Food Needs volunteers come from a varied background. They include retirees, students, nurses, the unemployed, people on social welfare, housewives and househusbands, and professionals in the social services, educational and business fields. The volunteers range in age from 19 to 74 years.

STUDENTS

Marie Foley was hired on a Challenge '88 grant to do clerical and administrative work. Jewelle Smith, an urban studies student from Concordia University updated a list of available food services in Montreal. Bahiyyih Lawson from Dawson College worked as a food packer. Jacques Tardif from the University of Montreal, did translation and assisted at the Depot. Kevin Duckworth, an Applied Social Science student helped with fundraising activities, compiled a listing of places where christmas baskets could be obtained and organized several OVEP workshops.

FOOD DEPOT STATISTICS (APRIL 1/88 - MARCH 31/89)Clients served

Individual	1107	Total # of people	5811
Families	1429	* males	1433(54.3%)
Households	2536	* females	1208(45.7%)

Ages

(April '88 to Sept. '88)

N = 2785

0 - 5	491(17.6%)	18 - 29	566(20.3%)
6 - 12	387(13.9%)	30 - 59	1050(37.7%)
13 - 17	211(7.6%)	60 plus	80(2.9%)

**(October '88 to March '89)

N = 3026

0 - 4	405(13.4%)	20 - 34	911(30.1%)
5 - 9	386(12.8%)	35 - 54	632(20.9%)
10 - 14	283(9.4%)	55 - 64	177(5.8%)
15 - 19	194(6.4%)	65 plus	38(1.3%)

Income

Welfare	2130(88.2%)
U.I.C.	86(3.6%)
No Income	112(4.6%)
Others	88(3.6%)

Language served in

English	959(79.8%)
French	93(7.7%)
Spanish	130(10.8%)
Others	20(1.7%)

New dossiers open from April '88 to March '89: 455Open dossiers: 1333Total households served from April '88 to March '89: 2536Total number of people served from April '88 to March '89: 5811

* Information available only from November 1988 onwards

** Age groupings were changed in October 1988 in accordance with Centraide's grant application.

FOOD NEEDS PROJECT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY (APRIL 1, 1988 TO MARCH 31, 1989.)

Revenues

Lump sum (donations from organizations)	\$ 3,399.19
Church contributions	5,747.00
Individual donations	2,965.75
Fundraising	7,152.10
Bank Interests	9.93

TOTAL	<u>19,273.97</u>
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Expenditures

Food	9,166.72
Telephone	225.00
Supplies	715.48
Bank Charges	16.60
Miscellaneous	504.68
Reimbursement to Community Council	1,800.00

TOTAL	<u>12,428.48</u>
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Excess revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ 6,845.49</u>
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Position as of March 31, 1989:

Balance in C.C. account	\$ 9,411.43
Balance in F.N.C. accounts	<u>5,040.66</u>
	14,452.66

THE HOUSING PROGRAMME

THE HISTORY

In the Spring of 1987 the NDG Community Council was invited by Centraide to submit a proposal related to the development of programmes in the area of housing. Last year's Annual Report presented the results of a 6 month research effort to identify the needs and resources in NDG related to housing and the resulting programme proposal which Centraide had agreed to finance.

In August 1988 Karen Takacs was hired to implement the programme. This is a report of our first year of operation.

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROGRAMME WERE:

To begin work in the following areas:

- i) Recruitment and training of a pool of housing workers.
- ii) Developing the Housing Committee of the NDG Community Council.
- iii) Individual Information and Assistance Service
- vi) Collection, development and distribution of information materials.

There are two main components to the programme through which these objectives are carried out. There is a community-based Housing Committee and there is a Housing Information Service.

ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

1. THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE NDG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In September, various community members, including the representatives from the original committee set up to review the needs and resources in NDG related to housing, were asked to participate in a permanent housing committee. The mandate of the Committee is:

- i) to educate ourselves about housing issues;
- ii) to lobby for change;
- iii) to provide a mechanism for feedback from the community concerning the Community Council Housing Programme;
- vi) to serve as a link between the NDG community and the rest of Montreal concerning housing activities and programmes.

The Committee began meeting in October and has met 9 times since then. We have also had 9 working group meetings. Membership has fluctuated, but currently we have 12 members and hope to recruit more members in the fall.

At our first meeting we had an information session on housing cooperatives, animated by Pierre Gaudreau from PROUD (People's Rights Over Urban Development). At our second meeting we clarified and reaffirmed the mandate and objectives that had been set last year. Since then, the Committee has been kept very busy. We presented two separate briefs before the Planning, Housing and Public Works Committee of the City of Montreal. In November, we presented a brief at the public consultations on "Extraits relatifs aux clientele et la gestion de l'Office municipale de l'habitation de Montreal" and are pleased to note that many of our recommendations concerning HLMs are contained in the Committee's final document.

In April we presented a brief at the public consultations on Habiter Montreal, the City of Montreal's proposed housing policy. In both instances, committee members put in a lot of time and energy preparing our brief. As well, many of the members prepared briefs for their own groups. The process worked very well and all members should be thanked for their effort and dedication. (Copies of the briefs are available in our office.)

In March, the Committee organized a forum for the Council to publicize the public consultations and encourage people to participate in the debate. Approximately 40 people turned out to listen to and question a panel of 5 speakers addressing the topic: "The City of Montreal's Housing Policy: What's in it for you?"

We have also been working quite closely with other housing groups across the city and the province. The Council has become a member of PROUD (People's Rights Over Urban Development, known as FRAPRU in French), a federation of 45 community groups in Quebec that functions as a lobby group representing the housing needs of low and modest income citizens to the three levels of government. PROUD has provided us with useful information and resource people. I have attended their regular meetings as well as their information sessions on particular government programmes and policies. As well, the committee took part in a press conference PROUD organized to publicize our demands regarding housing during the federal election in the fall and in April we participated in a demonstration in front of City Hall, to highlight our concerns about the proposed municipal housing policy. We are also working with PROUD on their campaign to get the Quebec government to come out with a comprehensive housing policy. We participated in a march, as part of the campaign, in Quebec City on Saturday May 27th and organized a bus so that residents of NDG could attend.

This year we also began working with the Regroupement des comites-logement et associations de locataires du Quebec (RCLALQ), a coalition of housing committees and tenants' associations from across the Province. We have participated in a committee that was set up to work on a province-wide campaign for

rent control to be launched in September. I have also attended a number of their information sessions for housing workers on housing law, Rental Board regulations and procedures, and government policies and programmes.

In January we began working with the Quebec Human Rights Commission and other community groups, including, in particular, Information-resources Femmes et logement on an action and information campaign against discrimination in housing. The Council will be acting as a liaison group in the campaign.

ISSUES THAT WE WILL WANT TO WORK ON NEXT YEAR:

In addition to working towards the larger goals of the Housing Programme, the Housing Committee has identified the following issues to work on in the upcoming year: a follow-up of the City's housing policy and the public consultations; working with PROUD on their campaign to get the Quebec government to adopt a housing policy; working with RCLALQ on their province-wide campaign for rent control; and following-up the apartments on Sherbrooke Street that were bought by the Societe d'Habitation et Developpement de Montreal to see that they are developed in a way that meets the needs of the tenants and the community.

2. THE HOUSING INFORMATION SERVICE

In October 1988, a housing information service was set up to assist, primarily, the elderly; newly arrived immigrants and refugees; and low-income earners in NDG. The service is offered Monday through Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. We have a special housing line, with an answering machine to take calls outside of scheduled hours. People may also drop by the office, and in special cases when the client cannot come to the office, we arrange to have one of the workers visit them in their home. We provide information on housing law, landlord and tenant rights, responsibilities and recourses, Rental Board procedures and government housing programmes. As well, we make referrals to lawyers and can accompany people to the Rental Board, when necessary.

We have chosen to publicise the service primarily through community groups working with the target populations listed above, to ensure that these groups get priority. Consequently it has taken some time to get the service known in the community. Despite a slow start, use of the service has picked up, while still allowing us time for adequate follow up. After evaluating the first six months of operation the Council has decided to begin taking referrals from the CLSC NDG/Mtl West and hopes to work with other community groups working with our target populations.

HOUSING INFORMATION SERVICE STATISTICS

October 1988 - April 1989 (inclusive)

Total number of calls or visits received: 281

Age:	%¹	Sex:			
15-20	2 (1)	Female	195 (69%)	Male	86 (31%)
20-34	55 (24)	Sources			
35-54	42 (18)	of revenue:	%¹		%¹
55-64	15 (7)	Unemployment	6 (3)	pensionner	65 (36)
65-74	101 (44)	No revenue	2 (1)	pensionner +2	20 (11)
74+	14 (6)	Welfare	35 (20)	other workers	31 (17)
unknown	54	low-income	20 (11)	unknown	102

¹The figures shown in this column refer to the percentage of known data. Percentages are rounded off.

²This refers to government pensionners with other incomes.

STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Three students and two volunteers worked at different times throughout the year with the housing information service. Zelda Freitas (Concordia A.P.S.S.), Louise Pearce (Dawson College) and Lori Vinaric (McGill Social Work) helped get the service off the ground. Zelda and Louise stayed with the project throughout the year and put in a lot of time and energy studying housing law, answering the phones, visiting clients, preparing workshops and doing research and general office work for the project. As well, our two volunteers, Bill Hantzis and George Walton helped staff the housing line.

All of the students and volunteers deserve a special thank you for the work they did. Setting up a service can be very frustrating, yet all of our volunteers remained enthusiastic, were helpful and a lot of fun to work with. We couldn't have done it without them. Congratulations also go to Louise who along with being a full time student became a full-time mother in the middle of her placement with us.

WORKSHOPS

This year the Council was fortunate to receive a popular education grant from the Minister of Education. Part of the grant was used to offer a series of workshops to our target populations and related community groups. The workshops provided basic information on tenant/landlord rights, obligations and recourses to the participants, and were very well received. They also helped to publicise our Programme.

This year two workshops were given at the Centre Multiethnique, in English and Spanish. A total of 100 refugees and newly arrived immigrants participated. In March we animated a workshop on

tenants' rights for 32 seniors at the NDG Senior Citizens' Council. In April we animated a workshop for 9 about-to-become-independent young people at a Youth Horizons group home on the topic of 'How to look for an apartment and how to sign a lease'. In May, I gave a talk at the Golden Age Association to about forty seniors on the topic of 'Problems with Your Landlord'. We received very positive evaluations and feedback from each of the sessions. Louise and Zelda deserve a special thanks for their work in planning and animating the workshops. We hope to be able to offer more workshops to more groups in the upcoming year.

A series of training sessions on the subject of tenants' & landlords' rights, responsibilities and recourses, and government housing programmes will begin in June for community workers and volunteers working in other organizations in NDG.

COLLECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION MATERIALS

To date we have collected quite a bit of information material on all aspects of housing. We have also produced some of our own information sheets about different housing problems, sample letters to be sent to landlords, and lists of available housing resources; and have translated material from other groups (into English and some into Spanish) for use in our workshops and our information service.

In the fall Sharon Roberts Joseph, an Urban Studies student at Concordia, did some preliminary research for a study on the accessibility of rental units for seniors and the disabled in NDG. In February Jean-Francois Heroux, Nadine Sicotte, Louis Gastaldi, Carlos Frez and Doug Raphael, from the Urban Studies Programme at Concordia, began working on the accessibility survey. At the same time we discovered that the CLSC was beginning a similar study. We agreed to collaborate on the project, and Alanna Madan, a Concordia APSS student in a placement at the CLSC, agreed to work with the five other urban studies students on the project.

Logique, a Montreal organisation working to promote and support universally accessible housing, proved to be very helpful. They have done similar surveys in other parts of Montreal and agreed to animate an information/training session for the students and myself on how to determine if a building is physically accessible. They also let us use their questionnaires and have offered us the use of a computer programme to log the results.

The project took awhile to get off the ground but we did get municipal electoral section 48 completed and are in the midst of logging and analyzing our results. We plan to survey the rest of NDG in the fall so that we may end up with a complete list of all accessible buildings in NDG. This list will include not only those buildings that are physically accessible, to seniors and

the disabled, but where possible we hope to gather information on apartments that are also accessible to those on low-incomes.

GOALS FOR THE HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR NEXT YEAR:

We will continue to work on the goals outlined last year, namely: developing the housing committee and the housing information service; recruitment and training of a pool of housing workers; the collection, development and distribution of information material. In particular, we will work to enlarge the membership of the Housing Committee, find a chairperson for the Committee and strengthen our profile in the community. We will also work to expand the Housing Information Service by developing closer ties with other community groups who could make use of the service and by offering more information sessions and workshops in the community. We also plan to finish the accessibility study and distribute the results to groups in the community.

POLICE RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Police Relations Committee was formed in November, 1987, following the tragic shooting of Anthony Griffin in the parking lot of our own Station 15. The first year of the Committee's activities focused on issues relevant to the aftermath of this event, such as taking a public position on the work assignments to be given to Allan Gossett and developing our own recommendations regarding the structure and mandate of a Civilian Review Board. During this first year, a core group of about ten people met eleven times.

During this second year of the Committee's existence, we have arrived at a clear understanding of our goals and objectives. Through its ongoing activities, the Police Relations Committee seeks to:

- establish a secure and confident relationship between the community and the police.
- build bridges between Station 15 and community groups.
- demystify the police to the community and the community to the police.
- gradually begin to build a climate of comfort in our dealings together and increase the level of mutual respect between the police and the community, especially those groups with the least power i.e., women, youth, seniors, ethnic and visible minorities.

The Committee met as a whole, six times in the past year, and is composed of a core group of seven people. We decided to focus on two specific populations during the 1988-89 year; youth and seniors.

YOUTH OUTREACH

In January, 1989, the Committee brought together individuals working with youth in our community - from school guidance counsellors to after-school recreation animators to street workers - for a brainstorming session on the problems of, and possible solutions to, the current state of relations between the police and young people. This was a productive and well attended meeting, where twenty individuals representing twelve organizations engaged in a frank and open dialogue with each other and two police officers from Station 15.

Two subsequent meetings were held at Station 15 in the six weeks following this initial brainstorming session. Both these meetings were attended by youth workers, police, and approximately fifteen youth from various schools and community organizations. Many positive ideas and useful suggestions were

articulated around the critical issue of how young people and police could break down the barriers which separate them, communicate with each other more effectively, and begin to see beyond the stereotypes that they hold of each other.

The second of these two meetings saw the emergence of the Youth Subcommittee of the Police Relations Committee. This group has been meeting weekly since the beginning of April and is currently composed of a core group of eight youth, representing different schools and community organizations. These young people have been busy with the tasks of defining their group and its mandate and planning activities.

The Youth Subcommittee has defined itself as an open group, welcoming input and participation from all young people from age twelve (beginning high school) to early twenties. Participation in a minimum of 7 consecutive meetings is necessary to become a core member, with decision-making power. The Subcommittee has committed itself to a consensus decision-making process, with voting to be used as a last resort. They have defined their mandate as broader than relations with the police, to include "structures involved in law enforcement". This orientation will allow the Subcommittee the flexibility to speak out on legal issues as they affect young people.

SENIORS OUTREACH

The Police Relations Committee identified seniors as its second area of focus during the past year. In consultation with local seniors groups, a questionnaire was devised. The questionnaire aimed to identify the concerns of seniors with regard to their safety and their views of police interaction with both themselves and the community at large. The questionnaire also sought to determine how seniors could best communicate their needs and concerns directly to the police as well as obtain information from the police.

Three students from Dawson College's Social Service Program - Jason Andreola, Denise Boyer and Sandra Leslie - spoke with a total of 69 senior citizens from NDG. Seventy percent of the respondents were female; respondents ranged in age from fifty to eighty-nine, with the largest percentage (41%) between the ages of seventy and seventy-nine. Sixty-five percent of respondents lived alone and slightly over half reported health problems (use of a cane, sight impaired, hearing impaired, on medication).

Respondents to the survey acknowledged that they were responsible for their own safety and, perhaps sensing their vulnerability, have limited their freedom of movement and activity to guard their safety. A large percentage of respondents reported that they do not go out after dark, and others will not use public transportation at all. Many only go out if accompanied by friends or relatives. Over fifty percent expressed concerns

about traffic lights at busy intersections and double parking as a threat to pedestrian safety. They suggested a higher visibility for police in the community including metros.

Fifty percent of the seniors interviewed had had contact with the police, and were not satisfied with the police response. The majority of respondents were reluctant to involve themselves with the police, either as witnesses to a crime or in the event that they required police assistance. This reticence seems to stem from a fear of not being taken seriously and of not being seen as credible by the police.

CONCLUSION

The Committee is pleased with the progress made during this past year. Through our focus on two specific populations and their relationship with the police, we have gathered a wealth of information about the perceptions and needs of seniors and have facilitated the birth of a youth group dedicated to promoting better relations between the police and young people.

The accomplishments of the past year would not have been possible without the support and assistance of a number of special people. The committee would like to thank Dawson students Denise Boyer, Sandra Leslie and Jason Andreola for their work on the seniors outreach project. Thanks also go to the NDG Senior Citizens Council, New Hope, The Monday Club St. Raymonds Residence, The Monklands Residence and the NDG CLSC for their cooperation and participation in the project. A particular note of thanks also to Robert Bush, Joe Heilig and Edgar Lion for their active participation in the various activities of the Police Relations Committee. Valerie Paterson, a youth worker with Head and Hands and Julie Sklivas, a member of the Council Board and Police Relations Committee have made a significant contribution to the development of the youth subcommittee through animating the group. As well, Head and Hands has been kind enough to provide a meeting space for the youth subcommittee at their drop-in centre.

We are enthusiastic about the openness and willingness demonstrated by the police men and women of Station 15 to work in tandem with the committee in our efforts to improve the quality of life of all residents of NDG. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks as well as bid a farewell to outgoing Director John Kousik and, at the same time, welcome the new Director of Station 15, Claude Girard.

The Police Relations Committee will be holding a final meeting in June before breaking for the summer months. At this time, we will follow up on our recent outreach to community groups which requested that they send activity schedules to Station 15 in order to facilitate regular 'social' visits of police officers to their facilities. As well, we will be developing an action plan for 1989-90 and electing a new chairperson for the committee.

CLASSICAL PIANO FESTIVAL

April 25-30, 1989

The Classical Piano Festival took place over the last week of April, and was extremely successful in attracting ever-increasing numbers of amateur pianists to the competition. This year, approximately 230 contestants entered the Festival. In 1988 there were 196 pianists.

Coordination of the event was again undertaken by Aileen Kilbertus and Milda Ruffo and their advisory group. Marianopolis College provided rent-free facilities for the week-long event. Because of the extremely limited budget of the festival, a large part of festival planning was devoted to the search for food donations for the large number of contestants, their families and the general public who are invited to attend the competitions. There were five adjudicators who evaluated the performances over the week and who provided their time and effort at minimal costs. Information about the festival was sent out to the Monitor, Suburban, the Gazette and other Montreal publications. As in past years, the NDG Community Council provided background support and produced the 22-paged program for the festival's audience and participants.

Beyond the ongoing effort to create a successful and professionally run music competition - the primary objective of 1989 is to seek new sponsorship for the Classical Piano Festival. The NDG Community Council has undertaken this role for over forty years and contributes financially and with volunteer support as much as it can. The festival, however, has grown beyond its NDG boundaries to become virtually a provincial event. Competitors come from greater Montreal, Joliette, Granby, Sherbrooke and interest is growing. The Community Council, faced with pressing local needs and limited funds can no longer sponsor this event. Part of the heritage of the linking of the Community Council and the festival has been the strong emphasis upon community participation and support. Individuals, businesses and community organizations have contributed their time and efforts because they wish to see this music competition survive and become a permanent part of the cultural life of Montreal. There is no other competition of its kind in Montreal that helps to promote young talent. This festival is unique in that contestants are able to select and perform musical pieces of their own choice and at a level at which they feel comfortable. Adjudicators provide encouragement and constructive evaluations to all players, with the hope that young musicians will gain skill and confidence to improve.

The search for a new sponsor who can underwrite the festival and sustain its unique identity has prompted the formation of a new Festival Committee. The work of this committee is to seek out an appropriate sponsor and to ensure a smooth transition as the

Community Council withdraws its active support. The committee will also help to ensure that coordination of the Classical Piano Festival from year to year is shared by parents and citizens who are interested in seeing the festival survive, improve and grow.

CLASSICAL PIANO FESTIVAL
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE 1989

INCOME

Registration fees	2600.00
Voluntary donations	176.15
Video sales (A)	----
TOTAL	2776.15

EXPENSES

Adjudicators - Sr. C. Cadoret	300.00
L. Fink	300.00
D. Rydlo	300.00
Assistants - E. Jackson	150.00
M. Ruffo	150.00
Cash Prizes	339.00
Postage	74.50
Refreshments	265.38
Video Master Tapes	26.16
Transportation	<u>125.88</u>
Total	2030.92
Balance	745.23 (B)

(A) Video sales to come

(B) The NDG Community Council has absorbed the cost of:

- 175 information packages (4 sheets)
- 350 Festival programmes (22 sheets)
- 450 adjudicators reports (1 sheet)
- 250 envelopes
- additional photocopying and mailing of letters and press releases.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTSYOUTH ESSENTIAL SERVICES (YES)

The coordinator of the Council has been attending the YES meetings and the Council was again this year financially responsible for the committee. YES has been active during the past 5 years under the name of the NDG Day Camp Coalition. It is comprised of various groups in NDG who work with youth and are committed to developing and ensuring access to essential youth programs such as summer day camps. This year a contest was launched in the schools and day camps to find a suitable logo and slogan that reflects the goals and work of the YES committee. The committee continues to focus on raising funds and taking action against government cutbacks in grants to community organizations.

MONKLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE

This committee originally started as a committee of the Council to put into place policies and structures that would ensure the efficient management of the community centre by community groups. Since this has now been achieved and the committee has become independent of the Council, the coordinator of the Council no longer participates in the meetings.

WELFARE COALITION

The Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients consists of more than twenty anglophone community organizations which meet on a bi-monthly basis to work towards the causes and rights of welfare recipients. Presently, the NDG Community Council has two representatives attending these meetings. Liesel Urtnowski, a Council Board member and Edward Cho, the Food Needs Coordinator.

During this past year, the Coalition spent most of its time lobbying against Bill 37. Many briefs were presented and organized demonstrations were held. This summer, the Coalition will be offering numerous workshops to inform community workers, welfare recipients and concerned individuals about the new regulation changes in the welfare law that are scheduled to be implemented in August, 1989. Much of the time spent in the workshops will focus on what are the basic rights of welfare recipients and what form of actions can be taken.

In order to assist, the NDG Community Council Food Needs Project has forwarded in excess of \$600 (money allocated through the O.V.E.P. grant) to the Coalition to carry out these workshops.

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