

FOR A STRONG AND FAIR SOCIAL SAFETY NET

The COVID-19 crisis has shed light on how our hospitals, schools, CHSLD or long-term care homes are in a disastrous state. We've also been able to see how much we need to improve the income and living conditions of poor and marginalized folks.

In order to face these crises, **we need a social safety net that is strong and fair!**

What do we mean by social safety net?



Autonomous community organizations are made up of people from a community who have come together to support each other around a lived problem, improve their living conditions, and defend their rights.

Examples: women's groups, literacy groups, resources for homeless folks, family support groups, collective defence of rights, etc.



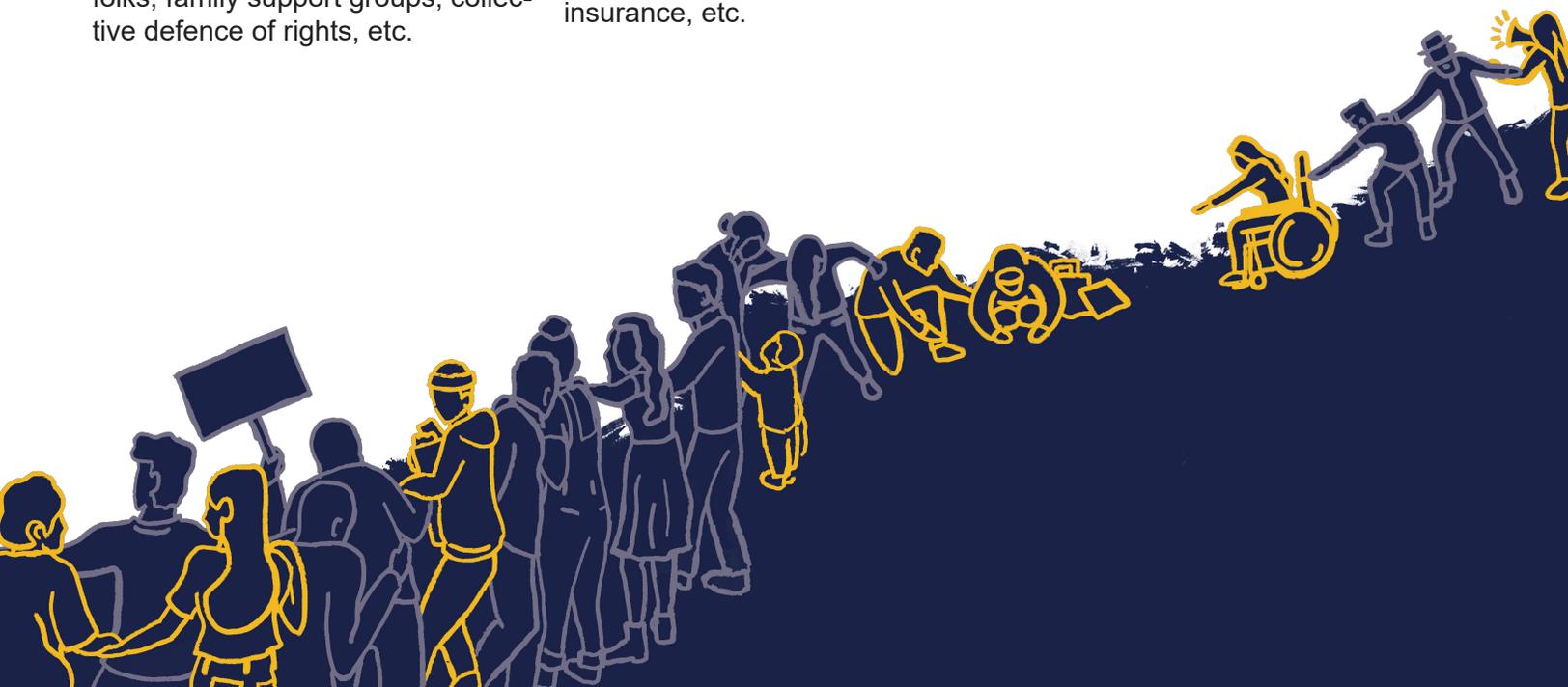
A **social program** is a measure put in place by the State in order to improve living conditions of a population. It often takes the form of a cash benefit for people who don't have sufficient resources to meet their needs.

Examples: parental insurance, family allowance, social welfare, pension plan, prescription drug insurance, etc.



A **public service** is an activity that's carried out and controlled by the State in order to meet needs in the general population as well as ensure respect for human rights.

Examples: Schools, hospitals, CLSC, CHSLD, local employment centres (CLE), CPE (public day-care centres), etc.



A social safety net under attack

We have these public services and social programs as a result of student, community, activist, and union struggles.

However, in the past few decades, different governments have decided that these services and programs cost too much. So, they went on to reduce or cut their budgets. They did nothing to adequately improve wages and working conditions in the public sector. They went on to outsource services and programs to private companies. And, they did not adequately fund community organizations.

The consequence of these political choices is that today's services and programs do not meet the needs of the population, keeping some people in situations of poverty and vulnerability.

For example, in Montréal: there's a lack of social housing, social welfare and even minimum wages are not enough to meet basic needs, waiting lists for health care and social services are getting longer, several schools are falling into ruin, etc.

Rather than cutting spending, the government should increase its revenues by taxing the wealthiest, the largest companies, and the banks.

LEARN MORE (in French only) : [10 milliards de solutions pour une société plus juste](https://bit.ly/3rSGV4f), Coalition Main rouge
[<https://bit.ly/3rSGV4f>]

Our demands

The government must:

- Massively reinvest in our public services and social programs
- Acknowledge and adequately fund community organisations that support the population and fight for social justice

Engagez-vous pour le communautaire is a province-wide campaign, founded in 2016, that unites different sectors of autonomous community action all around Québec. It aims for a more just society and the full respect of human rights. [engagezvousaca.org]

Le **Front régional d'action communautaire autonome (FRACA) de Montréal** is steered by regional umbrella groups and neighbourhood coalitions from the community sector. Acting as the regional chapter of the Engagez-vous pour le communautaire campaign, it organizes actions and mobilizes the population of Montréal around its collective demands.