

OUR CITY, OUR RIGHTS!



MUNICIPAL ELECTION | MONTRÉAL | NOVEMBER 6 AND 7, 2021

PLATFORM OF COMMUNITY DEMANDS

On November 6 and 7, municipal elections will be held in Montréal. Now is the time to call on the candidates and parties to make a commitment to social justice.



THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

BECAUSE

- The cost of rent has increased excessively in recent years.
- More than half of households are renters (63%), and most of these are headed by women.
- Too many renters dedicate more than half of their income to rent; for many, 80% of their income goes to rent.
- Due to the lack of affordable housing, most emergency housing resources are overflowing, particularly those intended for women.

WE WANT

- 22,500 new social housing units over the coming five years, including at least 25% dedicated to women-led households.
- The Ville to purchase and earmark sites for the construction of social housing.
- A ban on condo conversions; on the issuance of work permits for expansions, subdivisions and changes of purpose; on AirBnB-type tourist accommodations; and on all changes in purpose to rooming houses.
- A stricter and more sustained application of the regulation on the cleanliness, maintenance and security of housing units, and all the required funding to support this.



THE RIGHT TO MOBILITY

BECAUSE

- Public transit costs are too high for low-income people, while getting around is essential in order to meet basic needs such as working, purchasing essential products, and accessing public services and community resources.
- Being limited in mobility contributes to food insecurity, social exclusion and isolation.
- Few metro stations are accessible to people with reduced mobility. As well, these people are not always taken into account when new construction work is being done, such as bicycle paths and pedestrian streets.
- Street harassment constrains many women and LGBTQ+ people to limit their travel and restrict their occupation of public space.

WE WANT

- Universal access to public transit, a fare freeze, and the institution of social fare pricing based on income, from the perspective of making it free.
- The development of public transit networks that are accessible to all.
- An action plan on women's safety in public space and on fighting street harassment.
- Consultation with the people affected and with the community milieu when developing all construction projects (bike paths, projects to make streets pedestrian-friendly, the movement of urban furniture, and so on).

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— THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY

BECAUSE

- Women are especially affected by poverty; let's recall those who are single parents, disabled, immigrants, racialized, seniors, Indigenous and marginalized.
- Systemic racism and discrimination hinder and limit access to employment and housing, affect participation in democratic life, and make people subject to profiling.

WE WANT

- The implementation of the recommendations resulting from the public consultation on systemic racism.
- A plan of action to combat violence against women.
- The end of police checks of people's status with Canadian Border Services Agency.
- Parity and the fair representation of women, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, racialized people and minoritized people in analyses, policies, service offers and the Ville de Montréal hiring process.



THE RIGHT TO THE CITY (PUBLIC SPACE)

BECAUSE

- There has been an increased turn toward "safety" since the pandemic began, to the detriment of a global and community approach. Encampments have been dismantled without safe and appropriate alternatives for people who use drugs, women or trans people.
- Marginalized people, particularly Indigenous people, are the target of repression and racial and social profiling, which pushes them to self-isolate and places them in danger.
- Many local businesses and services are inaccessible, both in terms of language and in terms of physical design.
- The gentrification of neighbourhoods is spiking the cost of taxes and rents, which forces lower-income residents and under-funded community organizations to move.

WE WANT

- Measures against repression and judicialization, the end of encampment dismantlement, and the deployment of sanitary facilities across the Montréal territory.
- Neighbourhoods to be equipped with a diverse range of services, activities and businesses that are free or affordable, inclusive, and above all that meet the needs of residents: schools, daycare centres, libraries, leisure, jobs, parks, urban agriculture, urban furniture.
- An ambitious plan of action to foster access to spaces for community organizations.

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THE RIGHT TO DEMOCRATIC LIFE

BECAUSE

- All Montréal women need to be able to have their say on the municipal policies that affect them.
- Spaces for citizen participation, as well as all municipal documentation, must be accessible in order to foster inclusion.
- The independent community milieu has a strong ability to report on-the-ground needs and identify social issues. This expertise must be recognized and taken into account.
- The increasingly frequent use of digital platforms and technologies restricts citizen participation and access to information because of exclusion and the digital divide.

WE WANT

- The implementation of measures to ensure inclusive citizen representation in the Ville's decision-making bodies, particularly for women, Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and minoritized and racialized people.
- Conditions and consultation timetables that respect the democratic processes and mandates of autonomous community action.
- The promotion and application of the Montréal Policy for Community Action in all boroughs.
- Full citizen participation and access to information through the use of accessible language in the Ville's communications, and consideration of the digital divide on the part of municipal bodies.



THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

BECAUSE

- Climate change is aggravating extreme weather phenomena, rendering ecosystems more fragile and accentuating inequality.
- Lower-income people are subjected to the consequences of climate change to a greater degree. For example, heat islands and poor air quality are common in underprivileged neighbourhoods.
- A new economic and social model is needed in order to respond to ecological issues, and must respect human rights and be implemented with a social justice perspective.

WE WANT

- Measures applied to major polluters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The greening of neighbourhoods, the protection of natural spaces, and access to river banks in order to fight heat islands and improve air quality.
- The slowing of urban sprawl through multiple structural actions to create human-scale neighbourhoods that meet their populations' needs.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Front régional d'action communautaire autonome de Montréal (FRACA) was created in 2016 and is steered by regional umbrella groups and neighbourhood coalitions from the community sector. It acts as the regional chapter of the Engagez-vous pour le communautaire campaign and supports regional social struggles. fracamontreal@gmail.com