TAKE ACTION

The Table de groupe de femmes de Montréal (TGFM) is proposing several solutions to urban issues to improve **movement, housing, neighbourhood life** and **economic conditions** of Montreal women.

Make concrete commitments in favour of the right to the city by taking inspiration from the solutions below! For even more solutions, look at the TGFM's Feminists for the Right to the City: Platform of Demands.

Putting them in action is a way to participate in the collective transformation of the city to build a Montreal that is more equal and inclusive.
Together, we are #MontrealFeminists!

The Table de groupes de femmes de Montréal (TGFM) is a regional round table which promotes and defends the interests of women from an intersectional feminist perspective. Its membership of over 80 groups, composed mainly of local women's groups and women's committees from unions, community groups and social groups, is one of its greatest strengths.

www.tgfm.org.

1 Regroupement des comités logement et associations de locataires du Québec (2023), La crise du logement, on s'enfonce encore plus!

2 Institut national de santé publique du Québec (2021), Inégalités d'accès et d'usage des technologies numériques : un déterminant préoccupant pour la santé publique de la population ?

Cover by Carolina Espinosa @crakolina

#MONTREALFEMINISTS FOR THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

A feminist city is a city that focuses on the needs and realities of all Montrealers and that improves quality of life for as many residents as possible.

The right to the city refers to working to transform the city, whether through launching initiatives, starting projects, or taking part in debates and making decisions for the city's future.

Currently, **feminists in Montreal are taking action to live in a city which better responds to their needs.**

ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD LIFE FOR ALL

In Montreal, the majority of local services (daycares, grocery stores, libraries, etc.) are found in central neighbourhoods, where they can be accessed with collective and active transport. However, many of these neighbourhoods are being rapidly gentrified.

For instance, between 2021 and 2023, the average price of housing units in the Rosemont-la Petite Patrie borough available on the market increased by 25%.[1]

Unless they live in social housing, it is difficult for the poorest and most marginalized populations to continue to live in central neighbourhoods. They are pushed to the edges of the city, where local services and services accessible by collective and active transport are inadequate.

Several issues are limiting the use of available local resources:

- A lack of accessibility and adaptation for people living with disability.
- Linguistic barriers.
- Eligibility requirements.
- Feeling safe in public spaces, which is influenced by racial profiling and street harassment.

Inequitable access and use of information and communication technologies, also known as the **digital divide** - also limits access to local services and resources which increasingly use online tools for reservations, for instance. In Quebec, in 2020, 12% of households with an annual income of less than $20,000 did not have access to an Internet connection.[2]

FEMINIST ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

Feminist organizations are taking action to improve access to local resources and community life for all. Here are the solutions proposed by the TGFM to respond to these pressing issues:

Improve the accessibility and inclusion of local services, programs and resources

- Expand eligibility for services (including age, legal status and place of residence) and adopt inclusive initiatives (such as translation, cultural mediation and representative programming).
- Continue to have women present, especially women who live at the intersection of oppressions, on boards of directors and at general meetings to make space for their realities.
- Ensure universal access for new and renovated buildings, services and events.
- Offer training and space to discuss ableism, decolonization, systemic racism and sexual and gender diversity to promote inclusion.
- Choose universally accessible spaces, furnishings and meeting rooms when hosting training sessions, gatherings, classes and activities.
- Encourage the addition of spaces for nursing or pumping milk.

Shrink the digital divide

- Offer alternatives to digital communication (such as taking phone calls, hanging up signs and offering drop-in services).
- Provide access to digital resources (such as providing wifi, lending out tablets, and offering training and assistance).
- Ensure that there are government programs allowing isolated women to access digital resources.