



#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.**

ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL

The housing crisis in Montreal is visible in the vacancy rate of 2.3%.¹ Montreal women, who earn an average of 78% of what men earn² have more trouble finding housing that responds to their needs in terms of size, adaptation, cost and location.

The Table de groupes de femmes de Montréal (TGFM) led a consultation with feminist and community groups, which revealed that finding adequate housing is even more difficult for women who are discriminated against due to their personal situation or identity (being single parents, living in poverty, being disabled, being victims of sexual or conjugal violence, exchanging sexual services, being racialized, their sexual orientation, their gender identity, their Indigenous background, their immigration status or age).³

Social and community housing should be a solution to access adequate housing, but makes up only 6% of housing stock.⁴ There is just not enough to meet the multiple needs and realities of the population.

Almost 24,000 households in Montreal are waiting for a spot in social housing (HLM).⁵ The average wait time is five years, and is even longer for accessible and adaptable housing or for a large family.

The lack of space also affects women's groups offering shelter and temporary or permanent housing. The situation is particularly worrisome for women's shelters: 5 shelters in Montreal recorded 15,487 refusals for a lack of space in 2020-2021.⁶

FEMINIST ACTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

Feminist organizations are making efforts to improve access to housing and shelter - from emergency shelters to permanent housing. Here are the solutions proposed by the TGFM to respond to these pressing issues:

Increase the amount of social housing for women

- Recognize women when analyzing social housing issues and consider the realities which are unique to their situation and their identities.
- Develop 23,000 new social housing units across the Island of Montreal to respond to the needs of women in all their diversities.
- Develop social housing to offer living spaces that are pleasant, affordable, safe, healthy and accessible.
- Provide adequate funding to construct housing units, common areas, and social housing support from the community sector.
- Provide funding for social housing that considers women's lived realities to be available to groups of women without discrimination.

Develop services and resources for women in difficult situations

- Offer a variety of shelter options for women in difficult situations.
- Improve the accessibility and inclusion practices of services and resources for all women (such as disabled women).
- Support intervention workers' abilities to help women in difficult situations when they move into new housing.
- Ensure long-term funding for groups that support women in difficult situations.
- Create resources and services for underserved populations and sectors.
- Make existing resources permanent to avoid having to resort to winter services or emergency services for the homeless.

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.

- 1 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, (2022). [Rental Market Survey Data Tables](#)
- 2 Statistics Canada, (2021). Census of Population: [Number of total income recipients aged 15 years and over in private households in 2020, Montreal census subdivision](#).
- 3 Table de groupes de femmes de Montréal, (2021). [Montreal Women's Right to Housing: We're Working on It. Are You?](#)
- 4 Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, (2023). [Les grands indicateurs du logement locatif dans le Grand Montréal, édition 2023](#).
- 5 Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal, (2023). [Analyse de la demande et délais d'attente](#).
- 6 Partenariat pour la prévention et la lutte à l'itinérance des femmes, (2022). [Femmes et itinérance en 2022](#).

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