

## For Climate Justice and Socio-Ecological Transition

### Background

Foundation of Greater Montreal (FGM) launched this Collective Fund in 2021 with the aim of accelerating the fight against climate change and for adaptation and resilience, as well as the ecological transition in Greater Montreal.

Through this Fund, the FGM is pursuing four strategic objectives:

- 1 Strengthen the capacities and mobilize the ecosystem of organizations and citizen groups active in all fields related to the socio-ecological transition;
- 2 increase the funding available for climate change and social-ecological transition initiatives in Greater Montreal;
- 3 support scalable or innovative initiatives with significant impact potential;
- 4 pool Montreal's philanthropic resources behind Greater Montreal's climate and environmental objectives to increase their reach and impact.

### Environmental Justice as 2024 priority

In response to the realities and needs expressed by frontline groups, we have integrated the principles of environmental justice into the Fund in 2023 with the aim to support initiatives that empower communities that bear the brunt of climate change. The effects of the climate crisis and the unfavorable dimensions of the built and living environment (heat islands, enclavement, environmental noise, precarious housing rights, limited active mobility, etc. ) disproportionately affect certain territories and the populations living there.

The 2024 Fund edition defines socio-ecological transition as the process of co-creating livable communities at a local scale through centering the voices of the people who live there and working at the intersection of social and environmental justice.



### Eligibility

We intentionally facilitate access to the Fund for organizations, initiatives, grassroots groups or other collectives who face systemic barriers to securing funding, including, emergent organizations or established organizations without core funding.



## Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) – Priority groups

Priority will be given to initiatives aimed specifically at improving the quality of life of historically marginalized populations targeted by the FGM in its **Strategic Distribution Framework**, i.e. Indigenous, Black and Racialized people, women and girls, LGBTQ2S+ communities and people living with disabilities. We acknowledge that the disproportionate effect of the climate crisis is not limited to the groups we listed above and will consider initiatives that directly benefit other communities.

Through the social justice and territorial equity approach, we will prioritize the communities living in neighborhoods with lowest access to green spaces and generally unfavorable living environments. We will strive to ensure equitable distribution of funding across different neighborhoods of Montreal and between North and South Shores.



## Consultations

The priorities of the 2024 Fund have been developed through consultations with the stakeholders involved in the socio-ecological transition work, as well as frontline organizations working with the Fund's priority populations. The second goal of these consultations was to identify potential applicants to the Fund, namely organizations in Greater Montreal whose activities and objectives align with the priorities of the Fund.

With respect to the principles of territorial equity and JEDI, we have made efforts to consult organizations throughout the Greater Montreal area and proactively reach out to the organizations serving communities most affected by the issues.



## Fund Focus Areas 2024

The overarching theme of this year's Fund is collective empowerment of the communities, operationalized through two granting streams:

### **1 Coalition building and solidarity networks**

Leveraging stakeholders' political power and/or networks to bring about transformative change for the communities prioritized by the Fund.

Examples :

- Initiatives that aim to improve power-sharing and communities' access and participation in decision-making on different levels;
- coalition building between different stakeholders at a local level with an aim to create resilient and sustainable living environments that would benefit the communities prioritized by the Fund.

### **2 Community mobilization for climate resilience**

Initiatives centering “bottom-up” and “nothing about us without us” approaches, initiated and led by the people representing communities most affected by the issues and specifically benefiting these communities.

Examples :

- Rights-based advocacy and campaigning aiming at changing existing policies for the benefit of the prioritized communities;
- building and sustaining capacity of the organizations, movements and grassroots groups to elaborate and propose just and sustainable solutions for their communities;
- awareness-raising around the lived realities of the prioritized communities, fighting prejudice and stigma and building solidarity with the people and communities most affected by the issues;
- community-based research and education: producing, spreading and promoting knowledge generated, owned and benefiting the affected communities and building community literacy around the impact of the climate crisis.





## Budget and granting process

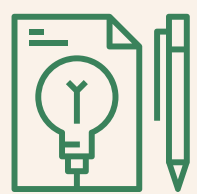
The Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition 2024 has a total budget of \$300,000

- We will directly contact the organizations and collectives who have been recommended by their peers during the process of community consultations. Please note that this year's participation in the Fund will be **by invitation only**.
- In Spring 2024, the FGM team will organize in-depth conversations with the organizations invited to apply to the Fund. In line with the principles of **Trust-Based Philanthropy**, the FGM team will fill out short application forms and get them approved by the organizations. At this stage, the organizations will determine the amount of funding they request.



## Funding conditions

- FGM recognizes applicants' expertise and prerogative to determine the amount of funding that best meets their needs and to decide when and how it will be spent. Given the limited overall budget, we offer the organizations possibility to choose the amount anywhere between **\$5,000 and \$30,00**.
- We aim to facilitate access to funding for organizations, initiatives, grassroots groups, movements and other forms of collective organizing that face persistent and systemic barriers in accessing funding, including emergent organizations and those without core funding.
- Applicant organizations can request funding for their core activities or a specific project.



## Selection process

- Fund Advisory Committee, composed of the members of Community Engagement Committee of the Foundation of Greater Montreal, several external members representing organizations with proven expertise in socio-ecological transition and members of the FGM team, will meet in late Spring to analyze grant applications. The Fund grantees will be announced in June 2024.
- The committee will give particular consideration to the initiatives created and led by the people with lived experience who are directly affected by the issues prioritized by the Fund.

---

For more information, contact Solveille Dubois at [solveille.dubois@fgmtl.org](mailto:solveille.dubois@fgmtl.org)