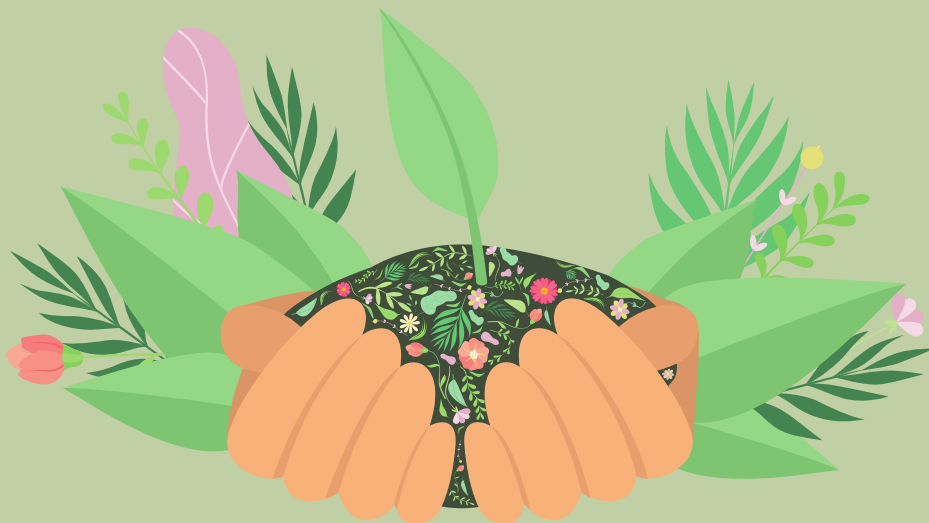




Foundation of Greater Montréal

# COLLECTIVE FUND FOR CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Partners Guide 2025-2026





**EVEN AMID SEVERE AND COMPLEX CHALLENGES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS, HOPEFUL SOLUTIONS CAN EMERGE WHEN COMMUNITIES UNITE, BUILD THEIR COLLECTIVE POWER, AND ENVISION A MORE CONNECTED AND ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE FUTURE. ACHIEVING THIS VISION REQUIRES MOBILIZING A DIVERSE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MAY NOT TYPICALLY IDENTIFY WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT.**

The goal of the 2025=2026 edition of the Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition is to **support the resilience, agency, and transformative capacity of communities in the face of climate change and pursuit of environmental justice.** The initiatives presented in this Guide serve as examples of bold and sustainable responses created by and with the communities most affected, and rooted in the connection between people and the places they inhabit.

**144** initiatives were submitted to the Call for Projects of the Collective Fund for Climate and ecological transition 2025-2026

**70%**

are located on the Island of Montreal

**13%**

take place on the South Shore

**10%**

take place on the North Shore and Laval

**27%**

cover the Greater Montreal area

**40%**

are led by the affected communities or created in collaboration with the communities

**49%**

engage the communities at the consultation or implementation stage



# THE CHANGE LEVERS AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION IDENTIFIED BY THE FUND'S APPLICANTS

URBAN AGRICULTURE

PROTECTION OF LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS

PLACE-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH AND CIVIC EDUCATION

NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

ART AND CULTURE



**23% OF QUEBECERS SAY THEY ARE  
ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT  
AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

*(L'état du Québec, 2022).*



# Why and How to Collaborate with Grassroots Movements

For decades, environmental grassroots movements have been at the forefront of fighting climate change and the extractive industries that are its main drivers.

History shows that the most successful environmental policies, the ones that resist political cycles and economic shifts, have been shaped by grassroots movements (Why Movements Are Necessary to Win Climate Policy, CLIMA Fund).

In the context of political and social upheaval, grassroots do what other actors often fail to do: build political will from the ground up, while simultaneously shifting cultural norms and creating mutual aid networks to meet the pressing needs of their local communities.





THE TERM GRASSROOTS DESCRIBES COLLECTIVE ACTION ORGANIZED AND LED BY, AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED BY THE PROBLEM. THESE ARE GROUPS OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVISTS ADVOCATING A CAUSE TO SPUR CHANGE ON A LOCAL, NATIONAL OR GLOBAL LEVEL. GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY THE PARTICIPATION OF ACTIVIST VOLUNTEERS, A HIGH DEGREE OF POWER-SHARING WITHIN THE GROUP, AND AUTONOMY IN DEFINING STRATEGY, ACTIONS, AND INTERNAL CULTURE (ADAPTED FROM THE DEFINITIONS BY THE CLIMA FUND AND GLOBAL GRASSROOTS SUPPORT NETWORK).

**91%**

of the Fund's grantees identify themselves as grassroots groups or movements

**38%**

of the recipients are entirely or partly led by the affected populations

**44%**

engage the communities in conception and decision-making

**25%**

engage the communities through consultations

**25%**

engage members of the community as volunteers

**44%**

cover the entire or part of the Greater Montreal area

**25%**

take place on the Island of Montreal

**19%**

take place on the South Shore

**13%**

take place on the North Shore or Laval



# Who are the beneficiaries

From large, coordinated movements with hundreds of thousands of activists advocating for global policy change to small citizen groups focused on a single local issue, grassroots represent a wide spectrum in terms of size, structure and scope of action.

Among the grantees of the Fund, some are incorporated as not-for-profit organizations, some chose to remain non-incorporated, while others chose a cooperative status. Some grassroots choose traditional governance structures, others prefer decentralized or participatory governance through action committees, advisory circles, members' assemblies or a mix of different forms. In terms of size, these organizations vary from several people to over a hundred. However, only a few have one or more paid staff and can rely on recurrent funding sources. Most grassroots organizations supported by this Fund depend on volunteer work of the activists and fund their actions through voluntary contributions.

## THE CHANGE LEVERS AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION PROPOSED BY THE FUND'S RECIPIENTS

- **Urban agriculture** as a means to mobilize communities around the vision of a just and inclusive socio-ecological transition
- **Research to highlight** intersectional issues and impacts experienced by historically marginalized populations
- **Popular education** as a means of placing major debates on climate change and ecological transition within the context of the local communities
- **Creation, protection and advocacy** for civic spaces
- **Art and culture** as a means of envisioning the future and fostering unity around a positive and hopeful outlook
- **Cross-sectoral movement** building and creation of common tools and platforms for resistance and innovation



The goal of this Fund is to support local communities that are mobilizing around the vision of environmental justice and just transition. As such, citizen movements and local action groups are crucial partners. These grassroots organizations, driven by collective energy and innovation, often operate outside of traditional funder-grantee relationships. They tend to be more agile and responsive to community needs than conventional non-profits. Additionally, they are generally more resilient, capable of sustaining action beyond political and funding cycles, and are often more willing to address unpopular issues.



However, grassroots action does have its challenges. The reliance on unpaid work from activists and volunteers can lead to burnout. There's often increased pressure on community organizers, especially from marginalized groups such as people of color and youth. Moreover, this can result in increased polarization, where grassroots groups and activists may become insular, communicating primarily among themselves and losing touch with the broader community.

**To foster successful and equitable collaborations with grassroots organizations, funders should take the time to understand the grassroots ecosystem and build meaningful relationships. They need to embrace trust-based philanthropy principles, especially by providing flexible multi-year funding and reducing bureaucratic barriers. Additionally, it is crucial to find ways to use philanthropic funding to support collaboration rather than create competition within the ecosystem.**



# Successful Collaboration with Grassroots Movements

## Build understanding and relationships

Due to their deep connection to local contexts and communities, it can be challenging to create a “one-size-fits-all” approach to funding grassroots initiatives. Funders should invest adequate time in listening, learning, and building relationships both before and during their collaboration with grassroots organizations. They should also be cautious of tokenization, which involves treating grassroots movements and activism as quick fixes for environmental, social, and political crises. Additionally, funders should avoid extractivism, which refers to viewing grassroots efforts as “cheap solutions” that take on the responsibilities of the public and non-profit sectors at a minimal cost.



## Flexible funding with less red tape

Funders are attracted to grassroots initiatives because they want to support complex, multi-issue community-led work and transformative action. However, this type of work often takes a long time and comes with a lot of uncertainty. Funding programs that demand immediate, tangible outcomes and guarantees of success typically do not align well with grassroots movements. To effectively collaborate with these movements, funders should prioritize community self-determination and empowerment over predefined outcomes. The main objective of grassroots funding should be to sustain community mobilization over an extended period. This approach involves not only financing grassroots-led political action but also supporting mutual care and collective well-being within these movements.

**Only 10% of grants in the environmental sector offer flexible funding**

*(Environmental Funders Canada. 2023 Environmental Grants Data)*



## Promote collaboration, not competition

While collaboration is crucial for successful community organizing, data shows that funding is a major factor contributing to competition and distrust among organizations doing complementary work. We believe it is essential for funders to not only finance existing multi-stakeholder collaborations but also to take steps to reduce competition within their funding programs. This can be achieved by adopting participatory grantmaking practices, providing honest and constructive feedback to applicants, and creating spaces for grantees to connect, discuss their work, and build relationships.

**According to a survey of the agents of socio-ecological transition in Quebec, competition for funding was names of the main source of interference between non-profit organizations, institutions and citizen groups**

*(L'effervescence en transition socioécologique au Québec. Projet collectif, 2024).*



## Support capacity with respect to grassroots culture

Many principles that apply to the relationships between funders and non-profit organizations also apply to grassroots organizations, though they may manifest differently in a grassroots context. For example, grassroots organizations may opt for participatory governance instead of traditional hierarchical board structures. Financial transparency in these groups might involve internal peer accountability rather than formal financial reporting. Additionally, some grassroots organizations may reject the concept of long-term sustainability or choose not to incorporate in order to maintain their political flexibility. To work effectively with grassroots organizations, funders must adapt their processes and expectations to these realities and support the capacity-building needs of their grantees in a culturally appropriate way.

**Effective capacity building for grassroots should intentionally and purposefully interweave “doing” and “being.” In other words, the funders should support the grassroots strategic capacity to set clear goals and achieve meaningful change (‘doing’) and the slow and often invisible work of relationship building, trust, and culture of care (“being”)**

***(Tools for Change: Understanding the Needs of Climate Justice Organizers in Canada by Amanda Harvey-Sanchez. The Climate Justice Organizing HUB)***



**Grantees of the  
2025-2026  
Collective Fund for  
Climate and  
Ecological  
Transition**



# Allions-Nous



LaSalle



[allions-nous.org](http://allions-nous.org)

Allions-Nous is a citizen organization whose mission is to protect and repurpose the buildings of the former Allion School, which have remained vacant for over 15 years. Their aim is to create a hub for socio-ecological transition that will benefit the residents of LaSalle and surrounding areas.

As part of these efforts, Allions-Nous has developed a temporary use project for the former schoolyard to rally residents and enable local action, as well as a full activity program to breathe new life into the vacant site with the participation of residents, community organizations, and the borough of LaSalle. Community members have proposed numerous ideas to enliven the site and lay the groundwork for what will become a true community space for gathering and sharing ideas.





# Boisés et écologie - Châteauguay



Châteauguay



[www.facebook.com/groups/becchateauguay](https://www.facebook.com/groups/becchateauguay)

Boisés et écologie – Châteauguay (BEC) is a citizen initiative dedicated to protecting, preserving, and ensuring the vitality of natural environments and biodiversity in the urban area of Châteauguay, while advocating for municipal policies aimed at creating a high-quality, equitable, and climate-resilient living environment for future generations. The initiative includes several components: popular education, citizen engagement, lobbying elected officials, attending municipal council meetings, drafting briefs, forming networking and strategic alliances, developing socio-ecological transition initiatives, and taking legal action to protect urban natural areas threatened by residential and commercial development.





# Life Defends Itself campaign



Greater Montreal



Instagram : @le\_vivant\_se\_defend

Life Defends Itself is a popular education and citizen engagement initiative led by environmental activists. Its aim is to raise awareness and mobilize residents and community members living near the Enbridge 9B pipeline in Greater Montreal about the pipeline's environmental and public health and safety risks and organize.





# Coalition Mobilisations Citoyennes Environnementales de Laval



Laval



[www.cmcel.ca/](http://www.cmcel.ca/)

The Coalition Mobilisations Citoyennes Environnementales de Laval is made up of 12 groups working toward sustainable development, environmental and biodiversity protection, democratic justice, and citizen engagement. It was created by residents concerned by the rapid loss of woodlands, local green spaces, and agricultural land in Laval who recognized the urgent need to take action.

The initiative aims to strengthen citizen engagement and put constructive pressure on the Ville de Laval to encourage sound democratic governance and the adoption of good land use practices. It also seeks the creation of an independent and impartial institution, such as a public consultation office, to ensure more transparent and inclusive governance.





# Colectiva Polea



Greater Montreal



[www.javifuentesbernal.com/colectivapolea](http://www.javifuentesbernal.com/colectivapolea)

With the St. Lawrence River as its starting point, this project invites participants to contribute to the creation of a collective quilt, both handmade and digital. This sensitively crafted work will weave connections between different waterways while reflecting the participants' personal experiences and unique journeys. Through a series of 12 workshops exploring a variety of artistic tools and techniques—video projection and mapping, natural dyeing, embroidery, and digital collage—the project seeks to nurture diverse identity narratives anchored in waterways and thereby foster resilience. By centring embodied knowledge and collaborative practices, this approach opens up new ways of imagining our relationship with living beings and the environment, while highlighting how everyone can contribute to ecological and social transformation in their own way. In doing so, the project affirms the power of art as a vehicle for empowering narratives and building communities of solidarity in the face of today's climate challenges.



Credit photo : Antoine Berton à la SBC Gallery, Décembre 2024)



# La Guillotine publishing and printing collective



Greater Montreal



[la-guillotine-edition.square.site](http://la-guillotine-edition.square.site)

La Guillotine is an independent feminist publishing and printing collective that seeks to share its passion for paper and craft bookbinding. Deeply committed to social and environmental causes, La Guillotine supports like-minded activist organizations in carrying out their printing projects, including posters, zines, apparel, and more. Led by dedicated activists with technical expertise, La Guillotine aims to ensure the long-term viability of its activities while increasing the number of activist groups it can serve.





# Defend the Movement Québec



Greater Montreal



[www.defendthemovement.org](http://www.defendthemovement.org)

Defend the Movement Québec (DMQ) protects the rights of individuals and groups engaged in the fight for social and environmental justice, providing legal education and support for progressive activists, as well as training for law students. DMQ offers two essential services to progressive activists in the Greater Montreal area. First, DMQ provides them with information about their legal rights and risks, equipping activists with the resources they need to carry out meaningful and impactful actions in support of environmental justice and other social movements. Second, DMQ defends such activists, who are increasingly criminalized for the legitimate expression of their positions on environmental justice and human rights issues. Both of these components support DMQ's core mission: strengthening engaged legal practice by training the next generation of activist lawyers in Quebec.

The logo for Defend the Movement Québec (DMQ). It features the letters "DMQ" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a dark blue background. The background of the logo is a white rectangle with a dark blue diagonal swoosh cutting across it from the bottom left to the top right.

DMQ

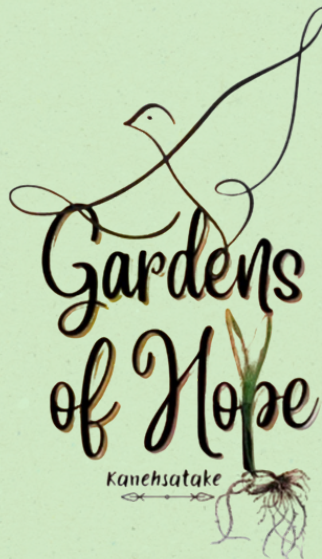


# Gardens of Hope



Kanesatake

The Gardens of Hope is an initiative of the Indigenous people of Kanehsatà:ke. Their mission is to create a space for sharing, transmitting, and promoting ecological knowledge, with a focus on the traditional, cross-cultural, and intergenerational knowledge of First Nations. In addition to growing and distributing free, fresh produce to community members, the Gardens provide an educational and healing space for people experiencing marginalization, as well as opportunities for communities to connect and learn about the history of relations between the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation and non-Indigenous peoples and the importance of reconciliation.





# Les Jardins à partager



Saint-Hubert



[labouffeducarrefour.org](http://labouffeducarrefour.org)

Launched in 2017 by Développement social Saint-Hubert, this urban garden project was inspired by the film Tomorrow (2015) and the Incredible Edible global movement, which views gardening and urban agriculture as a driver of socioecological and economic transition. Initiatives such as this one are among our solutions for the future. Urban gardens enable community members to join forces and pool resources to create shared edible abundance, forge links between the food system's various actors (community, institutional, and citizen partners), and actively contribute to a more sustainable and resilient world.



Crédit photo : Les Jardins à partager Saint-Hubert



# Last Generation Canada



Greater Montreal



[www.lastgenerationcanada.ca](http://www.lastgenerationcanada.ca)

Last Generation Canada is a non-violent civil disobedience movement advocating for concrete actions in the face of the climate emergency. Gathering people from diverse walks of life, the movement aims to put pressure on the federal government so that it protects its citizens. It favours direct actions such as roadblocks, symbolic interventions and awareness campaigns. Its activists are looking to mobilize public opinion and denounce the inaction of the people in charge. The movement demands, among other things, the creation of a national agency tasked with protecting the public against climate catastrophes, to be funded through a tax on billionaires, as well as the implementation of citizen assemblies with decision-making power. It falls under an approach of climate justice, affirms the key role of citizen mobilization in the ecological transition, and relies on art, dialogue and peaceful confrontation to make itself heard.





# **Voix de l'engagement : Perspectives des femmes Noires et racisées sur l'environnement**



Greater Montreal

Led by Alexandra Pierre, this project aims to gather, recontextualize, and activate the stories and knowledge of Black and racialized women and queer people about the environment, racism, and environmental justice crises, while creating spaces for reflection and action by, for, and with them. It also aims to bridge gaps between these groups and mainstream feminist and environmental movements, while providing participants with tools to influence policies, mobilize resources, and create sustainable networks to support systemic change. Exeko will offer workshops, conferences, and reflection and collective action labs, as well as educational events where community members can learn about and explore alternative perspectives on the environment.





# **This collective requested not to have their name publicly disclosed**



Greater Montreal

This initiative aims to rally and support various grassroots groups in Greater Montreal and across Quebec that oppose extractive and colonial economic land development. It also seeks to address their needs by providing logistical support for local struggles and creating bonds of solidarity and mutual aid between these groups.



# Prenons la Ville



Island of Montreal



[prenonslavilledemtl.wordpress.com](http://prenonslavilledemtl.wordpress.com)

Prenons la Ville is a non-partisan movement that brings together citizens and citizen groups, community and rights organizations, and other civil society actors advocating for or working on five main types of issues: housing rights and community environments; climate resilience and environmental protection; sustainable and accessible mobility; democracy; and economic and social justice. Prenons la Ville creates a space for these actors to come together and discuss local struggles across Montreal, building citizen power through popular education on the overlapping issues of environmental, social, and democratic justice. It aims to strengthen citizens' collective voice, support alternative projects, and advocate for a more just and sustainable vision of society.

**Prenons  
la Ville  
et les  
quartiers !**



# The Climate Justice Organizing HUB

A Small Change Fund project



Greater Montreal



[www.lehub.ca/fr](http://www.lehub.ca/fr)

The Climate Justice Organizing HUB is a needs-responsive support structure for organizers of grassroots social and climate justice movements across Quebec and Canada. Through free, accessible workshops and coaching on grassroots organizing and training and discussion sessions on movement strategizing, the HUB helps organizers build a critical mass of engaged people fighting for a just transition.





# Tkà:nios - It Grows



Kahnawà:ke

A grassroots initiative led by women in Kahnawà:ke, Tkà:nios aims to revitalize Haudenosaunee culture, food sovereignty, and ecological stewardship through land-based learning and the development of climate change resilience strategies for the community. Tkà:nios offers educational activities, supports a community-led revival of sustainable horticulture and food gathering, advocates for land preservation, and creates knowledge-sharing networks between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.





# Workers for Climate Justice



Greater Montreal



[justiceclimatique.org](http://justiceclimatique.org)

Workers for Climate Justice (WCJ) is the first environmentalist initiative dedicated exclusively to organizing within the workplace. The collective leverages union structures to directly challenge the harmful economic practices at the root of our ecological crises, while respecting people's right to a just ecological transition that values human beings. WCJ's mission focuses on four strategic priorities: transforming workplaces, developing scenarios for the socioecological transformation of economic sectors, union mobilization for the common good, and the democratization of the economy. To achieve these goals, WJC offers popular education and organizing training, while helping to create alternative democratic spaces within worker collectives.



Credit photo: D. Nivissette (CSN)



# **Finalists for the 2025-2026 Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition**

The following initiatives embody a deep commitment towards environmental justice, led by and for the many communities of Greater Montréal. Even though they have not been selected to receive funding as part of the 2025-2026 edition of the Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition, it is still essential that we highlight the relevance of their work.

The Foundation of Greater Montréal is grateful to these organizations for their efforts and for the quality of the initiatives they submitted to the Fund. These initiatives are sound, sustain hope and deserve to be recognized. We invite you to take a look at them, discover the work they accomplish and support their efforts.



## Breast Cancer Action Quebec

Breast Cancer Action Quebec (BCAQ) is launching an initiative to raise awareness about the links between industrial pollution, environmental justice, and health (particularly breast cancer) among marginalized communities in Greater Montreal. Focused on community education, citizen engagement, and advocacy, the project aims to strengthen access to information and support concrete actions that improve the health of our environment. This initiative is rooted in a feminist, intersectional, and community-based approach, valuing the expertise of those directly affected and building on strong local partnerships.



[acsqc.ca](http://acsqc.ca)

## Action jeunesse Roussillon

Action jeunesse Roussillon is much more than a youth centre: it empowers young people to carry out projects designed for youths, by youths, and to take control of their own needs. It also provides a space for sharing and discussion, as well as a transitional zone that fosters independence. In short, Action jeunesse Roussillon is an extension of the street corner, a place where friends gather to socialize, laugh, play, dance, chat, dream, get informed, and pursue projects. The organization gives teens the opportunity to take on responsibilities and get involved in cultural, educational, and athletic activities, as well as awareness-raising, information, and health promotion projects that interest them and benefit the greater community.

As climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, this project aims to strengthen environmental justice through education, engagement, and artistic expression, helping teens cope with their eco-anxiety by providing them with concrete ways to make a difference. By involving young people and their families in practical, tangible initiatives, Action jeunesse Roussillon promotes awareness, inclusion, and the power of collective action.



[mdjstconstant.com](http://mdjstconstant.com)



## Centre d'écologie urbaine

The Centre d'écologie urbaine works to promote green, democratic, healthy cities by developing action strategies that serve the citizens of Quebec. To encourage community involvement, the Centre creates spaces for dialogue on climate change and related concerns, as well as on potential local actions. It launched the Dialogues de quartier pour la transition in 2023, followed by Jasons climat in 2024.

Convinced that structuring solutions can emerge from discussions between citizens of all ages, the Centre promotes intergenerational dialogues on climate change to encourage the collective search for solutions. These workshops will lead to the creation of a discussion game featuring open-ended questions, so that conversations on socio-ecological transition can be continued and extended at home with family or friends. The project aims to empower participants by recognizing their experience and stories.



[ecologieurbaine.net](https://ecologieurbaine.net)

## Climate CEGEP-CÉGEP du Climat (Climate Emergency Grassroots Education Program)

Climate CEGEP aims to train and equip historically marginalized people to face the consequences of climate change through practical training focused on survival, as well as solidarity, mutual aid, and community resilience.



[linkedin.com/company/climatecegepduclimat](https://linkedin.com/company/climatecegepduclimat)



## Coop CultivAction

Coop CultivAction is a solidarity cooperative of urban farmers whose mission is to promote food sovereignty and environmental justice through community resilience. CultivAction focuses on three main areas: regenerative agriculture; distribution of fresh, hyperlocal produce to the most vulnerable people in the community; and providing accessible educational programs, hands-on workshops, and volunteer opportunities that empower members to grow their own food and contribute to just and sustainable food systems. Supported by an intergenerational, intercultural community that dedicates over 1,000 volunteer hours per year to its mission, CultivAction is helping to create an interconnected and environmentally responsible future.



[cultivaction.ca](http://cultivaction.ca)

## Éclore

Éclore is an emerging initiative whose mission is to build bridges between artistic, environmental, and activist communities, bringing people together to foster hope for a more just and sustainable future. The organization counts over 100 members and offers several services. These include a seasonal newsletter informing members of events, projects, and funding opportunities at the intersection of the arts and social and ecological issues; personalized support when needed; and events focused on sharing, rest[BH1] and rejuvenation, and reflection on current issues facing the environmentalist and cultural communities in Quebec.



[art-eclore.org](http://art-eclore.org)



## Fleurs d'attache

Founded in September 2023, Fleurs d'attache is a non-profit organization based in the Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough of Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. Their main mission is to address disorientation experienced as a result of eco-anxiety. More specifically, Fleurs d'attache helps people moor themselves anew—emotionally, conceptually, and through community—to help them navigate our current polycrises and engage more authentically with their surroundings. To do so, the organization helps people reconnect with nature in the city and cultivate a practice of wonder. Fleurs d'attache also provides an introduction to sensemaking and to critical pedagogical approaches, such as radical curiosity, that foster our capacity to take action.



[fleursdattache.ca](https://fleursdattache.ca)

## Legacy Fund for the Environment

The Legacy Fund for the Environment is a charitable organization that supports communities protecting natural environments and defending environmental rights. They assist citizen groups by funding legal action and biodiversity and fiscal studies, as well as providing engagement and awareness-raising tools such as webinars, a blog, and administrative support.

With more than ten years of experience and many collaborations under their belt, the Legacy Fund for the Environment is now looking to increase their impact in Greater Montreal and elsewhere in Quebec. The group helps ensure that the populations most affected by environmental crises have access to the resources they need to rally together and take action, with a vision focused on social justice, collective resilience, and ecological transition.



[legacyfundenvironmental.org](https://legacyfundenvironmental.org)



## Laval ZéN

Laval ZéN provides a space for social dialogue with the aim of rallying as many organizations as possible around a collective approach to a socio-ecological transition.



[www.lavalzen.com](http://www.lavalzen.com)

## Le Cabanon, a community tool and object library

Le Cabanon is a tool and object library operated by a local citizens' group. Based in LESPACEMAKER, a community hub that offers DIY workshops located on the edge of the Centre-Sud and Hochelaga neighbourhoods, Le Cabanon's mission is to promote affordable access to a wide range of shared tools and equipment. They aim to democratize DIY, provide a space for mutual aid and knowledge sharing, and reduce the need to buy new items. More broadly, the initiative aims to strengthen community autonomy and power by pooling resources and sharing self-management methods.



[www.lecabanon.diy](http://www.lecabanon.diy)

## Le Front commun pour la transition énergétique

The Front commun pour la transition énergétique (FCTÉ) focuses on the interdependence of ecological, energy, economic, and social factors that are too often addressed separately. Guided by the conviction that an energy transition provides a unique opportunity for profound transformations at all these levels, the FCTÉ currently seeks to develop and deliver two popular education workshops.

This project aims to break struggles free from their silos by creating spaces for collective action rooted in collective intelligence and experience. Made up of 80 organizations, the FCTÉ is playing a key role in the transition toward a carbon-neutral and socially just future.



[pourlatransitionenergetique.org](http://pourlatransitionenergetique.org)



## Le Pôle Communautaire de Verdun

Verdun's new community hub, the Pôle Communautaire de Verdun, will be a multipurpose centre housed in the former presbytery of Église Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs, on Wellington Street. The premises will be renovated, including responsible landscaping that respects the environment and its biodiversity and is in keeping with the various needs of groups who live in the borough—including unhoused people, families, and business owners.

## Les Greniers agricoles

Les Greniers agricoles is a citizen initiative that aims to create a structured network connecting agricultural producers with activist and vulnerable communities. Drawing on a network of organic farms and food processing organizations, Les Greniers supplies activist groups with free, healthy food for meetings, forums, protests, and other social mobilization activities, or with baskets of organic vegetables.

The collective also organizes awareness-raising events and provides training on agriculture, food processing, and community self-management. By forging links between farmers and activist circles, Les Greniers agricoles contributes to the resilience, empowerment, and solidarity of ecological and social transition movements.

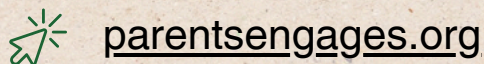


[instagram.com/les.greniers.agricoles.qc](https://www.instagram.com/les.greniers.agricoles.qc)



## Parents engagés pour la petite enfance (PEP)

Parents engagés pour la petite enfance has been leading a gardening and healthy eating project with support from the Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (CDN–NGD) borough. Now in its fifth year, the project is pursuing a new initiative with small collective gardens and an urban garden program for parents in CDN–NDG. The initiative began in response to many parents' lack of access to fresh fruit and vegetables. Gardening serves as a tool to support children's skill development while providing spaces where families can meet and connect. It also gives parents access to healthy food and enables them to strengthen their own skills as their children learn. To date, the project has produced 90 activity sheets on gardening and cooking, developed six mini-gardens in partnership with local organizations, and offered monthly cooking workshops—while strengthening the social fabric of the borough.



## Parole d'excluEs's community-led waste management initiative to support a just ecological transition in Montréal-Nord

This initiative aims to co-construct an inclusive approach to waste management with and for the community, with the goal of improving the neighbourhood environment and strengthening social harmony. This includes citizen-driven development of appropriate local infrastructure.

This project has several objectives:

- Reduce waste proliferation and improve the environment in the neighbourhood
- Raise awareness and inform vulnerable populations about the 4-R method: reduce, reuse, recycle, and repurpose
- Rally institutional actors around local environmental issues
- Create alternative, suitable jobs that support an ecological transition
- Foreground the knowledge and know-how of Montréal-Nord residents



This initiative is in line with a just approach to ecological transition that focuses on the power of marginalized communities to take action. It is based on listening to citizens, collective experimentation, and knowledge sharing to create concrete solutions based on real-life experience. By systematically bringing residents and local organizations together, the project aims to develop an inspiring collective narrative and generate new environmental initiatives in Montréal-Nord.



[parole-dexclues.ca](http://parole-dexclues.ca)

## Projet 10

Project 10 is a Montreal-based non-profit dedicated to promoting personal, social, sexual and mental wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex and questioning (2LGBTQ+) youth and young adults aged 14 to 25. In collaboration with a researcher from Concordia University, Project 10 will offer a program aimed at engaging marginalized 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in environmental education and food sovereignty. The initiative includes a 15-week educational program that combines skill-building workshops, hands-on farming experience, land-based practices and connecting participants with BIPOC-led food sovereignty initiatives and environmental activists. The program will promote participants' well-being through holistic, trauma-informed approach that leverages nature and agriculture as forms of belonging.



[p10.qc.ca](http://p10.qc.ca)



## Regroupement écocitoyen de Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac

The Regroupement écocitoyen de Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac is an eco-citizen group whose mission is to rally Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac residents around projects with a positive impact on their community, while educating and empowering them in terms of environmental protection and the municipality's ecological transition. Their work focuses on two key priorities: first, conserving and restoring green spaces threatened by urban sprawl and commercial development; second, implementing collective, environmentally responsible projects such as community gardens and edible forest gardens. The group is collaborating with experts, local organizations, elected officials, and environmental groups to launch the municipality's first citizen forum dedicated to protecting natural environments in urban areas.



[sites.google.com/recsmsll.ca/recsmsll](https://sites.google.com/recsmsll.ca/recsmsll)

## Table de quartier du Nord de l'Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal (TQNOIM)

The neighbourhood roundtable for the Nord de l'Ouest-de-l'Île is leading a citizen planning, preparedness, and resilience initiative, in collaboration with many partners, including the Table de quartier du Sud de l'Ouest-de-l'Île. Working with social, community, institutional, and citizen actors on the ground, they have three main aims for this project: to gain a better grasp of existing tools and action plans that can be deployed in case of unforeseen weather events—largely caused by climate change—such as extreme heat, ice storms, or flooding; to identify blind spots and possible collaborations to address these gaps; and to discuss better ways of informing and communicating with the public.



[tqnoim.org](http://tqnoim.org)



## Table de quartier du Sud de l'Ouest-de-l'Île (TQSOI)

There have been significant climate hazards in recent years, and the West Island of Montreal has been particularly impacted. Many of these crises, including flooding, fires, and ice storms, required rapid emergency measures, while demonstrating that better planning and coordination would enable a more effective response—for the public in general and for vulnerable populations in particular.

The Table de quartier du Sud de l'Ouest-de-l'Île has put forward a consensus-building and planning initiative to identify existing emergency action plans for municipalities in the area; identify vulnerable populations and their needs; take stock of available community, social, and civil resources; and plan for a coordinated response to future crises.



[tqsoi.org](http://tqsoi.org)

## Table ronde du Quartier chinois de Montréal

Montreal Chinatown Roundtable's mission is to mobilize and represent a diversity of community stakeholders committed to the preservation and equitable development of the neighbourhood. The Roundtable, along with various partners, is working on an Equitable Development Plan for Chinatown, with an overall vision of community capacity building and safeguarding material and immaterial heritage in an inclusive, decolonial, and climate-resilient Chinatown. The project includes multi-stakeholder consultations, community dialogues, civic education, and promoting community expertise at the municipal level.



[tablerondequartierchinoismtl.org](http://tablerondequartierchinoismtl.org)



## Threading Change

Threading Change est une organisation non-gouvernementale d'envergure mondiale, menée par des jeunes, qui lutte contre les injustices et les iniquités qui persistent au sein de l'industrie de la mode d'aujourd'hui.



[threadingchange.org](https://threadingchange.org)

## Vigile verte

Vigile verte is a non-profit organization whose main mission is to protect the last remaining natural areas in the Kateri region, particularly the large drainage basin of the Saint-Jacques River. They aim to protect species at risk, forests, open areas, waterways, and surrounding wetlands—essential ecosystems that are vital to our quality of life.

Vigile verte's activities are mainly carried out by engaged citizens—becoming beacons of hope for their communities in demonstrating that the capacity to act exists at all levels. It is important to believe that local actions can make a real difference in countering the triple planetary crisis (climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss).



[vigileverte.com](https://vigileverte.com)



# Remerciements

The Foundation of Greater Montréal would like to thank all the people and organizations who helped design and deliver the 2025–2026 edition of the Collective Fund for Climate and Ecological Transition.

## Advisory Committee members

### **Astrid Arumae**

Community Coach and Climate Consultant. Astrid founded community-led social innovation projects in Montreal and has coached and supported communities across Canada to develop actionable strategies for just transition that center equity, reconciliation and belonging.

### **Olivia Champagne**

Executive Director, Solidarity Economy Incubation for Zero Emissions (SEIZE). Educator, organizer, and entrepreneur, Olivia works at the intersection of economic and environmental justice, helping frontline organizers, cooperative networks, and movement-based campaigns to develop long-term strategies for a just transition.

### **Raphaëlle Dufresne**

Coordinator of climate change adaptation and resilience projects, Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal. With almost a decade of experience in environmental space, Raphaëlle brought to the committee her knowledge of participatory urbanism and engaging communities around climate resilience.



## **Julie Dunleavy**

Programs and Grants Manager, The Youth Harbour. Julie brought to the committee a wealth of experience as grassroots environmental organizer, a deep understanding of youth-led movements and centering equity in grantmaking processes.

## **Bertrand Fouss**

General co-coordinator, Transition en Commun. Known for his work supporting the development of collective community-led projects for a just transition, Bertrand brought to the committee a deep knowledge of popular movements in Quebec, at the intersection of ecology and democracy.

## **Albert Lalonde**

Activist, Future Generations Tribunal and various grassroots networks. An experienced climate and social movement organizer, Albert is committed to building relationships and understanding between movement institutions and grassroots organizations and opening dialogue on transformational resource allocation.

## **Anne-Marie Legault**

Partnerships manager, Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon. An experienced professional in regional development, local food systems and socio-ecological transition, Anne-Marie is an eloquent advocate for the role of philanthropy in supporting grassroots movements.

## **France Levert**

Environmental activist. France is recognized for her many contributions to the environmental movement in Quebec, notably as a founding member of the Réseau des femmes en environnement and a member of the citizen movement Prenons la Ville ! Her expertise combines urban planning, ecology, and participatory democracy.

## **Marc Nisbet**

Consulting Director, Social Economy, PME MTL and Member of the Community Engagement Committee, FGM. A dedicated FGM volunteer, Marc brought deep knowledge of community development in Greater Montreal, along with his signature wit, wisdom and understanding of the vital role played by the grassroots communities.



## **Anne Pelletier**

Head of Environmental Health and Urban Lifestyle Department, Montreal Regional Public Health Department. Working at the intersection of health and environment. Anne brought scientific knowledge of the impact of climate change on health, especially for vulnerable populations.

## **Manda Razafimahefa**

Director, Strategic Partnerships and Growth, Fonds Fiducie du Chantier de l'économie sociale and Member of the Community Engagement Committee, FGM. Manda brought her vast experience in social and environmental finance, especially in supporting entrepreneurs from equity-deserving communities.

## **Salma Tihani**

Artist and Program Officer, Pathy Family Foundation. Amazigh artist, educator and environmental activist, Salma brought her extensive experience in youth engagement, education and community advocacy to support social impact initiatives.

# **Capacity-building partner**

## **Tamarack Institute**

Tamarack Institute is an award-winning charitable organization with over 20 years of experience building the capacity of changemakers nationally. It works to support local communities around five practice areas: collective action, community engagement, collaborative leadership, community innovation and, evaluating impact. Tamarack catalyzes these areas with diverse leaders to solve major community challenges and generate change that improves conditions of well-being for **everyone** in a given place.



[tamarackcommunity.ca](https://tamarackcommunity.ca)



# Funders

**ECHO Foundation**

**Fondation Famille François et Monique Bourgeois (Fonds Esther Bourgeois pour l'environnement)**

**Thank you to all the people and organizations who participated in our fall 2024 consultations to develop this edition of the Fund.**

**Finally, thank you to all the organizations, collectives, and citizen groups who applied.**



# About the FGM

## Our Mission

The Foundation of Greater Montréal is committed to serving and listening to its community. In collaboration with its partners, it mobilizes philanthropic resources, disseminates knowledge, sparks initiatives and supports the community, all with a view to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Greater Montreal.

## Our Vision

The Foundation of Greater Montréal has a vision of a community that is free of poverty and discrimination, where all can realize their potential and live in a healthy environment, now and in the future.

## Our Values

Justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, collaboration, listening, creation, innovation and integrity.

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[fgmtl.org](http://fgmtl.org)



Foundation of Greater Montréal