



Press release
For immediate release

Homelessness and the pandemic: Nearly 80,000 overnight stays in overflow shelters and over 50,000 visits to drop-in centres

Montreal, June 17, 2021 – With two weeks to go until important changes are made to emergency shelter services in Montreal, seven leading organizations that serve the city's homeless population — Accueil Bonneau, CAP St-Barnabé, CARE Montréal, Maison du Père, the Old Brewery Mission, Projets Autochtones du Québec and Welcome Hall Mission — summarized the measures taken over the past six months as an unprecedented collaborative effort. The initiatives were supported by the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal and the City of Montreal, and made possible thanks to emergency funds under the federal government's COVID-19 response.

Between October 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, **more than 950 beds** were made available to homeless people in overflow units at locations such as Hôtel Place Dupuis, the former Royal Victoria Hospital and the Centre Pierre-Charbonneau. The partner organizations managed **79,905 overnight stays** at these facilities* which were created to make up for the reduction in the number of beds at shelters. Significant efforts were made to address a wide range of individual and collective needs, including those of the Aboriginal population, women and the LGBTQIA2+ community.

There were **54,472 visits** to the drop-in centres (Grand Quai, CARE Montréal and Café Mission Keurig®) and they served **65,317 meals**. Three shuttle services (Navette CARE, Petite Navette and the new Old Brewery Mission Solidaribus in partnership with the STM) were also set up and provided **20,716 safe transports** to places where people could spend the night or obtain services. There were **64,222 overnight stays** at the regular shelters, a decrease due to a reduction in the number of beds in order to meet physical distancing requirements.

“COVID-19 has exposed the weaknesses in our current system and the urgent need to overhaul housing policies,” says a joint statement by the seven organizations. “The time has come to move beyond band-aid solutions that meet basic needs, like shelter and food, and provide more permanent year-round services focused on housing.”

Over the past year, the partner organizations have noticed an **increase in the number of homeless people** in the city. They want emergency and support services to be available 24/7 and have submitted a five-year plan to the City of Montreal and the CIUSSS, which is currently under discussion.

For more details, see the [2020-2021 Report](#) (in French).



More information about the partner organizations:

accueilbonneau.com

capstbarnabe.org

caremontreal.org

maisondupere.org

missionbonaccueil.com

missionoldbrewery.ca

paqc.org

** All data is for the period of October or November 2020 (depending on the starting date of the service) to March 31, 2021.*

– 30 –

Available for interviews:

François Boissy, CEO, Maison du Père

Fiona Crossling, Executive Director, Accueil Bonneau

James Hughes, President and CEO, Old Brewery Mission

Heather Johnston, Executive Director, Projets Autochtones du Québec

Michel Monette, Founder and Executive Director, CARE Montréal

Isabelle Piché, Executive Director, CAP St-Barnabé

Sam Watts, CEO, Welcome Hall Mission

Source:

Melissa Bellerose

514 779-8188 (cell)

mbellerose@missionoldbrewery.ca

Information :

Diane Jeannotte / Diep Truong

514 772-8019 / 514 436-2121

dianej@djcom.ca / diep@exergue.ca