



November 8, 2023

To: City of Dorval
City of Pointe-Claire
City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux
City of Kirkland
City of Beaconsfield
City of Baie-d'Urfé
City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
Village of Senneville
CIUSSS Ouest-de-l'Île de Montréal
Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal
Société d'habitation du Québec

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Subject: Addressing gaps in emergency housing resources for tenants in demerged West Island cities

To whom it may concern,

On September 23, 2023, a [devastating fire](#) uprooted 26 households in Dorval. Immediately following the fire, the Red Cross stepped in to provide temporary housing, but this support lasted a few days, leaving victims desperately searching for housing and confused about who to turn to. Luckily, victims in need of accommodation were accompanied by the referral service of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (OMHM).

This is not an isolated incident in the West Island. This year alone, West Island residents were displaced and left temporarily homeless after additional fires in [Dorval](#) and [Dollard-des-Ormeaux](#). **In both instances, relevant authorities delayed in making the necessary referral to the OMHM and the referral service, demonstrating a lack of**

communication and understanding regarding the protocol for the provision of aid to disaster victims following an emergency intervention by the Montreal Fire Department in the territory of the agglomeration of Montreal.

Furthermore, West Island households from demerged cities that find themselves homeless after a repossession or “reno-viction,” or are evacuated due to a sanitation issue, are not covered by the emergency accommodation service of the OMHM’s referral service. **Residents of the City of Montreal are eligible for temporary housing, reimbursement of moving and storage costs, and housing search assistance through the referral service. However, residents of demerged cities are not eligible for the same benefits, and there are no equivalent services in these cities.** Considering that only 20% of housing units in the West Island are rentals and that the West Island is home to a mere 4% of the island’s social housing, it is not easy for tenants to find adequate and affordable housing once they are displaced.

We call upon the demerged cities of the West Island and the CIUSSS of the West Island to take advantage of available resources and partnerships in order to address these gaps in emergency housing resources. The first measure we suggest is to apply for a subsidy under Stream 1 of the [*Programme d’hébergement temporaire et d’aide à la recherche de logement \(PHTARL\)*](#) of the *Société d’habitation du Québec* (SHQ). This subsidy would unlock [*significant funds*](#) so that cities can provide temporary housing and a moving and storage service to residents in need. Under Stream 2 of this program, it is also possible for cities to contact the OMHM to begin discussions on possible service linkages with the referral service, in order to allow low-income residents of demerged cities to have full access to the housing search assistance service all year round.

We look forward to an ongoing dialogue to address this pressing matter that affects the well-being and safety of our communities.

Signed,

Comité d’action des locataires de l’Ouest-de-l’Île
Table de Quartier Sud de l’Ouest-de-l’Île
Table de Quartier Nord de l’Ouest-de-l’Île de Montréal

To add your name to the list of signatories below, [click here](#).

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