



# LaSalle

## THE TERRITORY AND ITS POPULATION

With almost 75,000 residents, the LaSalle territory has one of the largest populations on the Island of Montreal. In the southwest sector of the city, LaSalle is bordered to the south and west by the St. Lawrence River, to the northwest by the borough of Lachine and Lachine Canal, and to the east by the boroughs of Le Sud-Ouest and Verdun. LaSalle continues to be a major industrial centre and one of the city's main commercial hubs. The territory is fragmented by multiple roads, railways and major industrial areas, which have sectioned off a number of residential areas. In socio-economic terms, the sectors in the north part are, in general, less well-off than (and physically separated from) the areas along the waterfront.

LaSalle's demographics are characterized by a significant presence of seniors and families with children. Although the sector has many children under 14 (11,320), the demographic weight of these youth (15%) is less than that of seniors (19%, compared to 16% for the Island of Montreal).

LaSalle stands out from neighbouring boroughs through its cultural and linguistic diversity. Immigrants represent 35% of the population, and the neighbourhood continues to grow as a popular point of settlement for newcomers (who account for 8% of the population). One out of three people in the territory belongs to a visible minority, a percentage that has been on the rise since 2006 (+7%).

### "Hidden poverty"

While poverty indicators for LaSalle as a whole are comparable to those for Montreal, some metrics are more pronounced, such as the rate of single parents (36%, compared to 33% for the Island of Montreal) along with the percentage of adults with low education (23%, compared to 19% for the Island of Montreal). In actual numbers, these statistics are some of the highest for all Montreal territories: about 14,000 people aged 15 and over do not have a high school diploma, and over 4,500 families are single-parent families. The territory's low-income rate is equivalent to Montreal's (25%) yet nevertheless applies to a very high number of people (18,000). A significant number of children aged 0 to 5 are in this group (36%), and this is also the only age group for which the low-income rate in LaSalle exceeds that of Montreal (29%).

Vulnerable families are dispersed throughout the LaSalle territory, and this gives rise to what local stakeholders call "hidden poverty", or poverty that doesn't show up in overall statistical profiles. If we look more closely, we can see that poverty is concentrated in the following sectors, all of which are in the west part of the borough: LaSalle Heights/Highlands and LaSalle Centre-Ouest. LaSalle Centre-Ouest also includes the Airlie-Bayne Integrated Urban Revitalization (IUR) sector bordered by Airlie Street, Bayne Street, 80e Avenue and 90e Avenue. This area is highly underprivileged from a commercial standpoint. It also has problems related to accessibility, urban safety, deterioration, unsafe housing, and other issues. In these sectors, the low-income rate for the whole population varies between 28% for the

## SNAPSHOT OF THE TERRITORY

### One of the most populated neighbourhoods in Montreal

Total population of 75,000 people.

### Presence of residential sectors hemmed in by major roads, railways and industrial areas

### Percentage of families with children in LaSalle comparable to the Montreal average

64% of LaSalle families have children compared to 63% for the Island of Montreal. In actual numbers, there are 12,850 of these families in the territory.

### Demographic weight of seniors higher than that of youth

19% of the territory's population is aged 65 and over, compared to 16% for the Island of Montreal.

Youth under 14 account for 15% of the population, which is similar to Montreal's rate for this age group. More than 11,000 live in the neighbourhood.

### Major and growing cultural and linguistic diversity

LaSalle is an important hub of immigration in the west part of the island, with the highest number of immigrants (25,240) out of all municipalities in this sector. Nearly 6,000 are recent immigrants, which represents a 39% increase since 2006.

In terms of language, LaSalle has one of the highest percentages in the west part of the island of people who speak neither English nor French at home (19%). However, this rate is equivalent to the Montreal average.



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Highlands sector and 44% in LaSalle Heights (25% in Montreal). The percentage of people under 18 with a low income is also greater than the Montreal average for all of these areas, particularly LaSalle Heights, which has the highest rate (46%, compared to 28% in Montreal).

In addition to the low-income rate, these territories also have a number of other poverty indicators. For example, the percentage of single parents (which varies from 37% to 48%, compared to 33% in Montreal) and the rates of adults with low education (which range from 21% to 27%, compared to 19% in Montreal) are higher than for the island as a whole. In this regard, LaSalle Heights is the worst off: nearly one out of two families is headed by a single parent, and more than one quarter of the population does not have a high school diploma. This sector, and the borough's western sector more generally, proportionally welcomes more recent immigrants than the rest of the territory.

## COMMUNITY DYNAMICS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2015-2016, Centraide is supporting five agencies and projects in LaSalle, including the neighbourhood roundtable, for a total investment of \$589,660.

LaSalle's community network is less dense than that of its neighbouring boroughs, and institutional actors (the borough administration, health and social services, the employment sector) play an active role in social development. There is a high level of cooperation when it comes to specific issues. Some of the main concerns of community agencies include the needs of young children, initiatives to reach out to marginalized teens and young adults, the integration of newcomers, the vulnerability and isolation of a segment of the senior population, urban safety, and access to affordable housing.

Since its inaugural meeting in 2008, the Table de développement social de LaSalle has experienced great momentum, as reflected by the many projects that it has taken on. Since 2009, it has coordinated the Integrated Urban Revitalization (IUR) process for the Airlie-Bayne neighbourhood. The 2010-2020 plan to revitalize the sector consists of two main components: land-use planning and the development of community, economic and social life. Many initiatives have been started to get residents involved. These include public spaces and the Place du citoyen (a centre specifically for LaSalle residents), urban cafés, urban agriculture and greening projects, a community skating rink, a neighbourhood market, indoor and outdoor activities, and a newspaper published by residents. The roundtable coordinates other collaborative projects to promote healthy lifestyles (*LaSalle en santé*) and sustainable development (*Quartiers 21* program) while coordinating the *Plan laSalleois de développement social 2010-2015*.

### Higher number of people who belong to a visible minority

Growth of immigration reflected by an increase in the percentage of people from visible minorities, which rose from 26% to 33% of the population between 2006 and 2011 (Island of Montreal: 30%).

The black community forms LaSalle's largest visible minority group (with 10,025 people, or 14% of the population, compared to 8% in Montreal).

### Rate of low education above the Montreal average

23% of the adult population does not have a high school diploma (Island of Montreal: 19%).

### A higher percentage of single-parent families compared to the Montreal average

36%, compared to 33% for the Island of Montreal. 4,560 single-parent families in the neighbourhood.

### Low income rate for all of LaSalle similar to the Montreal average, except for children aged 0 to 5

23% of the LaSalle population lives on a low income, compared to 25% for Montreal. This percentage nevertheless represents a high number of people (18,000).

36% of young children live in a low-income household, compared to 29% for the Island of Montreal.

### Significant concentration of poverty in sectors in the western part of the borough, particularly in LaSalle Heights

44% of the total population in LaSalle Heights, 28% in Highlands, and 29% in LaSalle Centre-Ouest has a low income.

Low-income rates among children and youth aged 0 to 18 exceed the Montreal average (28%) in all of these sectors: 37% in Highlands, 38% in LaSalle Centre-Ouest and 46% in LaSalle Heights.

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The roundtable and its partners recently held their third major forum on social development in LaSalle. This collective consultation, discussion and prioritization process took place over a number of months in 2014 and 2015. Residents, institutions, schools, communities, and political bodies came together to create a portrait of LaSalle, identify priority issues, and develop the *Plan laSalleois de développement social 2015-2020*. The identified actions respond to five priority issues: service knowledge and complementarity; food security; the fight against poverty and social exclusion; the welcoming and integration of newcomers; and education and academic perseverance.

## ISSUES THAT ENGAGE CENTRAIDE

Some of the issues that the community has identified as a priority are in line with Centraide's mission and orientations. These include diverse strategies to fight poverty and social exclusion.

### — Action in targeted areas

On the one hand, local actors are called upon to pursue collective action in underprivileged areas with the highest concentrations of poverty. The Airlie-Bayne IUR greening project, called "Ma cour, ma rue, mon quartier," has been a platform for collaboration and partnerships around several key initiatives. Although citizen involvement has been enthusiastic and while significant advances have improved living environments, major challenges remain in urban development, the built environment and housing. Centraide will pay attention to needs in this sector and other areas outside of this program, such as LaSalle Heights, which could benefit from more coordinated collective action.

### — Share knowledge to improve initiatives in the entire territory

Community agencies in LaSalle must also contend with the challenge of poverty that is diffuse and spread throughout the territory. To act more effectively in the neighbourhood, the roundtable and its partners have to finish the profile of LaSalle poverty and communicate their findings so that everyone can benefit from this improved knowledge of needs.

### — Improved living conditions

From a broader standpoint, Centraide will closely follow the development and implementation of the *Plan laSalleois de développement social 2015-2020*. Centraide will also watch out for any needs that arise from this plan, particularly strategies developed to fight poverty and social exclusion. The coordination of priorities and initiatives between different food security stakeholders will also receive particular attention.

**In the west sectors, the rates of single parents and people with a low education level are above those for Montreal**

#### **Rates of single parents**

37% in LaSalle Centre-Ouest, 39% in Highlands and 48% in LaSalle Heights, compared to 33% for the entire island. These are the highest rates for all LaSalle sectors.

#### **Education**

In these sectors, the percentage of adults without a high school diploma is larger than for Montreal (19%) and reaches 27% in LaSalle Heights, which has the highest rate for all of the borough's sectors.

**Child development and school readiness is an issue of concern in disadvantaged areas of LaSalle**

In these sectors, the percentage of children who are vulnerable in at least one area of development when they start kindergarten is much higher than for Montreal: 48% in LaSalle Heights/Highlands and 47% in LaSalle Centre-Ouest, compared to 29% for the island as a whole.

*Demographic and economic data: 2011 Census, National Household Survey, Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK 2012).*

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## – Children, youth and families

A number of stakeholders are concerned about youth success in the territory. Many initiatives are ongoing, such as programs for school readiness, the transition from primary to secondary school, academic perseverance, and school-family-community collaboration. We are encouraging the roundtable and its partners to keep working and intensify coordination between stakeholders and initiatives in two specific sectors: support strategies for families and the development of the potential of children and youth throughout their personal and academic journeys. We will pay attention to initiatives to meet the needs of families who are living in poverty or who are vulnerable, particularly programs that target immigrant families.

## – Diversity and inclusion

Given the significance and growth of immigration, agencies and the neighbourhood roundtable have devised strategies to fight poverty and social exclusion that are adapted to demographic changes and the particular challenges of newcomers (culture shock, language barriers, social isolation, discrimination, the integration of children into school, etc.) and of racial groups (discrimination, access to housing and employment, etc.). We intend to help agencies and the community build their capacity to develop an intercultural approach and practices that help all LaSalle residents become fully involved in their community. We also want to help agencies to reflect, in all of their aspects, the ethnic and cultural make-up of the neighbourhood. Finally, the *Plan laSalleois de développement social 2015-2020* is an opportunity to keep up current efforts to encourage LaSalle residents of all backgrounds to implement the community's chosen actions.

## INVESTMENT FROM CENTRAIDE OF GREATER MONTREAL 2015 - 2016

### Inclusion

Corporation l'Espoir

### Neighbourhood life

Centre du Vieux Moulin de LaSalle

### Community development

Table de développement social de LaSalle

### Living conditions

Nutri-Centre LaSalle

### Youth and families

Boys and Girls Club of LaSalle