



LaSalle

THE TERRITORY AND ITS POPULATION

With close to 77,000 residents, LaSalle is one of the most populated neighbourhoods on the Island of Montreal. In the southwest sector of the city, LaSalle is bordered by the St. Lawrence River to the south and to the west, by Lachine and the Lachine Canal to the northwest, and by the boroughs of the Sud-Ouest and Verdun to the east. LaSalle continues to be a major industrial centre and one of the city's main commercial hubs. On the housing front, the territory is divided by some major roads, railways and large industrial zones, which have created a number of ghettoized areas. Generally speaking, the neighbourhoods in the northern and western areas are both separate from and more socioeconomically disadvantaged than the waterfront neighbourhoods.

LaSalle's population includes a large percentage of seniors and families with children. Although there are 12,500 children under 15, the population share of young people is lower than it is for seniors: 16% compared to 20%. LaSalle stands out from neighbouring boroughs through its cultural and linguistic diversity. Immigrants account for 36% of the population (compared to 34% in Montreal), and the neighbourhood is increasingly becoming a hub for newcomers, who make up 8% of the population. Many asylum-seeking migrants have also moved to the area in recent years, and 37% of residents are visible minorities (33% in Montréal) – a percentage that has been on the rise since 2006.

"Hidden poverty"

While deprivation indicators for LaSalle as a whole are comparable to those for Montreal, there is a greater divergence in some metrics, such as the percentage of adults with low education and the rate of poverty among young children. In actual numbers, these statistics are some of the highest for all Montreal neighbourhoods: over 12,500 people aged 15 and over do not have a high school diploma, and some 4,700 families are single-parent households. The neighbourhood's low-income rate is slightly below that of Montreal, but a large number of people (nearly 15,000) still fall into that category.

Vulnerable families are dispersed throughout LaSalle, contributing to what local stakeholders call "hidden poverty", because it doesn't show up in overall statistical profiles. Nevertheless, there is a significant concentration of poverty in the following sectors, all of which are in the west part of the borough: LaSalle Heights/Highlands and LaSalle Centre-Ouest, which includes the Airlie-Bayne Integrated Urban Revitalization (IUR) sector bordered by Airlie Street, Bayne Street, 80^e Avenue and 90^e Avenue. Many businesses in this area are failing. The area also struggles with issues of accessibility, safety, urban decay and unsanitary living conditions. In the western sectors, the low-income rate varies between 22% for LaSalle-Centre-Ouest and 40% for LaSalle Heights, compared to 21% for Montreal. The percentage of children under 6 living in a low-income family also exceeds the Montreal average in all these areas, particularly in LaSalle Heights, which has

SNAPSHOT OF THE TERRITORY

One of the most populated neighbourhoods in Montreal

Total population: 76,860

Population growth slightly higher than in Montreal (+3.5% vs. +2.9%).

Roads, railways and industrial zones divide the borough into a number of ghettoized areas

Demographic weight of seniors higher than that of youth

20% of the population is aged 65 and over, compared to 17% for Montreal.

Young people under 15 account for 16% of the population, which is similar to Montreal's percentage for this age group.

Percentage of families with children higher than the Montreal average

66% of LaSalle families have children compared to 63% for Montreal. In actual numbers, there are 13,450 such families in the community.

The majority (56%) of families with children are immigrants (Montreal: 51%).

Significant and growing cultural and linguistic diversity

In ten years, the number of immigrants has grown by 26% (Montreal: 15%). Today, immigrants make up 36% of the community's population, whereas they made up 29% in 2006. In actual numbers, there are 26,945 immigrants currently living in LaSalle, of which 5,620 are new immigrants, representing 8% of the neighbourhood's total population (Montreal: 7%).



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the highest rate (44% compared to 23% in Montréal). In addition to the high low-income rate, single parenthood (which ranges from 36% to 45%, compared to 33% in Montreal) is higher than it is on the island, with LaSalle Heights having the highest rate: almost one in two families is a single-parent household.

With over 29,000 residents, LaSalle-Nord is by far the most populated area of LaSalle, and this is also the part that has the most low-income individuals (more than 5,400). This poverty affects many young children, as one out of every four children under 5 lives in a low-income household. The large area of LaSalle-Nord is characterized by more residents with low education (21%) and a higher percentage of single-parent families (34%) than the Montreal average. As a popular neighbourhood for immigrants to settle, LaSalle-Nord has the highest number of recent immigrants (2,400) and visible minorities (13,000).

COMMUNITY DYNAMICS AND PARTNERSHIPS

LaSalle's community network is not as strong as it is in neighbouring communities, so the borough itself, as well as health and social services and the employment sector, play a more active role in social development. Community agencies are active in specific fields and many of them take part in sectoral discussions, collective projects – such as the Airlie-Bayne Integrated Urban Revitalization (IUR) – and talks on key community development initiatives.

Since it was founded in 2008, the Table de développement social de LaSalle (a community round table) has brought together the community's different strengths. Following a collective consultation, discussion and prioritization process, the round table devised a common community vision and developed the Plan laSallois de développement social 2015-2020, a social development plan that focusses on five priority issues: service knowledge and complementarity; food security; the fight against poverty and social exclusion; welcoming newcomers and helping them integrate; and education and academic perseverance.

Unfortunately, internal tensions have weakened the collective work of the round table in recent years and are preventing the plan from being fully implemented. However, despite an environment that is not conducive to creating new partnerships and collective initiatives, round table members have remained focussed on the need to work together. After reviewing their statutes and regulations and identifying ways to strengthen trust between partners, they feel that the environment for collective action is greatly improved.

In 2019-2020, Centraide is making a total investment of \$466,320 to support six LaSalle agencies and projects, including the community round table.

ISSUES THAT ENGAGE CENTRAIDE

— The community's ability to welcome and include immigrants

Agencies and the community round table must develop strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion that are designed to address the specific challenges experienced by immigrants, particularly new immigrants, i.e., people who immigrated less than five years ago. To help all residents become fully involved in their community, Centraide will focus on supporting agencies as they develop an approach and practices that are intercultural in nature and work towards reflecting the neighbourhood's ethnic and cultural make-up in every aspect of the services they offer.

Compared to the community as a whole, LaSalle Heights has the highest percentages of immigrants (51%) and new immigrants (13%).

61% of LaSalle residents are born outside Canada or come from families where one or both parents are immigrants (Montréal: 59%).

64% of newborns have an immigrant mother, compared to 58% in Montreal (2017).

In terms of language, the percentage of people in LaSalle whose mother tongue is neither English nor French (21%, or 15,700 people) is higher than the Montreal average (19%).

Increase in the percentage of people from visible minorities, which rose from 26% in 2006 to 37% in 2016 (Montreal: 33%).

The black community constitutes LaSalle's largest visible minority group, with 11,420 people, or 15% of the population, compared to 10% in Montreal.

One of the highest rates of under-educated people among Montreal neighbourhoods

12,565 people aged 15 and over do not have a high school diploma (20%, compared to 17% in Montreal).

Number of single-parent families among the highest across Montreal neighbourhoods

LaSalle has 4,750 single-parent families (35% compared to 33% in Montreal).

Low income rate for all of LaSalle similar to the Montreal average, except for 0-5 year-olds

19% of the LaSalle population lives on a low income (Montreal: 21%). However, this percentage represents a large number of people (14,610).

25% of young children live in a low-income household (Montreal: 23%).

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

40% of the total population in LaSalle Heights, 23% in Highlands, and 22% in LaSalle Centre-Ouest lives on a low income (Montreal: 21%).

Low income for 0-5 year-olds also exceeds the Montreal average (23%) in all the aforementioned sectors: 44% in LaSalle Heights, 30% in Highlands and 26% in LaSalle-Centre-Ouest.

The poverty rate for seniors is particularly high in LaSalle Heights: 51% (Montreal: 21%). More than half (54%) of individuals aged 65 and over live alone (Montreal: 36%).

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— Actions focussed on young people from immigrant families living in poverty

Several partners have said the community must work together to meet the needs of young people, especially those aged 6 to 12, and specifically immigrant children in that age group. Centraide will encourage LaSalle stakeholders to: identify the priority needs of young people; determine the related change targets; and find new ways to maximize the impact of their actions, such as (for example) implementing collective projects or developing partnerships with agencies in other neighbourhoods. Centraide will work with the community to promote initiatives that support youth success.

— Strengthening strategies to improve living conditions: taking care of the essentials

Because LaSalle's community network is small, the community's ability to meet the basic needs (i.e., housing and food) of vulnerable people is limited. Centraide will focus on setting up initiatives that promote access to adequate and affordable housing, and strengthening existing food security initiatives, particularly in the most vulnerable sectors.

— Improving the ability for collective action

Centraide supports the essential conditions for implementing the neighbourhood plan and strengthening collective efforts through leadership, complementary resources, and a vibrant and positive environment that promotes inclusive involvement. To do so, Centraide will focus on projects that strengthen the community's ability to build capacity and leadership.

In the western parts of the borough, the rates of single parenthood are higher than those in Montreal

45% of families in LaSalle Heights are single-parent families; in LaSalle-Centre-Ouest, the percentage is 37% and in Highlands 36% (Montreal: 33%).

Rate of adults with low education higher in LaSalle Heights

In LaSalle Heights, 29% of individuals aged 15 and over do not have a high school diploma (Montreal: 17%).

Challenges associated with the academic success of young children

In LaSalle, 36% of young children start kindergarten without the basic school-readiness skills (Montreal: 29%). In the borough's more disadvantaged sectors, these rates are significantly higher than the Montreal average: 44% in LaSalle Heights and Highlands, 41% in LaSalle-Nord and 37% in LaSalle-Centre-Ouest.

Demographic and economic data: 2016 Census; Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK 2017); Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, 2019.

INVESTMENT FROM CENTRAIDE OF GREATER MONTREAL 2019-2020

Inclusion

- Corporation l'Espoir

Neighbourhood life

- Centre du Vieux Moulin de LaSalle
- Maison des familles de LaSalle

Community development

- Table de développement social de LaSalle

Living conditions

- Espace d'échange et d'action en sécurité alimentaire (Collective Impact Project CIP)
- Nutri-Centre LaSalle