



# Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

## THE TERRITORY AND ITS POPULATION

### A neighbourhood with many faces

Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) sits to the west of Mount Royal and is bordered to the north by Côte-Saint-Luc Road and to the south by Saint-Jacques Street. Created as a municipality in 1876, it was amalgamated with Côte-des-Neiges in 2002 to form the Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough. Its population of 67,475 people is highly diverse both ethnically and culturally.

However, one out of four individuals (15,690 people) who live in this area—which is well-off and more educated than the Montreal average—has a low income. Some areas of the territory have concentrated poverty, and these include Saint-Raymond, Westhaven and Walkley-Fielding. The populations in these sectors face major constraints when it comes to adequate housing, food security, academic success, and good-quality jobs. These inequalities create an imbalance in the community, which in turn poses a great challenge for social development stakeholders. These sectors also draw many new immigrants, who mainly come from Asia, the Middle East and Europe. This context reinforces the diverse character of the territory and its reputation as an area where many newcomers come to settle.

NDG has specific and diverse features in terms of its urban design. It is crossed by major traffic arteries (Autoroute Décarie, Cavendish Boulevard, Sherbrooke Street and Saint-Jacques Street) juxtaposed against a network of calm residential streets. With the creation of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and the construction of the Turcot Interchange, the current reconfiguration of the urban space has exacerbated these contrasts. Once these large urban projects are finished, the territory (and particularly the Saint-Raymond sector) will have undergone major transformations that will impact not only real estate but also how people get around and the quality of community life and the social fabric.

### Diversity and inclusion

Nearly 36% of the territory's residents are Anglophone, a percentage that is well above that of Montreal (16%). The first Anglophones started moving to the area in the 1920s, which led to the creation of many schools and churches. Some of these places of worship, which are significant fixtures of the area's architectural heritage, are now used more as community centres.

With its characteristic ethnic and cultural diversity, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce stands out through its ongoing social diversity, its harmonious integration of different language groups, a tradition of citizen involvement, as well as innovative forms of social and community entrepreneurship. There is also a feeling of inclusion that is not impeded by language barriers or ethnic or cultural differences.

However, challenges remain in terms of economic inclusion. In fact, access to quality employment for new immigrants who settle in the territory (whose population is twice the Montreal average) continues to be an issue. Working conditions can be precarious, as shown by a higher rate of poor workers compared to the rate for all of Montreal (13.3% and 11.5%, respectively). The Saint-Raymond, Westhaven and Walkley-Fielding sectors are home to higher numbers of poor workers.

### Key issues for youth

According to stakeholders who work directly in the field, youth issues can be highly acute in the territory and include school dropouts, idleness, delinquency. The high level of poverty, the concentration of social problems in vulnerable areas, gaps in social service structures, and the territory's closed-off configuration complicate strategies to address these issues and put pressure on the community's ability to respond effectively to young people's needs

## SNAPSHOT OF THE TERRITORY

### A densely populated area

Total population of 67,475.

### A neighbourhood where closed-off areas and major construction projects pose major challenges for the community

### Major social and economic disparities

Although the neighbourhood has a reputation for being well-off, one out of four people (24%) has a low income, a percentage that is slightly higher than the Montreal rate (21%). Overall, poverty affects 15,690 people in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Some sectors stand out in terms of poverty: Saint-Raymond, Westhaven and Walkley-Fielding.

### A neighbourhood shaped by immigration

25,860 immigrants, 39% of the territory's population (Montreal: 34%).

The main countries immigrants hail from are Iran, China, France and the Philippines.

In Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the percentage of recent immigrants (14%) is twice as high as that of Montreal (7%).

### Neighbourhood characterized by significant Anglophone presence and linguistic diversity

Anglophones represent 36% of the population of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Montréal: 16%).

The percentage of Allophones (34%) is similar to the Montreal average (33%), whereas the percentage of Francophones is nearly half of that of Montreal (25%, compared to 46% in Montreal).

### Significant presence of visible minorities across the territory

36% of residents are members of a visible minority (Montreal: 33%).

Members of the Black (7,140) and Chinese (3,900) communities represent 11% and 6% of the neighbourhood population, respectively.

### Percentage of single-parent families comparable to the Montreal average

One out of three families is headed by a single parent (34%, or 3,800 families), compared to 33% in Montreal.

### Percentage of people living alone close to the Montreal average

12,420 people, or 19% of the territory's population, live alone (Montreal: 18%).



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## COMMUNITY DYNAMICS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The community fabric of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce is also quite diverse, with more than 40 organizations—such as churches, social clubs and volunteer associations—that form an extensive canvas of social networks focused on charitable aid. Centraide of Greater Montreal supports 8 agencies and projects in this territory, for a total investment of \$992,767 in 2018-2019.

In terms of local collective action, the NDG Community Council has inherited a longstanding mission and mechanisms that set it apart from other neighbourhood roundtables in Montreal. Created over 70 years ago and based on a tradition of Anglo-Saxon citizen involvement, the roundtable includes residents and other stakeholders (from community agencies and public institutions) and moderates discussions in the civic space by holding regular roundtable meetings.

Recently, the NDG Community Council took up the challenge of serving as the neighbourhood's multi-network and intersectoral roundtable. In this role, the Council held a conference in 2017 on the topic of quality of life, which was attended by many territory residents and stakeholders. This event led to the development of a strategic plan for the territory, which should be finalized in fall 2018. The issues prioritized in the plan include access to community spaces; affordable and quality housing; employment and the local economy; accessibility, diversity and quality of public and community services; and the reinforcement of organizational capacities.

## ISSUES THAT ENGAGE CENTRAIDE

As part of its territorial approach, Centraide will closely follow or pay particular attention to funding requests that are in line with the issues defined for the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce territory.

Centraide will focus on programs and projects that will maximize its investment and increase the community's ability to meet the social challenges involved in the fight against poverty. These issues include:

### — Collective action for more impact

The Notre-Dame-de-Grâce territory continues to undergo major changes that influence diverse aspects of the community's collective and social development. Stakeholders' ideas to optimize intervention and mobilization structures should guide collective work and lead to coordinated action to address existing social issues, particularly in vulnerable sectors.

Centraide supports the neighbourhoods in this territory based on an integrated social development approach to create a continuum of services that meet the needs of vulnerable populations. We will also pay attention to partnerships and community action in this direction.

### — Target areas

Centraide wants to continue reinforcing community action in the target underprivileged sectors. Centraide is encouraging social stakeholders that invest in these sectors to develop a coordinated intervention strategy that will improve the living conditions of people experiencing situations of poverty and social exclusion. Actions to meet the needs of families and young people as well as initiatives promoting food security and social inclusion are areas that Centraide will focus on in particular.

### — Community access to services

The configuration of the urban fabric, the lack of community space, and the relocation of some agencies' head offices make it harder for vulnerable individuals to access community services. Centraide will pay close attention to this situation and hopes to support and guide the community as it looks for better solutions and strategies.

### — Housing

Given the high numbers of tenants and households that spend too much income on rent, housing continues to be a priority in this territory. Because of the lack of housing services, the NDG Community Council has offered direct services to tenants for a few years now. In 2017, the territory created Logis Action, an agency that now provides housing services. Centraide will therefore be attentive to the community's housing initiatives and needs.

### Living alone: A reality for NDG's seniors

3,820 people aged 65 and older, or 39% of seniors in the territory, live alone (Montreal: 36%).

### Issues related to youth success

Rate of school dropouts is 24%, or higher than the Montreal average (21%) (2012-2013).

In the Saint-Raymond and Westhaven sectors, 28% of very young children do not have all of the skills they need to start kindergarten (Montreal: 25%).

### Undereducated population lower than in Montreal

11% of people aged 15 and older do not have a high-school diploma (Montreal 17%).

### A close look at housing

Higher rate of renter households than in Montreal: 65%, compared to 60% for the Island.

44% of households have moved in the past 5 years, which is very close to the Montreal average (43%).

40% of renter households in the neighbourhood dedicate a high percentage of their income (30% or more) to rent. This rate is slightly higher than the Montreal average (37%). Across the Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough, this reality affects one out of three families with children (33%, compared to 29% in Montreal).

*Sociodemographic and economic data: 2016 Census; Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (2012); Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'enseignement supérieur (2012-2013); Pour des logements salubres et abordables : rapport du directeur de santé publique de Montréal (2015).*

## INVESTMENT FROM CENTRAIDE OF GREATER MONTREAL 2018-2019

### Community development

- NDG Community Council
- NDG Community Council - Housing initiatives
- NDG Community Council - Vulnerable neighbourhoods

### Living conditions

- NDG Food Depot

### Neighbourhood life

- Conseil des aînés et des aînées de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
- YMCA - Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Community Centre

### Youth and families

- À deux mains/Head & Hands (head office)
- Camps Amy Molson\*

\* Regional vocation