



## **Mission Inclusion grants 27 organizations more than \$780,000 to help rebuild bonds of community in 12 regions of Quebec**

**Montreal, January 12, 2023 – Mission Inclusion, the new name of L'ŒUVRE LÉGER, is distributing more than \$780,000 to community organizations to help them fight poverty and the social exclusion of vulnerable people this winter.**

### **The social fabric is frayed after three years of pandemic**

For almost three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has been heightening the distress of people in vulnerable situations and causing hardship for others who had not previously been in difficulty. It has shone a bright light on inequalities, poverty-related issues and new social inclusion needs. The socioeconomic picture, which is darkened by the rising cost of living and the isolation of young people, families and seniors, is weakening the social fabric. For all these reasons, **Mission Inclusion** is proud to be an ally of community organizations, providing financial and organizational support to help them make a real difference.

### **Social inclusion means inclusion of rural communities**

This year, **Mission Inclusion** redoubled its efforts to support community organizations outside the major urban centres. They face special challenges, including a more dispersed population and fewer potential funders.

So **Mission Inclusion** is proud to support **Maraîchers du Cœur** in the Lower St. Lawrence region and its **Jardin engagé** project, which assists young adults aged 16-30 facing **food insecurity** by providing training and helping them acquire market gardening knowledge and skills that will enable them to get them back on track and become independent.

**Mission Inclusion** is also supporting **Maison de la famille de Gatineau** in the Outaouais region, which is setting up an outreach service to provide a **continuum of supports** for families from vulnerable, isolated populations that are disconnected from social networks. The goal is to improve health and well-being in the community by prioritizing outreach to people who typically use community services seldom or never.

### **Immigrants, regardless of status, are important members of our communities**

Immigrants are an integral part of our communities and make an important contribution to their vitality. They deserve respect and inclusion, regardless of their status. Unfortunately, people without legal status are in situations of extreme vulnerability.

To lend concrete assistance, **Mission Inclusion** is providing **Foyer du Monde** in Montreal with funding to hire a social worker in order to meet the needs of asylum seekers and non-status families during their stay at the Foyer. Each family will be offered **psychosocial support** and an intervention plan to help them regularize their immigration status, learn French and achieve financial stability, among other things.

The contours of immigration are shifting rapidly in Quebec. A growing proportion of immigrants are settling in areas far from the major urban centres where most services for immigrants are located.

**Mission Inclusion** is therefore supporting the **Centre-Femmes La Passerelle du Kamouraska** in the Lower St. Lawrence region and its **Femmes d'ailleurs, femmes du Kamouraska** project, which is developing an immigrant women's network.

### **Strengthening the bonds of community**

After three years of pandemic, we need to restore the ties of solidarity that bind our communities and make sure everyone is included and considered. That is precisely what the community organizations supported by **Mission Inclusion** do in their work with vulnerable people across Quebec.

As an ally of community organizations, **Mission Inclusion** is proud to provide the funding announced today in order to fight poverty and promote social inclusion.

### **Quotes**

"Our purpose in providing 27 organizations in 12 regions of Quebec with more than \$780,000 in funding is to help restore the bonds of community, fight poverty and promote the social inclusion of people in vulnerable situations, which is Mission Inclusion's raison d'être."

— **Richard Veenstra, Executive Director, Mission Inclusion**

"The COVID-19 pandemic has cast existing inequalities, poverty-related issues and new needs for social inclusion into sharp relief. At a time when the rising cost of living and other challenges, such as discrimination, loom large over the socioeconomic environment, the social fabric is being eroded. Community organizations are doing critically important work to preserve equity and address inequality. They are working to empower individuals and communities, and they are doing it under difficult circumstances, for like most sectors, they are contending with a severe labour shortage."

— **Danielle Filion, Director, Quebec Programs, Mission Inclusion**

### **Highlights**

- **Thorough analysis**

The funded projects were selected on the basis of an analysis conducted by two committees made up of a dozen Mission Inclusion volunteers. They considered the community-based character of the organization, its involvement in the community and the project's relevance to social inclusion in Quebec.

- **Presence in all regions of Quebec**  
**Mission Inclusion** is strengthening its commitment to regions such as the **Lower St. Lawrence** and the **Outaouais** by supporting new organizations and projects. Currently, **Mission Inclusion** supports initiatives in 12 regions and 18 cities across Quebec.
- **Addressing immigration-related issues, which exist in all parts of Quebec**  
**Mission Inclusion** is supporting **Foyer du monde**, the first time it has funded an organization whose main mission is to support asylum seekers and migrants in vulnerable situations in **Montreal**. **Mission Inclusion** is also supporting the **Femmes d'ailleurs, femmes du Kamouraska** project in the **Lower St. Lawrence**, in view of the increasing regionalization of immigration and the need for specialized services for immigrants in the region. It is indicative of the gravity of the issues related to immigration, a global challenge that we are experiencing in our own communities.
- **Small-town housing crisis**  
The housing crisis affects all regions of Quebec, including those farthest from the major urban centres, where it often goes unnoticed because society and social institutions are focused on the centre. **Mission Inclusion** is supporting organizations such as **La Hutte** in **Terrebonne**, **Transit** in **Sept-Îles**, the **Maison d'hébergement dépannage** in **Valleyfield** and **Maison Oxygène Laurentides**.

### **The 27 supported community organizations**

#### *Lower St. Lawrence*

- Les Maraîchers du Cœur
- Centre-Femmes La Passerelle du Kamouraska

#### *Quebec City*

- Marché solidaire Croque Saint-Roch
- Centre communautaire l'amitié
- Mères et monde
- Maison Marie-Frédéric

#### *Centre-du-Québec*

- La Piaule

#### *North Shore*

- Transit de Sept-Îles

#### *Chaudière-Appalaches*

- Maison de la Famille de la MRC de L'Islet

#### *Mauricie*

- Centre de pédiatrie sociale de Trois-Rivières

#### *Montérégie*

- La popote roulante de Salaberry-de-Valleyfield
- Maison d'hébergement dépannage de Valleyfield

#### *Montreal*

- Bouffe-Action de Rosemont
- Centre de ressources périnatales Autour du bébé
- Mères avec pouvoir
- RAP Jeunesse

- Foyer du monde
- AJOI/Ricochet
- PACT de rue

#### *Outaouais*

- Centre alimentaire Aylmer
- Maison de la famille de Gatineau

#### *Lanaudière*

- La Hutte

#### *Laurentians*

- Maison Pause-Parents
- Services d'entraide Le Relais
- Centre d'entraide Racine-Lavoie
- Maison Oxygène Laurentides

#### *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean*

- La Nichée

#### **Link**

- For more information about **Mission Inclusion** and the community organizations it supports, visit <https://missioninclusion.ca>

#### **About Mission Inclusion**

Building on 75 years of experience, **Mission Inclusion** pursues Cardinal Leger's dream of a world of fairness and dignity in which no one is left behind. **Mission Inclusion** works closely with community organizations in Quebec and around the world to ensure that the basic needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized people are met. **Mission Inclusion** believes we must all stand together, in a spirit of generosity, to build an inclusive society that has a place for everyone.

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#### **Information and interview requests**

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