

The **COVID-19 Collective Fund** in support of **Greater Montréal's** community

April 23, 2020

A unique crisis

COVID-19 has created an unprecedented situation that directly affects nonprofits across all sectors. Plummeting revenues, reduced teams and complex space management, the challenges of online management and changing service delivery conditions in the context of physical distancing are just some of the issues nonprofit organizations are dealing with while still offering essential services to our community's most vulnerable members. **As organizations adapt and reorganize to meet current urgent needs, the medium and long term impacts of the crisis also constitute a major issue. In the face of this unique situation, a concerted philanthropic response is needed.**

A rallying fund

The Foundation of Greater Montréal (FGM) is launching a collective effort to reinforce the philanthropic support for community organizations and institutions across all sectors in the context of COVID-19. In the field of social development, we have established a partnership with the Centraide Emergency Fund in order to work closely together, to ensure that our efforts are complementary and that all resources are used effectively. The Canadian Red Cross will also contribute its field experience and its expertise, in order to determine the priorities of the Fund.

Using this collective and coordinated force, the COVID-19 Collective Fund at FGM is launched with an initial investment of more than \$1 million, thanks to donations from the Azrieli Foundation, the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal, the Fondation J.-Armand Bombardier, the McConnell Foundation, the Rossy Foundation, the Paul-A. Fournier Foundation, Doggone Foundation, Jean E. and Lucille Douville Foundation and Michael Novak Funds at FGM, the Foundation of Greater Montréal, Green Shield Canada and other donors.

FGM invites private foundations as well as individuals to become partners and support the Fund. Donations to the COVID-19 Collective Fund can be

unrestricted or geared towards any of the following sectors: education, healthcare, culture, the environment or social development.

The major fund partners who are interested will form an advisory committee and work closely with a network of experts and organizations with experience in different sectors, who will evaluate the needs in a strategic and proactive manner.

The goals of the COVID-19 Collective Fund

- **To respond to urgent needs** in many sectors such as healthcare, education, culture, the environment and social development, paying special attention to the situation of children;
- **To stimulate and support the strategic collective work** required to plan and execute the improvement of the immediate situation as well as the recovery and rebuilding of community organizations in the aftermath of the crisis.

We believe this work has to start as soon as possible in order to explore innovative ways to create stronger and more resilient organizations going forward. The goal is to activate existing networks to support reflection, innovation and action to create more resilient and sustainable organizations going forward.