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Uniting to support the most vulnerable in Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in a possible second wave of COVID-19

*New action plan is in place to reduce the spread of the virus
and manage negative effects of the pandemic*

Montreal, September 10, 2020 – A new alliance of community organizations and healthcare and social service groups has been created to help the most vulnerable people in Côte-des-Neiges, in case of a second wave of COVID-19.

“Throughout the pandemic, our community groups met the needs of vulnerable local communities and went beyond their mandates to provide essential services to those who needed them most,” says Sue Montgomery, Mayor of the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

“From the beginning, Côte-des-Neiges has been disproportionately impacted by the virus. The health crisis has only exacerbated the inequalities experienced by these communities, and has further entrenched the difficulties they face.”

The alliance—consisting of the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, the Public Health team of CIUSSS West-Central Montreal, the Côte-des-Neiges Community Development Corporation, the MultiCaf Community Cafeteria, the Sarpad Centre, SIARI and Club Ami—will pilot a unified action plan to meet the challenges connected with COVID-19.

Among the plan’s highlights:

- Ensure that area residents of various backgrounds have real-time access in 12 languages to clear, relevant and appropriate health-related information, instructions and resources during a crisis
- Provide appropriate and targeted prevention-related interventions, while supporting the interventions of the CIUSSS’s COVID-19 Prevention Team
- Ensure optimal access to the various screening sites in the area
- Limit the harmful impact of the pandemic on particularly vulnerable groups (e.g., seniors, people in isolation) by ensuring their safe access to groceries and medication, and by providing them with health kits (masks, gloves, disinfectant solution)

- Publicize the lessons of the first COVID-19 wave, in order to strengthen the resilience of everyone in the neighbourhood, in case of a second wave; and implement a research project to identify the actions implemented in the action plan

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