

The COMMUNITY Difference



THE RQOH, A NETWORK ON THE MOVE!

Housing NPOs

In Quebec, non-profit organizations (NPOs) have set up community housing projects. These are run by volunteer directors supported by competent professionals. In both urban and rural areas, more than 1,100 organizations oversee some 2,300 projects offering close to 50,000 affordable and permanent housing units. This represents close to 4% of available rental units in Quebec. More than 200 of these organizations also offer transitional housing.

Housing NPOs offer adequate, safe and affordable housing to diverse populations. Community services and support are often provided. Deeply rooted in their communities, there are a grand variety of these organizations in order to respond to local needs and

dynamics. Different socio-economic and health indicators define NPO tenants as being the most vulnerable members of Quebec society.

Development of community housing is supported by government, municipal and community investments. The projects participate in urban renewal and blend in harmoniously with the neighbourhood or village landscape.

Quebec's housing NPOs thus contribute actively to community and individual health. It is not surprising that for twenty years now, the housing NPO model has been the vehicle of choice for community housing development.



1,100
Organizations



2,300
Projects



50,000
Housing Units



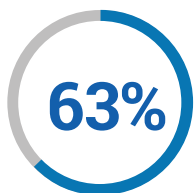
To find out more about how NPO housing works and is funded, visit the RQOH website at rqoh.com

Housing at the Heart of SOCIAL ACTION

Community housing is more than a roof over someone's head. It is also an improvement in the quality of life of low-income tenants and of those with special needs.

BUT ALSO...

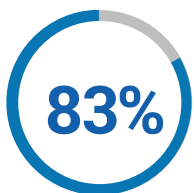
- A network which, with branches in 500 towns and villages in all regions of Quebec, has a considerable impact on local population retention and land use.
- The fruit of community mobilization, often the end result of years of struggle to improve living conditions of fellow citizens, together with local coalitions, municipalities and governments.
- A major player in health, homelessness, the social isolation experienced by many seniors, the economy, urban planning, public safety, the settlement and integration of new immigrants, all issues for which housing is key.
- A living environment for people touched by the de-institutionalization of mental health services and services for the homeless or those at risk of becoming so, who find in the community support offered by housing NPOs an essential factor to housing stability.
- An important part of the community movement, maintaining close ties with women's groups, organizations of people with disabilities, youth groups, tenants' rights groups, senior's associations, fully participating in Quebec's democratic life.
- A major tool for economic development, with its \$850 million in business annually and some 6,500 employees offering rent 14% lower than the private market!



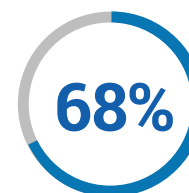
of NPO tenants
are women



of tenant households in
Quebec are considered at
risk for homelessness



of NPO tenants
earn below
\$20,000 a year



of NPO housing projects
offer community
support activities

HOUSING + Community Support = Social Development

The flexibility of the non-profit model has led to a great variety of original projects in housing. Several NPO housing projects offer different types of adapted non-residential services as needed: security and surveillance, hospitality and reception services, liaison with local services, crisis intervention, psycho-social intervention, conflict management, leisure activities, meals, housecleaning, rental support, etc. These are all small gestures which contribute to the social fabric and often forestall recourse to shelters, hospitalization and even incarceration for fragile or isolated individuals.

Most groups foster tenant participation by integrating them into the organization's management, supporting life projects, partnering with employment insertion and training centres, etc. Other housing

NPOs establish partnerships with health establishments to ensure domestic support with social and medical services for people with disabilities or experiencing a loss of autonomy. In short, non-profit organizations not only contribute to the economies of communities. They also strengthen the social fabric!

Different forms of community support provide significant added value to individuals and families whose condition, life experiences or health status often make it difficult for them to get or maintain housing in the private sector.

Less well known than public housing (HLMs by their French acronym) and housing cooperatives, housing NPOs, with their thousands of buildings, organizations, employees and volunteer directors, are nevertheless important actors in the world of social and community housing.



62,000

HLM public housing units



50,000

NPO housing units



30,000

Cooperative housing units

The MAJOR issues

As the representative voice of Quebec's housing NPOs, RQOH is involved in a variety of issues. It carries out research, mobilizes resources in the sector, calls on decision-makers and major players, and implements solutions to various issues related to housing.

Seniors

Across Quebec, the non-profit sector offers affordable quality housing to autonomous and semi-autonomous seniors with modest incomes. Community housing is an essential means for allowing a large number of seniors to live in a pleasant environment and to live in dignity. RQOH acts on such issues as the shortage of housing for seniors, development of residences and their certification, community security, tax issues, community support for seniors, etc.

Fighting Homelessness

NPOs have developed successful shelter, housing and intervention practices for decades with the mission of guaranteeing healthy, safe and accessible housing. Several organizations offer community support through a series of actions directed at giving social support to individuals and groups, from hospitality and reference services to accompaniment in acceding to public services.

Sustainability and Development of Housing NPOs

The withdrawal of Canadian state funding to NPOs which began in the 1990s and the reduction of investments by the Quebec government in the social housing sector pose serious challenges to the NPO housing movement. RQOH fosters solutions leading to the creation of projects addressing at once low income families, seniors and individuals living alone with special housing needs. It will take mobilization of the community to bring such projects to fruition.



To know more and to stay abreast of the latest developments and actions, please visit the RQOH website, rqoh.com

CUSTOM-MADE Services

RQOH, in gathering together the strength of regional federations which are for their part based on hundreds of local projects, is able to multiply the movement's potential to maximize benefits, to share and allocate risks and to offer a whole range of services at bargain prices.



Sekoia Home Insurance

The only insurance program truly adapted to the needs of housing NPOs because conceived of and guided by members of the NPO housing movement.



Service Centre

A Quebec housing NPO service centre where real estate and construction professionals and expert technicians accompany organizations in their real estate management.



Group Purchases

Group purchasing agreements with important suppliers responding to the specific needs of housing NPOs.



Financial Benefits

A Financial Benefits Program offered exclusively to its members, with partners from the financial sector.



Prevention Mutual

A prevention mutual to promote safe practices in the workplace for housing NPO employees.



And Much More!

Car and housing insurance, support and accompaniment, etc.



Visit our website at rqoh.com to discover further benefits and to take advantage of RQOH's custom-made services.

What WE DO

Development

Work to maintain and expand the community housing stock in Quebec by calling for secure and increased funding for such purposes and by proposing innovative tools for managing housing NPOs and funding new projects, all of this in partnership with governments and the public sector.

Networking

Offer the housing NPO community as a whole a place to share its experiences and expertise. We reach out to partners such as the social and community movement, journalists and media, as well as academics working on social issues or issues related to housing.

Promotion

Regularly launch campaigns directed at the public and at government decision-makers, issue recommendations, and propose public policies and regulatory measures promoting the right to affordable and quality housing for all.

Research

Carry out quality research, investigations and analyses on issues related to housing for the entire network of housing NPOs, with our documentation available as guides, thematic dossiers and a variety of publications.

Training

Supply the entire network, across Quebec, with training sessions to share and learn new ways of enriching community support practices for tenants and management procedures for housing NPOs.

Information

Inform the general public, organizations and decision makers by putting online a first rate Internet site, publishing a journal (*Le Réseau*) with over 6,000 copies distributed, a monthly newsletter and a whole host of other communication tools.

A Multifaceted Strategy

Ensure for the network an outreach far beyond the some 10,000 people who work in the community housing sector, and make community housing central to public policy initiatives in Canada and in Quebec.

The RQOH

The Quebec network of housing NPOs

Housing NPOs in Quebec make up eight regional federations creating a solidarity network the first vocation of which is to offer stable and decent housing conditions to socially, physically or economically underprivileged individuals. More than 10,000 people are active volunteers in this network which also has 6,500 employees. The total value of assets under the control of housing NPOs is close to \$5 billion.



Our Mission

The RQOH has the mission of uniting, supporting and representing the NPO housing community of Quebec. It fosters development and sustainability of NPO housing, recognition of the right to housing, as well as accessibility to quality social housing.



Our Values

Values of social justice, democracy, solidarity and autonomy guide the actions, orientations and positions taken by the RQOH. Our work is framed by a mobilizing and participative approach involving all the movement's components and bodies: NPOs, federations, boards of directors, work committees, volunteers, employees and tenants.



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