



For immediate release

Desjardins grants \$480,000 to La rue des Femmes to help unhoused women

***Organization renames downtown Montréal shelter Maison Dorimène,
in tribute to Dorimène Desjardins, co-founder of the Caisses populaires Desjardins***

Montréal, September 28, 2023 — La rue des Femmes (LRDF) is pleased to acknowledge the significant \$480,000 contribution from Desjardins Group, via its GoodSpark Fund (Fonds du Grand Mouvement), to LRDF's major fundraising campaign *More than a roof... healing homelessness*. This financial commitment will support not only the implementation of a centre for curative and preventive care, but also a relational health training program as well as therapeutic and rehabilitative care.

"At Desjardins, we believe that solidarity, mutual assistance and engagement with communities are essential to ensuring the availability of concrete solutions, adapted to people in need. I am therefore extremely pleased and proud that the GoodSpark Fund is contributing \$480,000 to support La rue des Femmes' campaign *More than a roof... healing homelessness*," said Jean-Yves Bourgeois, Executive Vice-President, Business Services. "This substantial contribution will help sustain the long-term future of Maison Dorimène, a centre that offers supervised studio apartments to help women make the transition to fully autonomous living."

Ongoing support

In recognition of Desjardins' substantial support for the organization over almost thirty years, LRDF's Dahlia Centre, at 1087 Anderson Street in Montréal, is being renamed Maison Dorimène. The building provides 12 supervised, furnished studio apartments and welcomes women who are on the path to healing and have previously stayed at LRDF's Olga House, for "housing internships" that prepare them for autonomous living.

"La rue des Femmes decided it was only fitting that we meaningfully acknowledge the support of Desjardins, which has been by our side for nearly thirty years," said Léonie Couture, C.M., C.Q., Founder, President and Executive Director, La rue des Femmes. "The name Maison Dorimène highlights the vital contributions of Dorimène Desjardins to Québec society, which provide an inspiring example of women's empowerment with respect to their own lives and those of their community. With this contribution from the GoodSpark Fund, Desjardins is giving La rue des Femmes the means to further extend its care offering. We will be able to care for more women, more quickly, so that they can find their way in life."

A *coopératrice* and the co-founder of the Caisses populaires Desjardins, Dorimène Desjardins played a significant role in their early success. With her business acumen, dedication and meticulousness, she ensured the sustainability and credibility of the nascent credit and savings union movement in the city of Lévis, Québec. A generous benefactor, she was also active in many charities that helped young people and less privileged members of her community.

About Desjardins Group

Desjardins Group is the largest cooperative financial group in North America and the fifth largest in the world, with assets of \$409.6 billion. It was named one of the World's Top Female-Friendly Companies by Forbes magazine. To meet the diverse needs of its members and clients, Desjardins offers a full range of

products and services to individuals and businesses through its extensive distribution network, online platforms, and subsidiaries across Canada. Ranked among the world's strongest banks according to The Banker magazine, Desjardins has one of the highest capital ratios and credit ratings in the industry.

About La rue des Femmes

La rue des Femmes, a non-profit organization founded by Léonie Couture, is a relational health institute that has been welcoming and caring for women living in a state of homelessness for nearly 30 years. Each year, La rue des Femmes cares for some 1,500 women and provides 50,000 hours of relational healthcare, including 4,000 hours of specialized care (counselling, psychotherapy, art therapy, and more). In 2022–23 it served 102,420 meals, provided 21,761 overnight stays and employed the services of 67 relational healthcare workers.

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