



For immediate release

More Than a Roof... Healing Homelessness: over \$9 million raised!

Montréal, Thursday, October 12, 2023

The *More Than a Roof... Healing Homelessness* major fundraising campaign, launched in 2020 to support La rue des Femmes' flagship project, its relational health institute, officially ended on October 10.

With a number of La rue des Femmes donors, partners and allies in attendance, Léonie Couture, President, Founder and Executive Director, and Catherine Op de Beeck, Director of the organization's Foundation, announced that the campaign's \$8-million target had been considerably surpassed.



From left to right: Stéphanie Renaud, Chair of the Foundation Board, Senior Director, Operating Partner, Private Equity Quebec, CDPQ; Éric Filion, Executive Vice President, Programs and Supply Chain, Bombardier; Léonie Couture, Founding President and Executive Director, La rue des Femmes; Catherine Op de Beeck, Director of La rue des Femmes' Foundation; Maarika Paul, Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial and Operations Officer, CDPQ; Andrée-Lise Méthot, Founder and Managing Partner, Cycle Capital; Sophie Lemieux, Chairman of the Board, Senior Institutional Client Manager, Fiera Capital Corporation.

Thank-you to our campaign team and our valued donors!

Thanks to the incredible work of the campaign team—including Co-Chairs Jean-Yves Bourgeois, Executive Vice-President, Business Services, Desjardins Group; Éric Filion, Executive Vice-President, Programs and Supply Chain, Bombardier; Andrée-Lise Méthot, Founder and Partner, Cycle Capital; and Maarika Paul, Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec—\$9,091,333 was raised!



“La rue des Femmes is part of the solution, helping to change the perception of homelessness, modifying the approach to care and providing services to all women living in a state of homelessness.” – Maarika Paul

Canada's first relational health institute

The La rue des Femmes relational health institute is Canada's very first centre for research and development in relational health, and for curative and preventive care for women experiencing homelessness. The ultimate goal is to better understand, treat and prevent homelessness.

La rue des Femmes' unique and effective approach recognizes that women living in a state of homelessness are survivors of severe trauma and unspeakable violence that have left them in a situation of chronic post-traumatic stress. Their relational wounds hinder their ability to feel safe and connected to themselves and to others.

Healing homelessness requires acknowledgement of the relational wounds caused by violence. It also requires access to safety, security and care. This relational health intervention approach enables women experiencing homelessness to liberate themselves from this post-traumatic stress, to heal and to return to a normal life.

A centre for curative and preventive care in relational health

The main pillar of the *More Than a Roof... Healing Homelessness* campaign is the establishment of a care centre, the relational health institute. The only one of its kind, it will open in 2025 in Montréal. With this new premises, La rue des Femmes will be able to offer **10,000 hours annually of therapeutic care and rehabilitation activities, up from the current 4,000, with the result that 25% more women will be able to benefit from its care and services.** It also plans to **double the number of women it shelters and houses, to 700 from 350.**

About La rue des Femmes

A non-profit organization founded by Léonie Couture, C.M., C.Q., in 1994, La rue des Femmes provides specialized relational health care and services that enable homeless women to heal and return to a normal life. In 2022, La rue des Femmes provided care for more than 1,517 women, 4,000 hours of specialized care (counselling,

psychotherapy, art therapy, etc.), 55,821 hours of relational health care, 102,420 meals, 21,761 overnight stays and 67 relational healthcare workers.

About relational health

Relational health is a state of profound well-being that promotes a feeling of inner security, connection and happiness, with oneself and with others.

Information:

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