

# LE PORTE-VOIX

At the heart of relational health



## ♥ LA RUE DES FEMMES: A RELATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE FOR HEALING HOMELESSNESS

The creation of La rue des Femmes was inspired by a dream: to provide women living in a state of homelessness with the services and care they need, all under one roof; in one house: their home.

For almost three decades, La rue des Femmes has made it happen... but we're still dreaming!

First as a leader in relational health and now as a relational health institute.

Yes, we dreamt with you. And the dream included understanding that behind homelessness and all the “wrong” behaviours that accompany it are women who are suffering enormously. Wounded women who absolutely must be cared for so that they can finally retake their rightful place in society, with all their talents and all their humanity, and above all, without feeling ashamed of their existence.

It is important to understand—to understand them—so that they can finally escape the hell of post-traumatic stress and reconnect fully with themselves. With their own lives.

Dear friends and allies, look at what La rue des Femmes has built in 30 years: three houses providing accommodation, day centres,



Photo credit: Pierre Longtin

an outreach clinic, a unique approach to care and intervention... and soon, a fourth house for a care centre. And it's all thanks to you!

All this is what it takes to create a relational health institute... we dreamt about it, then together we created it. With you! Thank you.

Thank you for dreaming with us ♥

**Léonie Couture, C.M., C.Q.**  
**President, Founder and Executive Director**  
**La rue des Femmes**



Head table of the Let's Shine Together Gala

## ♥ THE 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GALA FOR RELATIONAL HEALTH: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

On November 15, the annual benefit evening organized by La rue des Femmes and its Foundation was held under Honorary Co-Chairs Sheena Toso, Regional Vice-President, Eastern Canada, RBC Insurance, and Lisa Giannone, President and Chief Operating Officer, BFL Canada.

More than 350 guests, mainly from the business community, gathered to show their support for women living in a state of homelessness. A number of public and political figures also attended. Their contributions, along with those of our valued sponsors, helped raise over \$360,000!

## ♥ WOMEN WITH HEART HAVE BEEN SPREADING LA RUE DES FEMMES' MESSAGE FOR A DECADE!

As it draws to a close, 2023 was a milestone year for three inspiring women dedicated to promoting and raising awareness of relational health. Catherine Proulx-Lemay, actress and spokesperson for La rue des Femmes, Sophie Lemieux, Senior Institutional Client Manager at Fiera Capital Corporation and Chair of La rue des Femmes' Board of Directors, and Marie Doyon, President and Artistic Director of TACcom and host of the Gala For Relational Health, all celebrated 10 years of volunteer work with La rue des Femmes!



Sophie Lemieux

Catherine Proulx-Lemay

Marie Doyon

The contribution of these committed and generous people is infinitely valued and valuable, indeed vital, if the mission and vision of La rue des Femmes—a world in better relational health — is to be increasingly heard, understood and taken up. Together, we can heal homelessness!



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Thanks to our printer



## ♥ DAHLIA CENTRE BECOMES DORIMÈNE HOUSE

In recognition of Desjardins Group's substantial support to La rue des Femmes mission for over more than a decade, La rue des Femmes's Dahlia Centre at 1087 Anderson Street in Montréal was officially renamed Dorimène House this past fall. The building provides 12 supervised, furnished studio apartments and welcomes women who are on the path to healing and have previously stayed at La rue des Femmes's Olga House, where, having made progress in their healing process and are ready to consider autonomous living.

Co-founder of the Desjardins Group, Dorimène Desjardins was a dedicated pioneer who perfectly embodied the great intelligence and perseverance of the women of her time and the crucial role they played, from their kitchens, in building our society's greatest model for sustainable development and economic health.



From left to right: Tommy Pelletier, Léonie Couture, Sophie Lemieux and Leila Benaissa

It is therefore a source of great pride for La rue des Femmes to have a house named after this great lady.

## ♥ MORE THAN A ROOF... HEALING HOMELESSNESS: \$9,091,333 RAISED

The *More Than a Roof... Healing Homelessness* major fundraising campaign, launched in 2020 with the goal of making La rue des Femmes' most important project, the relational health institute, a reality, officially ended October 10.

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 Managing Partner, Cycle Capital; and Maarika Paul, Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial and Operations Officer, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, the initial goal of \$8 million was considerably surpassed, with \$9,091,133 finally raised.

The funds will enable us in the coming years to better understand, heal and prevent homelessness.

### A future care centre

Healing homelessness demands recognition of the relational wounds caused by violence, and therefore requires access to safety, security and care. This is why one of the pillars of this major campaign is the opening of a care centre, and this facility—the only one of its kind—will open its doors in 2025 in Montréal. With the new premises, La rue des Femmes will be able to offer more hours of reconnection and rehabilitation activities, as well as additional hours of specialized and therapeutic care to women living in a state of homelessness. Eventually, the number of hours of activities and specialized care provided will increase to 10,000 from the current

4,000, meaning that 25% more women will be able to benefit from our care and services. We also plan to double the number of women accommodated, to 700 from 350.

### Canada's first relational health institute

La rue des Femmes' relational health institute is this country's very first relational health research and development centre, providing curative and preventive care for women experiencing homelessness.



From left to right: Stéphanie Renaud, ; Éric Filion, Léonie Couture, Catherine Op de Beeck, Maarika Paul, Andrée-Lise Méthot, Sophie Lemieux.

## ♥ WILL POWER – Support La rue des Femmes (and any other cause!) in your will without neglecting those you love

La rue des Femmes Foundation is joining the major national campaign led by the Will Power organization, which raises public awareness about using bequests to support a cause that is close to your heart.

Writing a will isn't just a legal way to ensure the security of your loved ones, it can be a powerful tool for change in the world! Adding a charitable gift to your will is easier than you think.

To learn more, visit La rue des Femmes Foundation's page on the Will Power website ([willpower.ca](http://willpower.ca)) or contact Miriem Mkinsi, La rue des Femmes Philanthropic Development Advisor: [mmkinsi@laruedesfemmes.org](mailto:mmkinsi@laruedesfemmes.org) or (514) 284-9665



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