

# MEMBERSHIP POLICY

To become a member of AUTISME MONTRÉAL, you must comply with certain provisions, namely those listed in the organization's general rules. Those interested in becoming members must submit an application and:

- endorse AUTISME MONTRÉAL's objectives, mission and values; and
- pay the annual membership fee.

Note that the board of directors must approve the membership application. To be processed promptly, applications must be received at least one month before the board meeting.

As soon as you submit your application, you will enjoy all the advantages offered to members, namely access to the organization's various services and activities. However, you will only be able to participate in AUTISME MONTRÉAL's associative life (right to vote during meetings, possibility of being nominated to the board of directors) once your application has been approved by the board.

## AUTISME MONTRÉAL'S OBJECTIVES

- a. Bring together individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their family members and anyone called to support the cause.
- b. Educate the public, raise awareness of autism spectrum disorder and the diversity of individuals with an ASD, and represent these individuals before the agencies concerned.
- c. Defend the individual and collective rights of people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- d. Encourage the development and quality of services that meet the needs of people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- e. Promote integration within the community and universal accessibility for people with an autism spectrum disorder.
- f. Promote research on autism spectrum disorder and help spread the information in the medical and educational communities and to the general population.
- g. Offer moral support to people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- h. Develop support and mutual aid activities of all types for people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.

- i. Develop services and recreational activities for people with an autism spectrum disorder and their family members.
- j. Obtain the funding needed to pursue the above objectives.

## MISSION

“AUTISME MONTRÉAL is a non-profit organization which works with autistic people and their loved ones living on the Island of Montreal, offering them collective and individual respite, leisure, support and advocacy services.”

## AUTISME MONTRÉAL'S VALUES

### ***Openness***

AUTISME MONTRÉAL's first value, openness is at the heart of our mission. It evokes welcome, tolerance, acceptance of differences and invites everyone to question their beliefs and prejudices, to discover and recognize the true value of others.

### ***Mutual support***

Much more than a kind gesture, mutual support inspires solidarity, collaboration and reciprocity. It is a shared intention to help one another, to do good, to band together to reach a common goal. It can involve teamwork, a verbal exchange where everyone feels heard, a simple helping hand or a major joint achievement. No matter the shape it takes, mutual support demonstrates consideration of others, the trust we place in them and our willingness to join forces for the well-being of all concerned.

### ***Courage***

Courage is the value that led to AUTISME MONTRÉAL's creation. Always beating at the organization's heart, we owe our existence, services, and commitment to advocating for our members' collective and individual rights to courage. Courage is what helps us undertake a difficult task, overcome our fears and forge ahead despite risks, hardship, failure, and even outright contempt and rejection. Courage is the inner strength that lets us look beyond appearances, state our convictions, give ourselves permission to act, take charge of our destiny, and be ourselves among others.

### ***Perseverance***

If courage gives rise to hope, it is often perseverance that leads us to fulfill our aspirations. Combining patience, determination and unwavering commitment, perseverance helps us to push further, to take a step closer to our goals, to overcome the seemingly insurmountable, and to make our vision a reality. Being perseverant means tolerating ambiguity, letting yourself make mistakes, learning from them, and always being ready to start over if need be.

## ***Professionalism***

To be professional is to choose meticulousness, excellence and principles over ease, complacency and excuses. It means investing all your personal resources into doing good and being of service to others. Being professional is taking responsibility for the task we have been confided and ensuring the quality of our own contribution. It is choosing to evolve, to develop our full potential and to surpass ourselves in order to offer the best of ourselves to others.

## **LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP**

According to sections 8 to 11 of AUTISME MONTRÉAL's general rules, membership can be revoked for the following reasons:

**resignation:** A member can resign by giving written notice to the secretary. The resignation will come into effect when the board of directors receives the notice.

**expulsion:** The board can, by resolution, suspend (for a determined period not exceeding one year) or exclude a member whose actions it considers to be damaging to the organization's interests or objectives. Before proceeding with suspension or exclusion, the board will notify the member of the grievances against him/her and give the member the opportunity to respond in writing or verbally, during the board meeting at which the suspension or exclusion will be deliberated.

**non-payment** of his contribution on the anniversary date of payment of the contribution: Members must pay an annual membership fee. The terms of payment vary by member category and are established by the board each year. **Membership fees are non-refundable.**