

## THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Point St. Charles is an old working-class neighbourhood situated in the South-West of Montreal. Although the population was as high as 35 000 during the industrial boom, the population has stabilised over the last 15 years to approximately 13 500. The revenue of close to 50% of households barely covers basic needs. In 1995, 46% of the population lived on social security, while today the percentage hovers around 42%. French is the mother tongue of 58% of residents, English that of 28%, while other languages are used by more or less 14% of neighbourhood folks. Out of Point St. Charles' 5800 units, 2500 are social housing (non profit, cooperative and low-income housing). This is the highest concentration of social housing in a similar neighbourhood in all of Canada. A remarkable phenomenon due without a doubt to years of active struggle.

## BECOMING A MEMBER

- ★ Must have a marked interest for Point St. Charles — either live in the neighbourhood or be in love with it!
- ★ Be in agreement with the declaration that describes the ideological underpinnings of the collective.
- ★ Be invited or make a request via the website.
- ★ Have affinity with other collective members.

Preons les  
Terrains du CN

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la pointe libertaire

[www.lapointelibertaire.org](http://www.lapointelibertaire.org)  
**POINT SAINT-CHARLES**

feminism ecology self-management alternatives

# Towards an autonomous, self-managed neighbourhood



*In June 2006, la Pointe libertaire created this trompe l'œil during OPA activities.*

**L**a Pointe libertaire is an autonomous affinity group based in Point St. Charles, Montreal. It is the rallying point for people of diverse milieus who act in the political arena and seek to stimulate an autonomous, self-managed dynamic in the neighbourhood. The collective draws on social anarchism, and more specifically, on ideas that have been put forth by activists and thinkers of the social ecology tradition.

## FROM OUR DECLARATION

- ★ An antiauthoritarian, feminist, ecologist and anti-capitalist option.
- ★ To refuse domination is to fight for a liberated society.
- ★ Building our own instruments, that reflect our values.
- ★ Information, education and local action

## SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES

- ★ Production of analyses on urban issues such as housing and transportation.
- ★ Setting-up of a Free Press Agency and an independent web-based media outlet to produce information about neighbourhood current events.
- ★ Monthly publication of a political column on what local politicians have been scheming about at borough meetings.



★ Organisation of direct actions: the “redevelopment” of a vacant lot into what is now the *Jardin de la liberté*; creation of several urban art pieces; action that played its part in forcing the borough to make the bike path under the Hiberbia passage a safer space for cyclists.

- ★ Setting-up and support of autonomous projects or committees: the Autonomous Social Center and the Nordelec Resistance Committee (CRAN).

- ★ Participation in activities organised by neighbourhood groups: the struggle against the plans to move the Casino, as well as the fight to reverse the decision to close the local post-office; neighbourhood consultations (OPA) on urban development in general and specifically on the CN rail yards; public assemblies on urban issues.
- ★ Support to struggles against the deportation of refugees.
- ★ Participation in campaigns organised within the anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal networks.



*Banner produced during the fight to stop the plans to move the Casino to the CN rail yards.*

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