



PRESS RELEASE

Leah Berger appointed inaugural CEO of Les Maisons Kehilla

Montreal – October 21, 2024 – Following an extensive search, Leah Berger has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Les Maisons Kehilla, an expanded housing organization in the Montreal Jewish community representing the integration of B’nai Brith Housing, Caldwell Residences and Kehilla Montréal Residential Programs. The newly formed housing organization represents eight buildings with over 1,000 apartments offering a mix of social and affordable rents to a full spectrum of the Montreal community from young families to seniors.

In her new role, Ms. Berger will lead a team of professionals responsible for the delivery of facilities management, tenant services and fundraising. She will report to Dean Mendel, President of Les Maisons Kehilla and Founding Partner of Forum, a developer of rental housing and retail neighbourhood shopping centres across Canada.

This appointment underscores Les Maisons Kehilla’s commitment to creating operational synergies, common governance and coordinated fundraising. It is also a testament of Leah’s track record for harnessing the necessary and sometimes scarce resources to solve complex issues.

Leah has an extensive history of involvement in the Montreal Jewish community, having occupied leadership roles at Federation CJA, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and B’nai Brith Montreal. While working at Federation CJA, Leah spearheaded the creation of Kehilla Montreal Residential Programs and the construction of its first 68-unit building. Most recently, Leah served as the Assistant Director for the Support Program for the Autonomy of Seniors within the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) West-Central Montreal, where she managed the admissions process to long term care institutions and supervised social work and recreation services across multiple sites.

The Montreal Jewish community’s housing organizations have been at the forefront of the construction and provision of social and affordable housing for over 70 years. With Ms. Berger at the helm, Les Maisons Kehilla has successfully ensured the necessary professional leadership to meet the current and future housing needs of our community’s most vulnerable members.

“We are thrilled to welcome Leah back to the Kehilla family”, said Dean Mendel, President of Les Maisons Kehilla. “Her unique professional background including a wealth of Jewish community experience, management skills and expertise in the delivery of social services makes her the ideal candidate for this role”.



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“I am excited to work with Leah in her new capacity”, said Dr. Mitchell Shiller, Vice-President of Les Maisons Kehilla. “Leah is a strategic thinker, an excellent communicator and a top-notch collaborator. She has what it takes to build a successful team and ultimately deliver a high level of service to the tenants”.

Les Maisons Kehilla has the unique ability to mobilize the necessary professional and volunteer experience to increase the availability of social and affordable housing to meet the growing demand. The impact of the housing crisis remains unabated; and to this end, Les Maisons Kehilla is committed to adding an additional 1,000 units over the next 10 years.

“Assuming the professional leadership of Les Maisons Kehilla is an opportunity of a lifetime”, said Leah Berger. “Over the course of my career, I have consistently worked with and advocated on behalf of marginalized groups, including individuals and families living in poverty and seniors. Through the construction and provision of safe, good quality and affordable housing, Les Maisons Kehilla will address the structural causes of vulnerability and poverty in the community. This is the approach that is needed to positively change the trajectory of people’s lives”.

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