



TABLE DES ORGANISMES COMMUNAUTAIRES  
MONTRÉALAIS DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA

**The Table des organismes communautaires montréalais de lutte contre le VIH/sida (TOMS) cuts ties with the *Montréal sans sida* initiative.**

**Montreal, February 14, 2023** - Following the increasing disengagement of Montreal's elected officials and Mayor Valérie Plante, it is no longer possible for us to play our role in this unique alliance, which included the City of Montreal, the Montreal Public Health Department and our organization. *Montréal sans sida* is part of the Fast-track cities project, initiated by UNAIDS in collaboration with UN-Habitat, IAPAC and the City of Paris. This project aims to mobilize the mayors of major cities in the fight against HIV.

Since December 18, 2020, TOMS and its members have called on the Mayor and City Councillor Josefina Blanco three times to obtain a strong commitment from Montreal's political class to move forward with the realization of the initiative's action plan and to commit to the UNAIDS 2025 intermediate targets. The members of TOMS have taken a stand in favour of an ultimatum in the face of the lack of commitment from elected officials at an extraordinary general meeting held in December 2021. It is now time for us to act on this ultimatum.

Signing the Paris Declaration was one of Mayor Plante's first actions when she took office in 2017, formally announcing that the Mayor was involving Montreal in an international network of cities that choose to make the fight against HIV a priority. The commitment requested by TOMS should have been a formality, as the signing of the amended declarations is a prerequisite for being part of the Fast-track cities initiative. The action plan, signed in 2018, was supposed to be the first ambitious step towards involving people living with HIV and communities affected by HIV in having their voices heard when deciding policies which affect them. To this day, only an awareness-raising campaign truly benefited from the city's proactive involvement. It is clear that the planned objective to improve the living conditions of our communities no longer holds, while the silence reserved for our demands regarding the signing of the latest version of the Paris Declaration and the Seville Declaration is deafening.

The role of TOMS and its members was to mobilize our communities, not to educate our politicians, without any compensation for our knowledge and time. The situation we find ourselves in shows that our politicians have no interest in listening to what our communities say, nor to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 in Montreal.

More than four years after the launch of the initiative's action plan, TOMS encourages the City of Montreal to work extensively on its repressive practices towards our communities, on the fight against HIV/AIDS, and on harm reduction. In the meantime, we will advocate to ensure that the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has been going on for more than 40 years, is no longer just an issue where Montreal's political class gains points at the expense of our communities.

**About :**

Table des organismes communautaires montréalais de lutte contre le VIH/sida (TOMS) aims to support, promote the actions and defend the interests of its members and the communities they represent. TOMS brings together 31 community organizations working in HIV and STBBI prevention, health promotion and wellness, housing and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and other STBBIs, as well as their families.

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**For more information**

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**Our online presence:**

website : <http://toms-mtl.org>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/toms.mtl>

Twitter : <https://twitter.com/MtlToms>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/toms.mtl>

**Ressources:**

[Montréal sans sida Action plan \(2018\)](#)

[Fast-Track Cities](#)

[Paris Declaration 4.0](#)

[Sevilla Declaration](#)

[UNAIDS 2025 targets \(p.7\)](#)

[TOMS' December 2021 demands \(FR only\)](#)