

Press release 2025
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37th Montreal Vigil - Communities affected by HIV at the intersection of all socio-economic and political crises

Montreal, December 1st 2025 – The *Table des organismes communautaires montréalais de lutte contre le VIH/sida (TOMS)* is inviting you to a moment of remembrance on the occasion of Montreal's **37th vigil World AIDS Day Vigil**, taking place **December 1, 2025, at 6:00 PM in Parc de l'Espoir**.

This year, our communities are coming together to denounce and shed light on the lived experiences of people and groups affected by HIV — communities positioned at the intersection of **ALL current socio-economic and political crises**. The housing crisis, the climate crisis, the healthcare access crisis, the economic crisis, the overdose crisis, and the rise of intolerance are not abstract phenomena; they are daily realities that disproportionately impact those living with and affected by HIV.

As these crises deepen, our communities are sinking under the weight of widening inequalities and systemic neglect. People living with HIV (PLWHIV), and all those affected, deserve dignity, compassion, and meaningful support, not a dehumanizing system that is increasingly stripped of resources and difficult to navigate.

In the current political climate, when our communities are not ignored and abandoned, they are too often singled out, scapegoated. We can no longer ignore the different realities experienced by PLWHIV and all those touched by the epidemic.

For more than 40 years, community-led solutions have driven the most significant progress in the fight against HIV and the reduction of stigma. Yet, despite this expertise, the three levels of governments continue to act as though they alone hold the answers. Today, new provincial legislations are putting the health and safety of our communities at risk, undermining access to healthcare and weakening community-based resources — resources created precisely because governments have repeatedly failed to meet our needs.

On this **December 1st**, we gather to **celebrate the living, honour and mourn our departed**, and reaffirm our commitment to solidarity, resilience, and justice. The vigil will feature speeches, music, and tributes that uplift the voices and experiences of our communities.

About: The Table des organismes communautaires montréalais de lutte contre le SIDA (TOMS) aims to support its members and the communities they represent, promoting their activities and defending their interests. TOMS brings together 32 community organizations that work to prevent HIV and STBBIs, promote global health and wellness, and provide housing and support for people living with HIV and other STBBIs and their families.

More info:

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Facebook event : <https://www.facebook.com/share/1H33TPhpMy/>

Our web presence:

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

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

Media Kit: https://toms-mtl.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/TOMS_KitMedias.pdf