Research Aims:

This research project aims to make a portrait of the dynamics of social movements and of the citizen mobilization in the areas affected by the MUHC projects (Westmount, NDG and Saint-Henri). The social dynamics of these neighbourhoods and the social capital of the local organizations are valuable tools for the community’s empowerment in their work with the institutions and the megaprojects. The main idea is to make an historical portrait of the collective actions (mobilization) and to draw the evolution of the strategies of the social movements in these areas. This portrait is completed by the description of the community organizations, their work and strategies of mobilization and action. This portrait is made with the participation of the actors themselves, by the way of interviews and contacts with the organizations. We consider that the value of this work consists in the understanding of the citizens and their organized actions in these areas. This evaluation will give to the organizations a tool to better work together.

The first part of this project aims to give to the organization the information coming from the press in the last years about their work and the citizen’s mobilizations in their area. It consists in the construction of an historical data base on the collective actions (citizen mobilization) in these areas. This base will show the evolution of these actions from the year 2000 up until now, by press clips and their organization by date, issue, actors and size. At the same time, the work has developed a theoretical framework to understand the principal changes in mobilization and their influence on the implementation of projects at the local level.

The second part consists in the work with the organizations. At this level, we aim to understand and systematize the points of view of the organization about their work and their relationship with the citizens, the institutions and their environment.

Key results:

The results up to date have been:

**The construction of a press database.** It shows the principal issues of the mobilization and work of the community organizations in these areas. This tool gives access to the press summaries that illustrate the evolution of the mobilization in these areas by date, issue and actor. This will allow the organizations and the citizens to access the information about how the press has covered their actions from 2000. This database summarizes more than 1000 press clips. (Done)

**The construction of a theoretical framework.** It is a theoretical approach about the transformation of the city and the collective and public actions in the context of globalization. The main idea is that the local changes that the community organizations face are related to larger changes in the economy and in the State. These changes involve changes in the strategies of the community organizations. (Done)

**A summary on the understanding of community organizations, their work and objectives.** By the use of interviews, we listen and work with the organizations in a document that illustrates the problems that the community organizations are facing and their strategies in a changing environment. (In progress).