



A NuVo World

TRANSFORMING NDG

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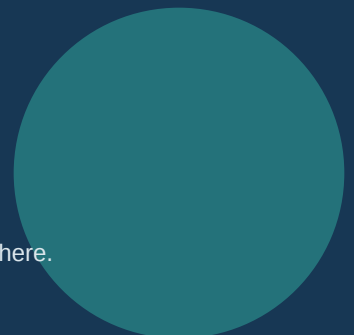
Transforming NDG

A community-wide vision for a kinder, healthier,
more connected and more caring neighbourhood



Neighbours helping neighbours. Everyone matters.

An invitation to help make NDG a model for communities everywhere.



The idea at the heart of A NuVo World

A NuVo World begins with a simple conviction: a community can become extraordinary when people decide that caring for one another is not an occasional act, but a way of life.

My desire is to begin in NDG - the Montreal neighbourhood I know and love - and help bring residents, businesses, schools, faith communities, community organizations, healthcare providers and local leaders together around one shared purpose: **to make everyday life better for everyone who lives here.**

This is not a plan to replace the excellent work already being done in NDG. It is a plan to connect it, strengthen it, fill gaps where they exist, inspire new participation and make it easier for ordinary people to become part of the solution.

I envision NDG as a living demonstration of what becomes possible when a neighbourhood deliberately organizes itself around kindness, dignity, health, belonging, service and opportunity. If we can make it work here, the lessons can be shared freely with communities everywhere.

People matter. Every person. Every day.

Why NDG?

NDG already possesses the essential ingredients: extraordinary diversity, strong institutions, committed community organizations, local businesses, schools, places of worship, parks, families, seniors, young people and thousands of neighbours who care. The opportunity is not to invent community from nothing. It is to **awaken, connect and multiply the community that is already here.**

The transformation I imagine is both ambitious and very practical. It can include large long-term ideas, but it begins with small human actions: greeting a stranger, sharing what we have, feeding a family, checking on a senior, helping a neighbour, mentoring a young person, volunteering an hour, or simply noticing someone who might otherwise go unseen.

The goal is a neighbourhood where people increasingly know one another, help one another and believe that they have a meaningful role to play.

Five programs to begin the work

Rather than waiting for every part of the larger vision to be ready, I want to move forward through practical programs that can begin now, grow through partnerships and demonstrate the spirit of A NuVo World in everyday life.

BuyNothing NDG	Make sharing normal. Build a community-wide culture in which useful goods are given, borrowed, reused and kept in circulation - reducing waste while creating relationships between neighbours.
Feed NDG	Work with established food-security organizations, grocers, restaurants, kitchens, faith communities and volunteers so residents facing food insecurity can receive nourishing food with dignity, choice and respect.
NuVoWay LifeStyle Coaches	Develop a network of caring people who help residents navigate the practical dimensions of life - physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual and financial - while connecting them to appropriate community resources and professional help when needed.
The Art of Neighbouring	Bring community down to the scale of the street and apartment building through Block Captains and Neighbours Helping Neighbours: people who know who lives nearby, welcome newcomers, notice needs and connect neighbours.
The Wizard of NDG	Turn kindness, courage and service into daily habits for children and adults. Through stories, schools, families and simple community challenges, invite everyone to notice one thing that could be better and take one small positive action.

These are starting points, not boundaries

The larger A NuVo World vision reaches further: seniors, youth, health and wellness, transportation, recreation, education, the arts, environmental stewardship, community safety, loneliness, volunteerism and welcoming spaces where people can gather and belong. The five programs give us a practical place to start while the broader vision continues to develop.

How I hope we will build it

A NuVo World is not meant to be "my" project. My role is to imagine, connect, encourage, communicate and help. For each initiative, I would like to find a **Champion** - a person or organization with the interest, experience and energy to help lead it - and then serve as an aide to that Champion.

That model matters. NDG already has people who understand food security, education, health, youth, seniors, business, faith, recreation and community development far better than I do. The strongest version of A NuVo World will emerge when those people bring their knowledge to the table and residents themselves help shape what is built.

The principles

Partnership before duplication	Strengthen existing organizations and connect what already works.
Dignity before charity	Help should preserve choice, privacy, respect and agency.
Start small, learn, then grow	Pilot ideas, listen carefully, measure what matters and improve.
Everyone has something to contribute	Time, expertise, encouragement, food, space, funding, introductions or simple acts of care all matter.
Human connection is infrastructure	Programs matter, but relationships are the foundation beneath them.
Open the door to everyone	A NuVo World should belong to the whole community, across age, background, belief and circumstance.

What success would feel like

Success is not simply a collection of programs. It is a change in the atmosphere of the neighbourhood: more people greeting one another; fewer people feeling alone; families knowing where to turn; seniors feeling seen; children growing up surrounded by examples of service; businesses seeing themselves as community partners; and residents believing that when a problem appears, neighbours can come together to address it.

Some results can be measured - participation, households helped, volunteers, partnerships and projects completed. But the deepest result is cultural: **kindness becomes ordinary, belonging becomes expected, and helping one another becomes part of what NDG is known for.**

An invitation to NDG - and beyond

I am sending this overview because I do not want A NuVo World to remain an idea on paper. I want to find the people who feel something when they read it - people who see a place for themselves, their organization, their school, their business, their congregation, their skills or their imagination.

You do not need to lead a program to participate. You may know the person who should. You may have one introduction to make, one idea to improve, one resource to share, one hour to volunteer, one story to tell or one neighbourhood need that deserves attention.

My immediate hope is to bring together Champions and small working groups around the five starting programs, connect them with strong existing community partners, and begin practical pilots. From there, we learn together and allow the work to grow organically.

The larger dream is that NDG becomes known not because it has eliminated every problem, but because it has decided that **no person should have to face life's problems alone.**

And if a neighbourhood of tens of thousands of people can learn to live that way - deliberately, joyfully and practically - perhaps it can offer something much larger to the world.

The invitation

Help me build A NuVo World in NDG. Champion a program. Join a working group. Connect us with someone who should be involved. Bring an idea. Offer a skill. Help a neighbour. Or simply begin by asking one question:

What can I do, with what I have, where I am, to make life a little better for someone else today?

A NuVo World • Transforming NDG

A healthier, kinder, more connected community - built together.