

A New Philanthropic Leader to Support Le Chaînon's Mission

Kathia St-Jean Appointed Executive Director of Fondation Le Chaînon

Montreal, August 17, 2026 — Fondation Le Chaînon, the philanthropic arm of Le Chaînon, which has welcomed and housed women in difficulty and experiencing homelessness for nearly 95 years, is pleased to announce the appointment of Kathia St-Jean as Executive Director — a move rooted in close, ongoing collaboration with the Le Chaînon team.

With nearly 20 years of experience leading mission-driven organizations, Ms. St-Jean is known for her ability to drive organizational growth. Since 2017, she has served as Executive Director of La Vitrine, where she negotiated major funding and partnership agreements to build a high-performing digital ecosystem promoting cultural events across Quebec. That experience in building networks and partnerships will be a real asset to the Foundation's philanthropic capacity. A woman of action driven by a commitment to social cohesion, Ms. St-Jean looks forward to putting her network and expertise to work for Fondation Le Chaînon's mission.

"It's truly a privilege to be entrusted with leading a foundation that has already built such a remarkable community of allies. My role will be to help that community grow, in full support of Le Chaînon's mission — an organization that mobilizes with agility every day to unconditionally welcome as many women as possible who are experiencing extreme vulnerability," said **Kathia St-Jean**.

Ginette Maillé, Chair of the Board of Directors of Fondation Le Chaînon, praised Ms. St-Jean's impressive professional track record: "Her strategic vision, extensive experience in organizational management, and dynamism convinced us she has exactly the profile needed to lead the Foundation into its next chapter, in close alignment with Le Chaînon. She has the full confidence of the Board." Ms. Maillé also thanked Danielle Poulin, who served with agility and poise as the Foundation's Interim Executive Director over the past several months.

Sonia Côté, President and CEO of Le Chaînon, welcomed Ms. St-Jean warmly: "With four housing and residential buildings and close to 200 employees, Le Chaînon carries out a mission of real scope in the fight against women's homelessness. It's precisely to match that reach that we need a determined philanthropic force, fully aligned with our mission. I'm delighted to see

someone so dynamic and accomplished take the helm of our foundation, alongside our whole team."

Under Ms. St-Jean's leadership, the Foundation aims to grow and further mobilize its community to ensure lasting philanthropic support for the women Le Chaînon serves. Ms. St-Jean begins her new role on August 31. The entire team at Le Chaînon and its Foundation looks forward to welcoming her.

About Fondation Le Chaînon

www.lechainon.org

Fondation Le Chaînon, the philanthropic arm dedicated exclusively to Le Chaînon, was established in 2013 to mobilize a community of allies around the organization's mission. It contributes to Le Chaînon's financial sustainability, supports innovative, large-scale projects, and raises public awareness of its cause.

Founded in 1932, Le Chaînon is one of Quebec's most important resources for women experiencing vulnerability and homelessness. Across four buildings, the organization welcomes and supports more than 2,350 women each year on their path toward residential autonomy, offering emergency and transitional housing, permanent housing, and psychosocial support. Its mission is made possible through public funding, the philanthropic support of its foundation, and revenue from its two thrift stores and donation centre.

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Source:

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