March 2020

By now we are all aware of the evolving impacts from the coronavirus (COVID-19) across the globe. For many of us, the effects have shifted from a piece of news to a part of life.

As the mounting statistics may start to include the people we love, we recognize that, along with health concerns, there are many unfortunate financial implications: events are being canceled, restaurants are left empty, and people are unable to go to work as they live through the quarantine, to name a few.

For many working people in Montreal and the surrounding area, several weeks without pay can quickly lead to financial crisis. To meet this need, the Hebrew Free Loan Association will be offering interest-free loans for Jewish borrowers affected by the coronavirus who live in Montreal and the surrounding area.

Interest-free loans up to $3,500 are available to anyone affected by the coronavirus, for purposes including (but not limited to):

Lost wages due to being unable to work
Child care costs due to school and daycare closures
Small business losses
Canceled study abroad programs
Related medical costs

To apply, borrowers need to fill out an Applicant’s Form specifying that the request is for coronavirus related needs, specifying an amount up to $3,500 and providing one endorser who fills out an Endorser’s Form. Forms can be found on the Hebrew Free Loan Association website (www.hfaml.org) under the Loans tab.

The borrower will also have the option to defer the start of repayments for a 2-3 month period. With this grace period we hope to alleviate some of the stress surrounding the current state of economic flux as well as the unknown consequences as the disease spreads.

Sharron Schwartz
President