ACCM envisions a society free from the stigma of HIV/AIDS. We are committed to building a community where all people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS receive the support they need. We are dedicated to empowering individuals to make informed decisions related to their health.

ACCM is a volunteer-based community organization working to enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS, to prevent HIV transmission, and to promote community awareness and action.
ACCM Employees

Michael Foster  
Interim Executive Director

Kamilla Petrosyan  
Programs Manager

Cassandre Poblah  
Office Manager

Puelo Deir  
Development Manager

Jordan Coulombe  
Communications Coordinator

Daniel Lanouette  
Case Worker

Jessica Dolan  
1:1 Intervention

Sylvain Beaudry  
Treatment Information Facilitator

Kimberly Wong  
HIV Educator

Melissa Fuller  
SextEd Assistant

Andrea Kornacki  
Volunteer Engagement Facilitator

Zachary Grant Whittaker  
Group Facilitator

Daniel-Jonathan Laroche  
Network Outreach Worker

Mark Hapanowicz, Alison Light, Ian Bradley-Perrin, Anna Phelan, Johnny Nawracaj, Miguel Gosselin Dionne, and France Cantin left ACCM this year to pursue other goals.

Board of Directors

Terry Kyle  
President

Kevin McCoy  
Vice-President

Gary Verbrugh  
Treasurer

Kriss Clément  
Secretary

Jessica Quijano  
Board Member

Joshua Levin  
Board Member

Mathieu Foran  
Board Member

Sylvain Beaudry  
Staff Representative

Neil Mayers left the board this year to pursue other goals.
Message from the President and Executive Director

We are excited to report the organizational achievements of the 2013-2014 fiscal year. At the annual general meeting last year, the board of directors presented the following five-year strategic objectives:

- Increase the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS and/or hepatitis C in every aspect of the organization (i.e. receivers of services, contributors and implementers of programs, experts, and decision-makers).
- Establish a referral system for programs and services outside of the mandate and capacities of the Support Services Department.
- Complete a pilot project for people living with hepatitis C.
- ACCM’s programs, services and administration will operate from one space.
- ACCM will have a full-time communications person on staff.

At the end of our first year we are proud to report that we have increased the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS and/or hepatitis C, as demonstrated by a rise in projects run “by and for” our membership. We recruited and engaged an increased number of peer volunteers, working to build skill sets and assist in empowering individuals to break isolation and become more engaged in the community.

We began developing a referral database, allowing us to have the most current information for our members. The database is the first step in becoming a referral hub for housing, food banks, legal services, mental health services, prevention services and more.

Our programming staff attended numerous conferences, workshops and trainings to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills to adequately serve people living with hepatitis C. We also developed a “Hepatitis C 101” workshop, and secured funding through the Public Health Agency of Canada to do a “needs assessment,” identifying gaps in services offered for Anglophone people living with hepatitis C.

We created a communications position responsible for delivering consistent communications, as well as branding and development of promotional materials. This position is an integral component for all fundraising initiatives.

We continued to strengthen and improve our administration processes at all levels. The major milestones achieved included an upgrade of our accounting system, a new phone system, an automated payroll system and the creation of monitoring and evaluation tools. In short, we have become more efficient by streamlining our internal administration processes, while also cutting costs.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who support and strengthen ACCM through time spent, money donated, and goals achieved. We would like to thank you, our members, volunteers and staff, and ask you to join us as we continue this essential work in our community.

Terry Kyle
President

Michael Foster
Interim Executive Director
Highlights

This year our volunteers contributed an amazing 10,200 hours!

ACCM launched Jack & Jacques, a bilingual online resource that promotes HIV and STI testing amongst gay and bisexual men, and sends STI testing reminders to participants’ inboxes on a schedule established by an anonymous quiz on sexual behaviour.

An increasing amount of people took advantage of our Member Activity Fund, which received 8 proposals, 6 of which were accepted by the selection committee.

Our President of the Board, Terry Kyle, received the Concordia Volunteer Recognition Award. Over the past 5 years she has given more than 2,200 hours to ACCM.

14 PLHIV from 11 different ASOs across Canada visited Montreal to receive our My Life with HIV training so that they could integrate it into their own organizations’ services.

Kontak, our sexual health initiative directed towards organizers and participants of sex parties, was re-launched with a new website, promotional campaign, and a new dedicated outreach worker. Since December, we have attended 7 sex parties and facilitated 31 interventions.

SextEd and Kontak were named among the best prevention tools at the most recent Outillons-Nous workshop, organized by COCQ-Sida and attended by various AIDS Service Organisations from all over Quebec.

On February 24th 2014, 14 ACCM members were interviewed on CKUT’s Bloodwork radio show about their trials and successes, as well as their lives beyond their HIV status.

ArtSIDA, ACCM’s marquee art auction event held at the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, raised $55,000.

ACCM had an increase in media visibility, including coverage on Global Television, CBC Radio, CKUT and in The Montreal Gazette.
Volunteering

Volunteers are at the core of our identity and success. It is because of their support, commitment, energy and creativity that our programs and initiatives are successful. With over 150 active volunteers contributing to the organization this year, we were able to provide a multitude of services to our members and the larger Montreal community. We are proud to say that this year our volunteers contributed 10,200 hours to ACCM!

This year saw an increase of PLHIV in our volunteer department, with 13 new volunteers living with HIV joining our team. As a volunteer-based organization, engaging PLHIV at the volunteer level puts them at the core of our work, and is an important step in facilitating both GIPA and MIPA. We also focus on creating volunteer opportunities specifically for our members. This year we are particularly proud of our Peer Reception Team, a program that facilitates members’ engagement in the day-to-day operations of the center.

In order to prepare volunteers for their roles and ensure our ability to maintain a safe, supportive and welcoming space for our members, the Volunteer Department held 3 volunteer orientation sessions, as well as 4 additional program-specific trainings. This year we trained a total of 53 new volunteers.

Volunteers contribute to ACCM programming in a variety of ways:
- Our Education for Prevention volunteers develop sexual education workshops and tirelessly facilitate them throughout Montreal.
- Support Services volunteers ensure that we are able to serve a warm and healthy meal every Monday at our ever-popular Dinner & Discussion.
- Volunteers also staff every fundraising and community event we coordinate throughout the year.
- Our Board of Directors contributed an amazing 1,300 volunteer hours to ACCM this year.

“When I end my day at ACCM, I know I might have helped someone in need. It satisfies my inner self.”

Mike, member & volunteer
Support Services

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management is a front-line service that involves welcoming and assisting new and regular ACCM members, as well as their loved ones, and helps identify members’ needs and assess how ACCM can offer support.

An intake is done for every new member of ACCM, the majority of whom are either newly diagnosed with HIV, or newly dealing with a diagnosis.

Case Management met 55 people for intake over the past year: 5 women and 41 men living with HIV, as well as 1 person living with HIV not identifying as a man or woman; 1 woman and 5 men co-infected with both HIV and the hepatitis C virus; 1 man living with the hepatitis C virus alone and 1 woman affected by hepatitis C. For these new members, the main motivations for reaching out to ACCM were to discuss the realities of living with HIV/AIDS and/or hepatitis C, to get help connecting with health services, to socialize, break isolation, and/or to access our services.

From scheduling medical appointments, to looking for housing, to simply budgeting for the practical aspects of life, ACCM acknowledges that people living with HIV face unique obstacles.

This year, practical help facilitated by our Support Services department included:

- 119 haircuts given to members by a volunteer barber
- 29 members had their taxes done at ACCM by a volunteer from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Over 2000 snacks and meals were provided to 96 different people
- Transportation to food banks, medical appointments or government agencies was provided 87 times to 18 people
- Members of ACCM also helped their peers by volunteering 23 complementary sessions of physical therapy, including reflexology and massage, to 20 different members

ACCM also supports members in accessing external community programs, such as:

- The Gazette Christmas Fund: 76 members accessed the fund during the year 2013-14
- Camp Positive: 17 members of ACCM attended the camp last year

“I had always flown solo, but the entire ACCM staff has helped make my transition from ‘I am’ to more of a ‘we are.’ I have been with the organization for 5 months and consider it and the staff a home away from home.”

Peter, member & volunteer
MEMBER ACTIVITY FUND
There was an increased interest in the Member Activity Fund, for which we funded 6 out of 8 project applications in 2013-14, including a cruise on the St-Laurence River, a trip to see the movie Dallas Buyers Club, outings to Mosaïculture and the Chihuly exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

MY LIFE WITH HIV
ACCM’s trailblazing My Life with HIV program facilitated a 2-day Train-the-Trainers conference in March 2014. During this time, 14 PLHIV from 11 different AIDS service organizations across Canada travelled to Montreal to receive the training. These participants went on to integrate ACCM’s peer-based treatment information program into their own organizations’ services.

INFO-TRAITEMENT
This past year ACCM held three conferences for Anglophone PLHIV, addressing over 40 participants in total. The first was on recent developments in HIV treatment, the second was on medical cannabis and the third addressed HIV co-infection with hepatitis C. In 2013-14, ACCM gave 2 workshops and 2 training sessions on HIV and HCV treatment to 75 members and volunteers. Info-Traitement also provided support and information to 65 English speakers through phone calls, emails and in-person consultations.

OUR GROUPS
The J.R. Rainville Centre, also known as the “Drop-In”, houses a range of weekly and monthly group activities that invite our members to come together for mutual support, information, socializing, and more. This year, Dinner & Discussion (D&D), a longstanding Monday night workshop series, drew 614 participants. D&Ds consist of a healthy communal meal prepared by members and volunteers, followed by a workshop or discussion. This year we held 32 workshops for our membership with a diversity of invited presenters, who covered a wide range of topics from literature to relationships, consent to disclosure, and much more.

Our English, French and Spanish groups collectively drew 32 people together to engage in peer support. Beyond our support groups we offered our membership many social opportunities, such as journaling workshops, spirituality groups, and poz mixers, as well as our annual holiday party that saw 124 members join us for a full turkey dinner and variety show.

BUYERS CLUB & VITAMIN CLUB
Our cooperative food and nutritional supplement purchasing programs, Buyers Club and Vitamin Club, allow people living with HIV/AIDS to access healthy nourishment at wholesale prices. These programs were very active this past year with an average of 49 people living with HIV/AIDS and/or hepatitis C using them every month.

BUDDY PROGRAM
We recently re-launched ACCM’s Buddy Program, an initiative that aims to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS and/or hepatitis C by providing practical and emotional support and company. A new training was developed, with the contribution of ACT in Toronto, which 4 volunteer buddies recently received.
Education for Prevention

With the Quebec government’s decision to cut sexual education in 2005, ACCM’s workshops and safer sex kiosks play a crucial role in providing effective and accessible sexual education in Montreal. This past year, improvements were made to our workshops, and a Hepatitis C 101 workshop was developed and integrated into our volunteer orientation. We held kiosks and facilitated HIV 101, Safer Sex and Healthy Relationships workshops, as well as visited high schools, CEGEPs, street youth organizations, community groups, and participated in events and festivals. A total of 29 kiosks and 47 workshops were facilitated reaching 2,375 individuals and over 32,000 safer sex packs were distributed!

When asked to rate their level of safer sex/HIV knowledge before our Safer Sex and HIV workshop, 45% of last years’ participants reported either a 4/5 or 5/5, whereas afterwards 98% reported either 4/5 or 5/5, and 97% responded that they now know how HIV is transmitted.

JACK & JACQUES

This year we wrapped-up the testing initiative SaVOIR+ and introduced the new project Jack & Jacques, a bilingual website that sends STI testing reminders to gay and bisexual men's inboxes on a schedule established by an anonymous quiz about sexual behaviour. Jack & Jacques also helps participants locate the closest resource centres for free condoms, confidential testing, prevention information and PEP (Post-exposure prophylaxis), as well as equips them with the knowledge to understand their sex-related risks, their serological status, and prevention needs.

TEACHER’S SEX-ED TOOLKIT

This year, the Teacher’s Toolkit (TTK) was presented at the annual Get to the Pointe! Sexual Health Conference, where we presented a new workshop to address sexual orientation, gender identity and inclusivity in the classroom. 32 high school teachers attended, as well as youth workers from various community organizations, with 92% responding that their learning from the workshop was either "good" or "great." We also held a kiosk at the annual QPAT conference, handing out over 200 brochures and promoting TTK and SextEd to teachers, many of whom were new to discussing gender and sexuality in a classroom context.

SextEd

SextEd was launched in May 2013 and received a great deal of attention in local media, such as CBC Radio, The Gazette, CJAD, Global Television and Xtra. After almost a year in the works, we have responded to 203 questions and received user feedback for 91 of our answers.

Our SextEd program received a very positive response from high schools, community organizations, the general public, and the users of the service, who have been consistently giving us high ratings and continuing to ask us questions over time.

KONTAK

The Kontak program is a sexual health initiative geared towards organizers and participants of gay and mixed-orientation sex parties. We re-launched the program in December 2013 and hired a new outreach worker, who has attended 7 sex parties (with approximately 400 guests in total), facilitated 31 one-on-one interventions, made 15 safer sex gear deliveries and sold over 51 sex toys at cost to 20 MSM customers.
Communications

Some of the Communications Department’s achievements over the past year include a new media list, containing over 700 French and English, local, provincial and national contacts, to which we’ve sent press releases about our programs and services on a regular basis. Thanks to these efforts, ACCM received coverage in major media outlets including CBC Radio, the Montreal Gazette, Global Television, Virgin Radio, Fugues and CKUT. In addition, the ACCM website has been improved with informational content and visuals that highlight what we do and what makes us distinctive.

KONTAK

This year the Kontak program was re-launched with a new bilingual website which includes sexual health testimonials from sex party participants, safer sex information and links to sexual health resources and support. The website has had 1,300 unique visitors since its launch in February 2014. A poster and flyer was developed to promote the project, which were distributed to over 50 clinics, schools, community organizations and businesses across the island of Montreal. The Kontak publicity campaign included advertisements in ZIP Magazine, on Fugues.com, and on Recon.com, where our ad was viewed 109,882 times over two months.

JACK & JACQUES

Since it was launched in February 2014, the Jack & Jacques website has had 3,410 users, thanks to a promotional campaign that included the distribution of posters and flyers to over 50 clinics, schools, community organizations and businesses across the island of Montreal, as well as printed advertisements in Fugues Magazine and banner ads on Fugues.com. We also promoted the website through press releases, social media and an extensive advertising campaign on Manhunt.net, as well as on the Grindr mobile application, where our ads received 810 clicks in the month of February alone.
Fundraising

ARTSIDA 5

ACCM’s marquee art auction event, held at the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, attracted premiere Canadian artists including Kent Monkman, Evergon and René Derouin. Renowned professor Dr. Thomas Waugh and HIV/AIDS pioneer Dr. Réjean Thomas were the spokespeople for 2013. The well-attended event was sponsored by TD Bank and raised $55,000 for ACCM’s programs and services. The event once again debuted at Galerie Dentaire with a hugely successful vernissage.

CABARET DE GL’AMOUR

Cabaret de GL’AMOUR, our World AIDS Day fundraiser, was a night of performances by more than ten of Montreal’s most exciting performers, which raised $3,000. Over 150 people attended the event that celebrated life and honoured the experience of people who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

ÇA MARCHE

ACCM raised over $20,000 at Ça Marche 2013, the 20th annual AIDS walk which brings together organizations from across the province. Once again we were one of the top two fundraisers and four of the top 10 highest individual earners were on the ACCM team.

PRIVATE DONATIONS

With decreasing government funding, private donations and new fundraising streams are more vital than ever. Thankfully, this year saw an increase in private donations that included artist Charles Richard’s (Charlo) $1,000 donation from the sale of one of his works at his September vernissage.
Detailed finances can be found in our financial statement.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM

AbbVie
Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal: Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Direction de la santé publique de Montréal
Emploi Québec: Programme de subvention salariale
Farha Foundation
Gilead
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada: New Horizons for Seniors Program
Janssen
Merck Frosst
Public Health Agency of Canada: AIDS Community Action Program
TD Bank
Tibotec
ViiV-Shire, including Community Innovation Program
Partnerships

AIDS ACTION NOW!
AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)
Aloex
ASTT(e)Q
BRAS Outaouais
Camp Kinkora
Canadian AIDS Society
Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)
Canadian Association for Education and Outreach (CAEO Quebec)
Centre associatif polyvalent d’aide hépatite CAPAHC
CCS Montreal
Célébrations LGBT
Centre des sciences de Montréal
Centre sida secours
Clinique l’Actual
Clinique du Quartier latin
CLSC des Faubourgs
CLSC Metro-CSRSS de la Montagne
La Coalition montréalaise de lutte à l’homophobie
COCo
COCQ-SIDA
Commerce solidaire (H.A. Vaillancourt)
Concordia University – LIVE Centre
Concordia University HIV/AIDS Internship Program
CSSS Jeanne-Mance
Dans la rue
Dawson College
Direction de la santé publique
Distribution alimentaire Aubut
Festival international Montreal en arts
Fontaine Santé
Fugues
GAPVIES
GEIPSI
Hagen Pet Foods

Head & Hands
La Tablée des Chefs
Le Centre d’aide aux personnes atteintes de l’hépatite C (CAPAHC)
Le Commensal
Les Fromages Chaput
Les Viandes Biologiques Charlevoix
Maison Amaryllis
Maison d’Hérelle
Maison Plein Cœur
Maryo Thomas et Cie.
McGill University - Community Action Toolkit
MIELS-Québec
Moisson Montréal
Montreal Chest Institute
Montreal General Hospital’s Immunodeficiency Clinic (McGill University Health Centre)
Montreal Youth Coalition Against Homophobia
Natural Factors
People Living with AIDS Foundation Toronto (PWA Toronto)
Portail VIH-Sida
Project 10
Project SPOT
QPIRG Concordia
QPIRG McGill
Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)
Queer Concordia
Queer McGill
Volunteer Income Tax Program
REZO
St-Columba House
Stikeman Elliott
UQAM Department of Sexology
Volunteer Bureau of Montreal
Memberships

Association des intervenants en toxicomanie du Québec

Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC)

Centre communautaire des gais et lesbiennes de Montréal (CCGLM)

Chambre du commerce gaie du Québec (CCGQ)

Coalition des organismes communautaires Québécois de lutte contre le SIDA (COCQ-SIDA)

Regroupement intersectoriel des organismes communautaires de Montréal (RIOCM)

Table des organismes communautaires Montréalais de lutte contre le SIDA (TOMS)