VISION & MISSION

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

VOLUNTEERING

EDUCATION FOR PREVENTION

COMMUNICATIONS

FUNDRAISING

FINANCES

PARTNERSHIPS

MEMBERSHIPS

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EMPLOYEES

Chris Lau
Kamilla Petrosyan
Sylvain Beaudry
Jordan Coulombe
Zachary Grant
Andrea Kornacki
Daniel Lanouette
Daniel-Jonathan Laroche
Andreas Mertens
Cassandre Poblah
Kimberly Wong

Executive Director
Program Manager
Treatment Information Facilitator
Communications Coordinator
Group Facilitator
Volunteer Engagement Facilitator
Case Worker
Network Outreach Worker
SextEd Assistant
Administrative Coordinator
HIV Educator

Terry Kyle
Mathieu Foran
Joshua Levin
Benjamin Prud’homme
Silvana Orrino
Sylvain Beaudry

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Administrator
Staff Representative

Gary Verbrugh, Kriss Clément, Kevin McCoy and Jessica Quijano left the board this year. Thank you for your contributions!
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ACCM is proud and grateful to have served the Montreal community for 27 years. The advancements in medical treatment we’ve seen over this time period have drastically changed the lives of people living with HIV and/or Hep C, and access to healthcare and treatment have transformed many lives. However, the challenges around stigma, education for prevention and social support continue to perpetuate the spread of the HIV/Hep C viruses in our community and throughout the world.

We must continue to diversify our programs to remain relevant, find partnerships amongst other community organizations in order to avoid service duplication, and adjust our funding strategy to reflect the changing financial landscape.

Our work is not done and remains as important as ever.

We have accomplished great achievements this year and I am grateful for our awesome members, volunteers, staff and board.

Sincerely,

Terry Kyle
President of the Board

This year, we continued to implement our strategic directions. We explored options for an eventual consolidated office space. We further established our Communications staff position. We continued to look for ways to strengthen our commitment to the Greater Involvement of People living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) principle. We established a referral database. We continued to implement our strategy to serve the needs of people living with hepatitis C.

As ACCM’s new Executive Director, I have tried to continue bringing more clarity, transparency and accountability towards our internal practices, including: bringing greater accuracy to our financial management, making decision-making as clear as possible to all, and fostering a culture of documentation and institutional memory to remain as accountable as possible.

With the growing economic climate of austerity, I am proud that ACCM did not accept this sitting down. Last fall, we participated in a demonstration to urge the current government to uphold promises made to increase much-needed funding for the community sector in Quebec. We continue to pay close attention to the growing anti-austerity movement. At the same time, ACCM is focusing on diversifying our funding sources and on creating greater financial self-sufficiency. This will surely be a major focus for several years to come.

I greatly enjoyed getting to know everyone involved with ACCM. Thank you to all volunteers, members and staff persons who have contributed to our successes. I am deeply inspired by your passion, kindness and optimism. I particularly want to acknowledge the staff team’s dedication as well as the Board team’s determination in attaining our common goals, as you will read more about in this report. Despite the change happening within and surrounding ACCM, it is this human passion that has remained constant in the twenty years I’ve known our inspiring organization. It is, to me, our quintessential strength.

Despite some challenges, ACCM does a great job of meeting the needs of our existing members, however we must determine how to reach the various English-speaking populations that we see less of at ACCM, such as younger people and women. We must at the very least ensure that someone in the community is addressing their needs. Any organization has its share of challenges and in this report, we attempt to be transparent about our own; acknowledging such obstacles makes them more surmountable. I am confident that, as one community, we will overcome them together.

Chris Lau
Executive Director
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

We hired a new SextEd Facilitator in September 2014, whose hard work and dedication has greatly increased the program’s visibility as well as the flow of texts that we receive.

We developed a new department-specific volunteer training for our Support Services department. All Support Services volunteers will now receive an additional six hours of training to build on the foundation set during the volunteer orientation weekend.

Increased interest and appreciation of ACCM’s Complementary Therapy program with more sessions offered and members expressing how beneficial it is for them.

In the lead-up to Ça Marche 2014, the Communications Coordinator and Volunteer Engagement Facilitator organized a bake sale BBQ fundraiser in Parc LaFontaine that brought together members, volunteers and staff for an amazing sunny day of good times and laughter, which raised $630. A huge thank you to everyone that donated delicious baked goods and came out to support us!

The increased involvement of members in designing activities, such as our Aging Positively event.

ACCM raised close to $20,000 through Ça Marche. Thanks to all those of you who helped out!

KONTAK was invited to give a workshop at Maison Plein Coeur to raise awareness of safer sex practices, which included a presentation on sex toys, safer sex materials and safer sex tips.

This year, 64 participants received My Life with HIV training, mostly in Toronto.

We secured a greatly appreciated grant with the MAC AIDS Fund for the Buyer’s Club.

With promotion, 120 questions were texted to SextEd in the first three months of 2015. That’s more than all of the texts responded to in the nine months previous!
With over 150 active volunteers this year contributing to all facets of the organization, we were able to provide a multitude of services to both our members and the larger Montreal community. We are proud to say that this year our volunteers contributed 9,053 hours to ACCM.

In order to prepare volunteers for their roles at ACCM and ensure our ability to maintain a safe, supportive, and welcoming space for our members, the volunteer department held 2 volunteer orientation sessions, as well as 3 additional program-specific trainings. This year we trained a total of 33 new volunteers.

Volunteers contribute to ACCM in a variety of ways. For example:

- 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.
- Our Board of Directors, operating with 2/3 the usual membership, contributed an amazing 1,100 volunteer hours to ACCM.

“ACCM has such an inclusive environment with awesome support staff. If you’re looking for a place where you can feel at home while contributing to some really worthwhile initiatives, look no further!”

Caroline Franck, E4P volunteer
CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Management met 47 people for intake over the past year (a 13% decrease compared to last year). Five of them were women living with HIV alone; 29 were men living with HIV alone; 4 men were living with hepatitis C alone; 1 woman was co-infected with HIV and hepatitis C and so were 8 men. There was a slight increase in intakes of people under 35 years old, as well a significant increase of gay male Arabic speakers.

The main reasons invoked for becoming a member of ACCM were to resolve issues around housing or lack of financial means, immigration, accessing medication when a person is not yet covered by the Québec Prescription Drug Insurance (because of immigration issues or because they recently moved from another province), to socialize, break isolation, and/or to access ACCM’s services such as our discussion groups or the Buyer’s Club.

This year, practical help facilitated by our Support Services department included:
• 76 haircuts given to members by a volunteer barber;
• 30 members had their taxes done at ACCM by a volunteer from Revenue Canada & Revenue Québec’s Community Volunteer Income Tax Program;
• 1,500 snacks and meals were provided;
• A volunteer reiki practitioner and a member who volunteers as a masseur in our Complementary Therapy program provided 47 sessions to 20 different members;
• ACCM supported 80 members in accessing The Gazette Christmas Fund in December 2014.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Member Activity Fund

Four out of six project applications to our Member Activity Fund were approved including the Feel the Love Valentine Breakfast Bowling event, the Sero Poolz billiards night, participation in Comité Social Centre Sud’s annual Sugar Shack outing and a Spring Hat Party.

Summer Outing

To compensate for the loss of Camp Positive in 2014, ACCM funded an excursion to Parc de la Yamaska allowing 23 members to spend the day hiking, playing beach games and enjoying a nice summer day in the country.

Buddy Program

Towards the end of the fiscal year, a buddy training was offered to 6 volunteers. This training has been adapted so it’s relevant and beneficial for all Support Services volunteers.

Buyers Club & Vitamin Club

The Buyer’s Club experienced major challenges this year. The space was closed down for two periods of time, including the winter months, which are the most difficult months for our members. However, due to the dedication of our amazing volunteer Sylvain Goulet and his committed team of volunteers, we managed to overcome both closures. During regular months, an average of 50 people used the program. In the upcoming year, we not only hope to stabilize this successful ACCM program but to expand it into new avenues.
TREATMENT SUPPORT

Info-Traitement

Seventeen Anglophone PHAs attended a conference given by Dr. Mark Wainberg on the topic of HIV and potential cures. ACCM also gave three workshops on new HIV treatments, PEP/PrEP, and on treatment as prevention. 45 participants attended these workshops. We facilitated two training sessions on HIV and HCV treatment during Volunteer Orientation, which 19 new volunteers attended. This year, Info-Traitement gave support and information through phone calls, emails, and in person, to 103 people. This is a 58% rise compared to last year.

My Life with HIV program

This year, My Life with HIV went virtual. You can now access all the documents on our website under Treatment Support. The program did well outside of Montreal with 5 participants in Arche de l’Estrie in Sherbrooke, and 59 participants at PWA Toronto, proving that people who received the training in Montreal in 2013 felt more confident training other PHAs. At ACCM, 5 people received a section of the workshop series on an individual basis.

Needs assessment on Hepatitis C services

We closed our hepatitis C needs assessment survey at the end of March with 15 respondents and we will be starting to compile the results soon.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Dinner & Discussion

Our Dinner & Discussion workshop series hosted 50 skill building, self-exploration and informational evenings with a total of 509 visits from our membership. This year saw a large growth in peer involvement in planning, facilitation and evaluation of our programming. Dinner & Discussions was no exception, seeing 11 workshops planned and facilitated by peer professionals or members of ACCM.

POZ TALK & Tout le monde en POZ

Our topic-focused English community discussion group, POZ TALK, and its French counterpart, Tout le Monde en POZ, both held 16 meetings to great success. POZ TALK brought out a younger, more diverse audience than we have seen before, addressing topics that ranged from disclosure and criminalization, to drug use and sexuality, while Tout le Monde en Poz saw record attendance with both groups drawing 242 total visits.

Peer Reception

Our peer receptionist program assists four PLHIV in setting goals and developing capacity around workplace/social skills, computer literacy, and personal growth, while they support the daily functioning of our drop in center by managing social media, phone referrals, giving peer support and more. This highly successful program has seen amazing growth in its participants and it is a challenge to imagine our center without this essential peer team.

Disclosure

To address the discrimination and rejection many PLHIV face in their lives, and the growing difficulties posed by the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, ACCM hosted 3 disclosure workshops. For example, Positive Sex, a day long, theater and role-play program, encouraged 31 participants, including PLHIV and their allies, to talk about their experiences, build self-esteem and work through internalized stigma and discrimination.
SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Aging Pozitively

A group of members and staff developed an initiative to support PLHIV in meeting the challenges and changes of aging. With the support of staff, three peers planned a monthly workshop series on aging that centered on the topics of healthy relationships, identities, sexuality and creativity. This series culminated with, Aging Pozitively, a day-long urban retreat with 22 participants that focused on building relationships, developing health and wellness, and preparing for the challenges ahead.

LGBTQ Youth

We hosted and contributed to student and LGBTQ youth projects such as Rad Sex Week and Radical Queer Semaine, which saw 300+ persons access our center’s resources and broadened our ability to connect youth to information and counseling on sexual health and safer drug use, as well as promote our services to a new generation of PLHIV.

Generation PrEP

As a host of World AIDS Week, we organized a public summit, Generation PrEP: Are We Ready Yet?, which brought together organizations, activists, public health and other stakeholders. This highly successful event drew 100+ attendees together, which was followed by additional workshops and online discussions.

“I currently co-facilitate the Poz Talk Discussion Group and I’m honored to assist in supporting members whom share their thoughts, stories, fears, joys and concerns. It really warms my heart.”

Ian Nelson, Support Services volunteer

At ACCM we feel like we’re listened to and that people are open to the initiatives that members propose. We feel supported if we have an idea for a project.

-Daniel, ACCM member
2015 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Quebec government’s decision to cut sex education from schools across the province. With rising cases of sexually transmitted infections within the youth population and the notion of austerity ever present, the Education for Prevention Department continues its outreach work by providing sexual health programming free of cost to the Montreal community.

This past year, we facilitated our usual workshops (HIV 101, Hep C 101, Safer Sex and Healthy Relationships) to high schools, CEGEPs, street youth organizations, community groups, as well as at special events/festivals. We also developed a workshop called Safer Sex and Drug Use for youth, as well as adapted our HIV 101 workshop for older adults. A total of 25 sexual health kiosks and 24 workshops were facilitated reaching 2,005 individuals and over 26,000 safer sex packs were distributed.

After workshops, participants were asked to rate their level of safer sex and HIV knowledge. Of the evaluations that were collected, only 42% of participants reported a knowledge level of either a 4 or 5/5 before the workshop, however this increased to 93% after the workshop. Additionally, 83% stated that the workshop would influence how they approach sex.

Confirmation of a large part of our E4P funding occurred only 6 months into the fiscal year, which made it extremely difficult to plan the scope of interventions and human resource management.

In the second year since its release, SextEd has grown considerably and gained community support. With a team focusing on promotion, the program’s posters and cards have been given to over 53 schools and 26 community organizations that work with youth. Technical difficulties with the SextEd database caused delays and complications at some points, and it was difficult to find people with the skills to fix them. Despite this, the SextEd team answered over 170 questions since last March, 120 of these in 2015. Both the community and those using the service have given very positive responses. Since the program moved to its new online platform in March 2014, we received 94 user reviews, with an average rating of 4.5/5.

Technical difficulties with the SextEd database caused delays and complications at some points, and it was difficult to find people with the skills to fix them.

“It really makes me happy when I’m facilitating a workshop and participants have an aha-moment - when what we’re saying seems to make sense all of a sudden. At one workshop we ran out of time because of our great discussions - that was a special moment.”

Vivienne Walz, E4P volunteer
This year, the Communications Department was responsible for the development of a number of promotional materials, including a revised ACCM brochure, a forthcoming Support Services brochure and flyer, as well as an ACCM Kit, which serves to present the organization to potential corporate funders. Due to problems with retention of documentation from previous employees, we no longer possessed source files or high-resolution images for some of our promotional materials, which in some cases meant having to be creative in revising or updating existing resources or simply having to recreate them.

ACCM remained an important public voice on issues related to HIV and sexual health with interviews appearing in various media outlets, including: CBC, CJAD, CKUT, Fugues and PositiveLite. The Communications Department is also developing a forthcoming position statement on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis.

For the 2014 edition of Fierté Montréal, the Communications Department coordinated a publicity campaign for some of ACCM’s Education for Prevention programs that included an extensive indoor/outdoor poster campaign and advertisements on the digital dating applications Grindr and Recon.

KONTAK

More than 300 interventions were performed during 28 sex parties and safer sex material deliveries. Interventions were also done in person, by telephone, e-mail, social media, and through KONTAK’s presence at major events like Bal en Blanc, and Black & Blue. Topics for interventions included HIV and STI transmission, as well as testing, consent, sero-sorting, substance use, PEP/PrEP, risk reduction and safer sex practices. The project has had a great increase of orders for safer sex materials, which totaled approximately $3,700 before taxes. 2,000 free of charge condoms were ordered and distributed. Additionally, 1,440 special condoms were ordered and resold at cost. 28 boxes of nitrile gloves were also ordered and distributed.

Teacher’s Sex Ed Toolkit

The Teacher’s Toolkit (TTK) participated in two annual events for teachers: the Quebec Provincial Association of Teacher’s (QPAT) Conference in November and the Get to the Pointe! (GTTP!) sexual health conference for youth in February. At the GTTP! conference, we presented an adapted version of our workshop to 20 teachers and youth workers. According to the completed evaluations, 92% of participants reported that their learning was "good" or "great," 33% felt an increase in their comfort level when it comes to helping students deal with an issue related to sex or sexuality, with two-thirds rating their comfort as a 5/5 after the workshop. We had over 9,500 unique visitors to the TTK website and over 5,200 lesson plans were downloaded in the last fiscal year.
Jack & Jacques

The Jack and Jacques (J&J) campaign remained under the jurisdiction of the Communications Department, which developed a system for monitoring and evaluating the J&J initiative in partnership with the Montreal Department of Public Health (DSP). The resulting data led to ACCM’s Communications Coordinator being invited to present research on J&J with the DSP at the May 2015 Canadian Association for HIV Research conference.

In order to promote the Jack & Jacques initiative, the Communications Department produced Moon Trail, a short documentary film about gay life and sexual health in Montreal, which premiered at the Image+Nation film festival and was screened at the Ren dez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois. It was also presented in official competition for Best Short Film at the In & Out LGBT film festival in Nice, France. ACCM hosted its own launch event for the film in early May 2015, which included a public panel of community members who discussed emerging developments in HIV and STI testing. Lastly, a blog was added to the J&J website in order to keep it active and encourage return visits.

FUNDRAISING AND FUNDING DEVELOPMENT

We are sincerely grateful to our major funders. ACCM realizes that greater financial self-sufficiency and increased funding diversification are crucial if we are to continue responding to the ever-evolving and increasing needs within our community in upcoming years.

ACCM is presently planning our flagship art auction Artsida for the Fall of 2015. With renewed energy and a broader vision, ACCM aims to set this event on a new long-term path to help Artsida reach its fullest potential. Although not holding Artsida this year had a significant financial impact, we still ended the year without a deficit.

We are extremely grateful to the many individual donors who continue to support us. We also recognize the following individuals and groups efforts in helping to raise funds for ACCM:

- Charles Richard and his Unlimited Love art sale;
- RONA’s Canada Day Weekend Hot Dog Sale;
- Farha Foundation’s Ça Marche;
- ACCM’s staff bake sale in Lafontaine Park;
- Fierté Mtl’s Nuits D’Emily fundraiser for December 1st;
- Day Nyte and their ‘Ish’tar Love Show;
- The Yellow Door Choir and their Winter Concert.
Thank you to the following for their generous financial support:

- 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
- Farha Foundation
- Fondation Québécoise du sida
- Gilead
- Janssen
- MAC AIDS Fund
- Merck Frosst
- Public Health Agency of Canada: AIDS Community Action Program
- Viiv Healthcare
- Viiv- Shire

Equally, a big thank you to the following for their gracious donations:

- Aliments Vaillancourt
- Aloex
- Aubut Distribution Alimentaire
- Barefoot Wine
- Casey House
- Centre Bell
- Centre des Sciences de Montréal
- Charles Richard
- Le Cirque Éloize
- Day Nyte
- Fromagerie Chaput
- Fontaine Santé
- Hagen Nutrience (dog/cat food)
- Homewood
- Hotel Loews Montreal
- Moisson Montréal
- Natural Factors
- Price Costco
- Puelo Deir
- La Société du Vieux Port de Montréal
- Stikeman & Elliot Solicitors
- La Tablée des Chefs
- Les Viandes Biologiques de Charlevoix
- Viiv Healthcare
PARTNERSHIPS

ACCKWA - AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area
AIDS ACTION NOW!
AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)
Association sportive et communautaire du Centre-Sud
Action santé travest(e) & transexuel(le)s du Québec (ASTT(e)Q)
Aide aux Trans du Québec (ATQ)
BRAS Outaouais
Canadian AIDS Society
Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)
Canadian Association for Education and Outreach (CAEO Quebec)
Centre d’aide aux personnes atteintes de l’hépatite C (CAPAHC)
CCS Montreal
Centre sida secours
Montreal Chest Institute
Clinique l’Actuel
Clinique du Quartier latin
CLSC Metro-CSRSS de la Montagne
La Coalition jeunesse montréalaise de lutte à l’homophobie
The Centre for Community Organizations (COCo)
COCQ-SIDA
Commerce solidaire (H.A. Vaillancourt)
Concordia University – LIVE Centre
Concordia University HIV/AIDS Internship Program
Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS
CSSS Jeanne-Mance (CLSC des Faubourgs)
Dans la rue
Direction de la santé publique
Distribution alimentaire Aubut
Essentiellement Soi

Fierté Montréal
Fondation des Petits Lutins
Fondation québecoise du sida
Fugues
GAPVIES
GEIPSI
GRIP
Maison Amaryllis
Maison d’Hérelle
Maison Plein Cœur
McGill University
McGill Legal Information Clinic
MIELS-Québec
Montreal General Hospital's Immundeficiency Clinic (McGill University Health Centre)
People Living with AIDS Foundation Toronto (PWA Toronto)
Portail VIH/sida du Québec
Project 10
Project SPOT
QPIRG Concordia
QPIRG McGill
Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)
Queer Between the Covers
Queer Concordia
Queer McGill
Radical Queer Semaine
Volunteer Canada
Volunteer Income Tax Program
REZO
SACOMSS – The Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students’ Society
Saint-Columba House
UQAM Department of Sexology
Volunteer Bureau of Montreal
Association des intervenants en toxicomanie du Québec
Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Centre for Community Organizations (COCo)
Coalition des organismes communautaires Québécois de lutte contre le sida (COCQ-sida)
Centre communautaire des gais et lesbiennes de Montréal (CCGLM)
Comité provincial de concertation en Hépatite C
Harm Reduction Coalition of Montreal
Moisson Montréal
Regroupement intersectoriel des organismes communautaires de Montréal (RIOCM)
Table des organismes communautaires Montréalais de lutte contre le sida (TOMS)
Volunteer Bureau of Montreal