MISSION
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.

VISION
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.

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Cover photo by Margaret Thompson
We would like to wholeheartedly thank ACCM’s staff, members, board, and volunteers for their work over the past twelve months. At the end of a challenging year, we have much to celebrate due in large part to your commitment to the wellbeing of our organization. Matthew, in particular, is deeply grateful to your warm welcome and very proud to be working with you all.

2015-2016 saw the expansion of SextEd, our anonymous text-based helpline for youth. Andreas and their excellent team of volunteers achieved improved user ratings, a significant increase in text questions, and expanded their kiosking in university residences and at community events. Andreas and Kim, our Education for Prevention Coordinator, spoke at conferences in Guelph, New Jersey, and at BEDx here in Montreal to promote gender-inclusive language in sex education.

This year ACCM both created and re-focused programming to meet emerging needs within our membership and community, particularly surrounding the use of crystal meth. Control Drugs 4 Life is a member-driven support group, based on the principles of harm-reduction, for people using, or that have used, drugs. Likewise, Kontak, our sex-party outreach program, has focused on needle and pipe distribution in addition to safer sex supplies.

ACCM has begun building long-term plans to meet the financial realities of community organizations. We happily welcomed our new Development Coordinator, France, to the team this year and she will be pursuing ACCM’s targeted individual giving and corporate granting, as well as coordinating a variety of fundraising events. Our development strategy aims to augment our community involvement and messaging through the meaningful involvement of our members and priority populations.

Our year ahead presents a series of exciting opportunities and challenges that we will face head-on. We will be working with Molotov Communications, in collaboration with our members, to create a new logo, branding, and website for ACCM. During Fierté Montréal, we will host our first-ever Kontak Party at Le Stud, with our prevention and fundraising teams on hand. We will expand our hepatitis C prevention and treatment information through coordinated outreach activities, including a new series of condom packs promoting testing. We will expand our work with student groups, particularly through SextEd, to create meaningful prevention initiatives in universities and CEGEPs, such as our recent SextEd Trivia Night. And, of course, we look forward to a re-invigorated Artsida 7, held in March at the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal.

Finally, we will begin building, through a joint staff-board committee, a strategic plan that will guide our activities for the next five years. We will consult the widest range of members, students, community leaders, and stakeholders to determine the values through which we will approach our varied programs and services. But no matter the task—whether in classrooms or backrooms, at our support groups or our fundraisers—we commit to maintaining our two named pillars: community and care. ACCM proudly promotes member-focused, volunteer driven change—and compassion—within the communities we serve.

Sincerely yours,
Matthew and Terry
ACCM’s Support Services programs enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV or hepatitis C by providing peer support, personal development and treatment information, as well as addressing stigma and discrimination.

ANTI-CRIMINALIZATION MESSAGING
We marched with community partners behind our HIV ≠ CRIME banner in the Montreal Pride Parade and photos were circulated in local and national news media, generating discussion around HIV criminalization. We also brought the banner to Ça Marche, and Montreal mayor Denis Coderre posed in front of it for photos, later mentioning the importance of its message when he gave his speech from the main stage. In addition to our banner, we also developed a matching sticker that we’ve been circulating at public events, garnering further awareness around criminalization. We facilitated anti-criminalization workshops with Radical Queer Semaine and our Groups Coordinator spoke on criminalization at Dawson College on two occasions. Currently, a few of our Concordia interns are developing a workshop for community groups on HIV criminalization.

WOMEN’S SOCIAL GROUP
Through a grant from the Member Activity Fund, ACCM began a social group for women living with HIV that has met every month since its launch in October. We’ve had regular attendance and a new member has joined the group each month. Activities have ranged from knitting and facials to movies and group cooking lessons. Thanks to generous in-kind donations from LUSH Cosmetics, Espace Tricot, DeSerres, Kernels and Coop Coco, our members have also been able to make a range of fun crafts, including candles, fudge, and bath bombs. We were particularly pleased to receive a donation from Manon Massé, provincial deputy for the Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques riding.

“I’m not sure I’d be where I am today —more confident and happier with my life— if it weren’t for the support I received during that tough period. You can be proud of the help that you’re bringing to the community!”
—Michel, Member

TREATMENT INFORMATION
ACCM’s Treatment Information Coordinator facilitated our HIV 101, HIV 201 and Hep C 101 workshops three times each, training staff, volunteers and members on treatment as prevention, treatment adherence and the side effects of HIV and hepatitis C medication. We also held two Dinner and Discussions focusing on antiretroviral treatment and polypharmacy.

CLAUDE TOURANGEAU AWARD
Fierté Montréal granted ACCM the Claude-Tourangeau Award in recognition of our contribution to the fight against serophobia. This provided an opportunity for our Board Secretary and Kontak Coordinator to take the main stage during Pride and speak to the crowd about the marginalization of people living with HIV, as well as criminalization’s negative impact on our communities. It also provided us a platform to invite the audience to march behind ACCM’s anti-criminalization banner in the parade the following day.

CONTROL DRUGS 4 LIFE
After noticing an increase in drug use within our communities, ACCM responded by initiating a new group focused on peer-based support, which met every Friday from October to March with an overall total of 12 participants. While most Montreal groups for people who use drugs promote abstinence, our group took a harm reduction approach, helping people to better control their drug use. The group was open to people using any type of drug but focused principally on crystal meth, which was the main drug participants were seeking help with.
YEAR IN NUMBERS
60 new member intakes
450 follow up appointments
49 Dinner and Discussions with 20–25 people on average and 717 individual visits
28 support group sessions
10 people on average attended our French support group
3 new Buddy Program requests and 2 matches
58% increase in treatment information interventions from last year
517 bus tickets distributed
27 yoga sessions

WORLD AIDS DANCE
After the World AIDS Day vigil in Parc de l’Espoir, ACCM held our first World AIDS Dance in order to acknowledge our community’s successes over the past year. This member-initiated dance party saw over 60 people come together at Bar le Stud to end the day with a joyful and celebratory event.

COMMUNITY DAY
As the winner of the Claude Tourangeau Award, Fierté Montréal provided us with a large kiosk space for Community Day, which we styled in a carnival theme, complete with a kissing booth that raised $158 for ACCM. Despite the humid weather, over 350 people stopped at our kiosk to inquire about our organization. We were able to distribute 8,000 condom packs and prevention materials, as well as inform the public on issues related to HIV, STIs, discrimination and serophobia.

GUELPH SEXUALITY CONFERENCE AND BEDX
Our Education for Prevention and SextED Coordinators presented a workshop on how to make sex education language inclusive for LGBTQ people at the Guelph Sexuality Conference. The workshop was well received by the 40 educators, social workers, and therapists in attendance, and an abridged version was later presented at BEDx, a sexual education conference in Montreal. We received interest in our workshop from various organizations, including ASSECT (American Society of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists), who contacted us about their Trans Special Interest Group, which creates guidelines for trans-inclusive language.

INSIDE STORIES
This past fall, ACCM’s Communications Coordinator launched a weekly creative writing workshop series geared towards developing our membership’s storytelling skills. The group ran for 10 weeks, over which participants discussed elements of narrative structure and each composed a short story, which was developed through peer feedback sessions.

INDEPENDENT VALENTINE
We increased our presence at McGill and Concordia by participating in both universities’ sex education weeks, distributing condoms and safer sex materials during frosh weeks, training floor fellows and Education students, and co-hosting the first Sex Trivia Night at McGill. We also strengthened our relationships with McGill’s Faculty of Education, the Arts Undergraduate Society, Rad Frosh, OutLaw, Alternative Spring Break, Queer McGill’s Rad Sex Week and the Concordia University Lecture Series on HIV.

LOOKING FORWARD
“Inside Stories will be coming back this fall to produce a publication of our membership’s creative writing
“ACCM will develop improved psychosocial support for people entering retirement homes
“Camp Positive will return for a weeklong overnight camp in August 2016

TESTING, TESTING 1-2-3
We hosted a public panel discussion on developments in HIV testing in order to launch our short documentary film, Moon Trail, which addresses gay life, sexual health and HIV testing in Montreal. The panelists included Jordan Coulombe, Alexandre Grégoire, Thomas Haig, Kate Kenyon, Eric Lefebvre and David Thompson. After its launch, Moon Trail went on to be screened at MIX New York Queer Experimental Film Festival and as part of a queer film screening series in Berlin.

NATIONAL SEX ED CONFERENCE IN NEW JERSEY
Our Education for Prevention and SextED Coordinators presented a case study on texting-based sex education helplines at the American National Sex Ed Conference in New Jersey. They explained how our SextEd program makes sex education more accessible for youth and provided information to help other organizations in the US and Canada establish similar projects.

IT’S SO REWARDING PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND SEEING THEIR CONCERN OR APPREHENSION LIFT OFF THEIR SHOULDERS.”
— Rebecca, Volunteer

EDUCATION FOR PREVENTION
**YEAR IN NUMBERS**

- 41 kiosks with 3,232 visitors
- 52 workshops with 933 total participants
- 33,000 total condoms distributed
- 654 texts to SextEd
- 3,400 monthly visits to the SextEd website
- 654 Kontak interventions at parties, during home deliveries and at events in Montreal
- 5,000 condoms distributed by Kontak, as well as 470 bottles of lube and 55 toys
- 96% of participants reported an increase in knowledge after attending our Hep C 101 workshop and 81% after our HIV 101 workshop
- 11,554 downloads of our Teacher's Toolkit lesson plans

**PrEPARED: A COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM**
This past year’s Info-Traitement conference focused on the biomedical aspects of PrEP and its impact on the MSM community, as well as the role of people living with HIV and community organizations in the discussion around PrEP. Over 35 people came out to listen to and engage with our four panel speakers, which included Dr. Cécile Tremblay, Marc-André Leblanc, Dr. Patrice Junod and ACCM’s Executive Director Matthew Halse.

**KONTAK OUTREACH**
We attended our largest sex party event to date at a leather ball during the Black & Blue weekend, where we spoke to over 75 people about safer sex and harm reduction. Kontak left the city and went into the woods for the first time at Camping Plein Bois, where we spoke with over 150 people, and we were also present at Bal en Cuir, Bal en Blanc, Mec Plus Ultra, Pride, as well as a number of other events throughout the city.

**LOOKING FORWARD**
- More sex trivia nights at McGill and Concordia to raise funds for SextEd
- Improved MSM outreach, including expanded online presence
- New Kontak promotional materials and revised website

**VOLUNTEERS**
The Volunteer Department recruits new volunteers and finds them fulfilling positions at ACCM that contribute to their personal and professional development. We coordinate intensive orientation sessions throughout the year, ensuring that our volunteers are informed about ACCM’s mission and values.

**OFF LIFE AND LIVING**
Three Concordia students – Amy Collier, Adjani Poirier and Casey Stainsby – created an enormously compelling and inspiring documentary play about ACCM, titled On Life and Living. They began working on the project as ACCM volunteers and put together a proposal as part of the HIV/AIDS course at Concordia. The play was then worked on over a span of two and a half years, during which time it received funding from several Concordia bodies and won the Engaged Scholar Award for student involvement in the community sector. Based on interviews with past and present ACCM members, staff and volunteers, the play presented the organization’s history using memories, quotes, audio clips and archival research as primary sources. On Life and Living was presented 4 times at L’Espace la Risée in November 2015 and raised $3000, which was donated to ACCM.

“Everyone is so friendly and appreciative of the work that I’m doing, and that really makes me feel fantastic! I love that what I’m doing is helping people, and that I’m working alongside such encouraging and friendly people.”

–Sacha, Volunteer

**YEAR IN NUMBERS**

- 10,950 total volunteer hours
- 2,498 hours in the Education for Prevention department, including 1,314 hours with SextEd
- 3,944 hours in the Support Services department
- 3,616 administrative hours, including 1,400 hours from our Board of Directors, and 1,269 hours from our Peer Reception team
- 892 events-related volunteer hours, including 524 for Artsida and 74 for our holiday party

**LOOKING FORWARD**
- We will be developing a committee of member volunteers who will provide feedback and direction on ACCM programming to the Executive Director
The Communications Department develops and oversees internal and external communications, as well as branding and messaging for ACCM. It also promotes organizational activities, events, services, and programs, as well as develops ACCM’s media visibility and web presence.

PrEP Statement
ACCM developed a comprehensive position statement that called for reduced costs, further research and a measured community response to PrEP. Staff met to compile and weigh varying viewpoints, then the Communications Coordinator synthesized this information into a document that was sent to our community partners, shared over social media, uploaded to ACCM’s website and circulated at PREPARED, our community forum on PrEP.

MEDIA ADVOCACY ON SEX EDUCATION
In response to Quebec’s new pilot sex education curriculum, ACCM increased its appearance in the media with interviews on CBC and MAtv, where our Education for Prevention Coordinator advocated for sex education in classrooms and brought greater visibility to ACCM’s complimentary sex education programs.

Looking Forward
• ACCM will be re-branding with a new logo and new website
• We will be designing a new ACCM pamphlet, banner, poster and other promotional materials
• We will be producing more video content in the upcoming year

The Fundraising Department is responsible for planning and executing ACCM’s fundraising strategy through community events and individual giving, public and private grants, as well as our signature art auction fundraiser, Artsida.

ARTSIDA 6 AUCTION & VERNISSAGE
ACCM raised $38,000 in profit from the 74 artworks that were donated to Artsida, our flagship art auction and vernissage. The event was generously presented by TD Bank, with a framing sponsorship from Encadrex, and WestJet provided two free tickets to anywhere in North America or Europe, which we were able to raffle at the event. Artsida 6 received attention from several media sources, including Daily Xtra, The Link and Fugues.

LUBE WRESTLING
Finding ourselves with a significant quantity of expired lubricant that we could no longer hand out with condoms, ACCM decided to host a lube wrestling championship on the lawn outside of our drop-in centre. The event brought together 40 members, staff and volunteers, who came out to cheer for the contestants.

Year in Numbers
20,945 visits to our website in the past year
4,048 total followers across all our social media platforms
13,557,397 banner ad impressions on Scruff

ÇA MARCHE
ACCM was the #1 fundraising team at Ça Marche this past year, raising a total of $25,750. Members, staff and board marched behind our HIV ≠ CRIME banner, which Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre had his photo taken with. He also referred to the importance of its message in his speech.

SEX TRIVIA
Sex Trivia night at McGill provided a great new way for us to combine our fundraising initiatives with our education and prevention messaging, as well as our student outreach. With 81 participants, the event was a huge success and helped solidify our relationship with student associations such as the Arts Undergraduate Society.

Looking Forward
• Artsida 7 will be held on March 12th 2017 at the Musée d’Art Contemporain de Montreal
• ACCM will be community partner for the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal’s Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition
• Kontak party at Stud for Pride weekend
• Mail-out fundraising campaign for Buyers Club
• Increased focus on 3rd party fundraising events, as well as grant applications and individual donations
• Fundraising initiatives focused on SextEd, Buyers Club as well as HIV and Aging

Unrestricted Donations
This year we improved our donor relations, raising $22,902 in unrestricted individual contributions, not including events and grants. This represents a 1145% increase from the previous year.
Development activities serve first and foremost to finance the different programs that are part of our mission. For me, it’s essential to conduct fundraising activities that reflect ACCM’s vision in order to build lasting bonds and encourage the engagement of individuals and businesses in our community."

- France, Development Coordinator