

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2018



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- Key theme: Peace Promotion
- Community life and governance

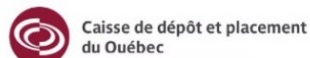
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- Key theme: Diversity and inclusion

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## National Forum on the Power of the Arts, May 2018, Montreal



Last February, the National Forum on the Power of the Arts was held at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. With its focus on “the Arts as Tools for Peace,” this three-day event brought together more than 200 people from different sectors, from across Canada and around the world. The Network is proud to have supported this initiative, which was launched by one of its members, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. Our involvement in 2018 included the actions listed below; we intend to continue collaborating with the MJF and any others interested in contributing to the next edition, which will take place in 2020.

### Our Role:

- ∞ Writing the Forum’s initial draft declaration.
- ∞ Logistical support and facilitation of 4 workshop sessions.
- ∞ Participation in the panel entitled, “The Arts, Philanthropy and Peace.”
- ∞ Assistance with evaluation and debriefing activities.
- ∞ Identifying and coordinating volunteers.
- ∞ Promotion of the event.



## Blanket Exercise, May 2018, Montreal



In collaboration with Maison Saint-Columba, the Network presented and promoted a Blanket Exercise – an educational and awareness-raising activity, created by Kairos, which aims to provide participants with a better understanding of the history of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in North America. The Network is pleased to have participated in this action for reconciliation and peace during the month of May.

Our Role: Promotion and outreach, more than 100 people reached. Logistical and financial support.

## Post-marginal: Difference at the Heart of Theatre Practice, May 2018, Montreal

Looking to highlight celebrations of both the World Day for Cultural Diversity and the International Day of Living Together in Peace, which take place during the month of May, the Network actively participated in a *Diversité Artistique Montréal* (DAM) event entitled Post-marginal: Difference at the Heart of Theatre Practice. Sixty participants from different artistic and cultural backgrounds came together to rethink methods of collective creation, with a view towards inclusion and the enhancement of diversity. In addition to promoting the event, the Network assisted this very successful undertaking in multiple ways.



### Our Role:

- ∞ Facilitate the use of intercultural mediators for interactive workshops through our links with the Université de Sherbrooke. Small group facilitation and mediation.
- ∞ Active participation with DAM in one of the interactive workshops.
- ∞ Logistical support during the event.



## Montreal Community Cares, May 2018, Montreal

The Montreal Community Cares Foundation invited the Network to participate in its annual gala, which attracted 180 people and highlighted the leadership of individuals and organizations who act as sparks and peacebuilders in the community. The event also recognized and honored citizens who, through their daily commitment and determination, are a source of inspiration for our communities and who contribute to their social harmony.

### Our Role:

- ∞ Promotional and logistical support.
- ∞ Representation: Brian Bronfman was the co-chair of the evening and was one of the interlocutors for the discussion on leadership, empowerment and peace-in-action.



## « Origins » Project

The "Origins" project - an initiative of Lisa Byer-de-Wever, Director of Saint Columba House - involves more than twenty young adults from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Indigenous communities. These groups were given the opportunity to make intercultural and interreligious journeys through the visit of a mosque and the Kahnawake indigenous community in 2017, and through the visit of a synagogue in 2018. A visit to a Christian institution is still to come.

The Network is hoping for greater opportunities to collaborate in this type of initiative, where the creation of dialogue spaces promotes *vivre-ensemble*, including mutual respect and social inclusion, among young adults. This is why we participated in various meetings of the "Origins" project. The Trottier Family Foundation, one of our active members, has shown a particularly keen interest in this project and also participated in two meetings with some of the project's leaders.

## Perspectives

In 2019, we hope to continue the type of work listed above through ever-greater collaboration with existing partners and other organizations in the field. Our specific plans are:

- ∞ To showcase the International Day of Living Together in Peace, which takes place every year on May 16, through activities being organized with two partners: *Femmes Internationales Murs Brisés* and *Artistes pour la Paix*
- ∞ To develop new partnerships with organizations that value cultural diversity;
- ∞ To promote the creation of spaces for dialogue (some based in the arts), including intercultural encounters and inter-religious bridge-building.



## International Day of Peace (IDP), September 5 to October 12, 2018, Montreal

Each year, the Peace Network aims to use the special moment on the calendar that is the International Day of Peace to shine a much-deserved spotlight on the people and organizations who build peace in our city, and on their impressive and impactful initiatives. The activities included in the IDP programming concretely reflect what peace-in-action is all about. For 2019, we intend to generate this same sort of collaboration, through partnerships with a multitude of peace builders who make Montreal a model of peace, social harmony and *vivre-ensemble*.

Certain IDP activities are repeated each year, given their popularity and their impact, such as:

- ∞ An official commemorative event for the International Day of Peace, co-organized with the Mayor's office and held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at City Hall.
- ∞ Inter-religious and intercultural walks co-organized with various religious groups and grassroots organizations that promote cultural diversity, and mutual respect and understanding.
- ∞ The public outreach activities of the *Collectif du 21 septembre*, which generate interaction with passers-by (at the Mont-Royal and Laurier metro stops) on issues of *vivre-ensemble*.
- ∞ Diverse conferences and workshops, including a series at Dawson College, that spark dialogue and engage citizens on peace issues.
- ∞ Awareness-raising campaigns for the general public, chief among them being a campaign conducted for the last four years by the Tools for Peace Network.

### The initiative in numbers

- ∞ **65** activities presented
- ∞ **70** institutions and grassroots organizations involved
- ∞ **20** financial partners
- ∞ **more than 24,000** people reached





Each year, new events and activities are added to the IDP line-up, enriching the programming and testifying to the plurality of community action for peace in Montreal. In 2018, the following activities took place under IDP for the first time:

- ∞ Artistic, educational and awareness-raising activities were carried out by organizations such as the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Diversité Artistique Montréal (DAM), Saint-Édouard Church, LatinArte, the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, Impact Hub, the Academy of Non-violence, and Iciéla.
- ∞ There were outdoor activities that connected with Montrealers in their daily lives, raising their awareness around certain issues and involving them in unique experiences, such as the picnic organized by the Welcome Collective and the Rally for Peace organized by Art'as Canada.
- ∞ Festive events and dialogue opportunities that use artistry or scholarship to address sensitive topics effecting our social harmony were organized by Antennes de Paix, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, LOVE Québec, and POP Montreal.



We are also pleased to have initiated partnerships with dedicated and highly professional organizations that showcase new ways of seeing the world and addressing societal issues. Chief among these is an agreement the Network has signed to collaborate for at least the next three years with the *Festival du Nouveau Cinéma* in organizing a Peace Film Soirée - including the awarding of a peace film prize - during of the FNC festival, which takes place every October.



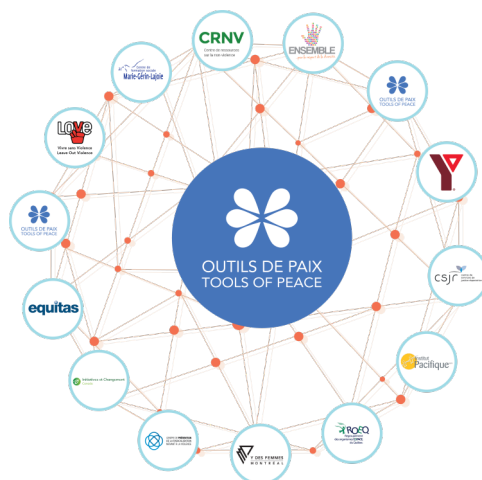


Programming for the **International Day of Peace in Montreal** continues to grow and diversify with every passing year. We hope to count on your support and involvement again in 2019, as we provide a platform to those who work to create a more peaceful and harmonious society, which thereby extends the scope and impact of their activities.

## Tools of Peace Network

Tools of Peace is a collaborative initiative unique to Quebec which unites grassroots organizations that work for social harmony through various forms of violence prevention.

- ∞ Since 2009, members of the Tools of Peace network have provided joint services for violence prevention.
- ∞ Their modus operandi is to undertake the sharing and transfer of knowledge and skills among members, partners and citizens.
- ∞ They work to empower citizens to become peace agents in their day-to-day lives.
- ∞ Focus areas: communication and conflict resolution skills; positive, non-violent leadership; bullying prevention; respect for diversity and vivre-ensemble; human rights; support for children and families; restorative justice; gender equality, and gender-based violence prevention.



The Peace Network assists Tools of Peace by providing a coordinator to assist the dozen member NGOs to work together more effectively.

## Theme: Violence Prevention

### Update on the Forum on Violence Against Women and Girls and Its Impact on Children



2018 was an important year for circulating the Report that came out of the Forum on Violence Against Women and Girls and Its Impact on Children. The Report was promoted through social media, specifically those of the Network and its allies working in the area of violence against women. In addition, we sent copies of the Report, along with an explanatory letter, to various members of government, in order to present the Report's findings to them and to encourage the implementation of its recommendations.

As a result of these submissions, formal meetings were held with the following four government officials:

- ∞ Louise Cordeau, *President of the Council for the Status of Women.*
- ∞ Hélène David, *Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.*
- ∞ Lucie Charlebois, *Minister Delegate for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection, Public Health and Healthy Living.*
- ∞ Manon Massé, *Member of Parliament for Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques.*



These meetings, organized by the Peace Network, were held with the participation of certain well-placed experts in the field. These five exceptional women joined us in speaking with the government officials:

- ∞ Anuradha Dugal, *Canadian Women's Foundation*
- ∞ Marie-Hélène Senay and Manon Monastesse, *Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes*
- ∞ Louise Riendeau, *Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale*
- ∞ Lilia Goldfarb, *YWCA Montreal*

## Others actions

- ∞ The Network worked with the *Coalition féministe contre la violence envers les femmes* in writing a joint letter to the CAQ, in order to promote the Report and encourage them to take action based on its recommendations.
- ∞ The Network took part in meetings of the « Action Committee on Promoting Healthy Relationships in Schools ».
- ∞ During the 12 Days of Action on Violence Against Women, which takes place each November, the Network posted a statement of support on social media and through its website in solidarity with those individuals and organizations working in the field to end all forms of violence against women.

[http://jip.thepeacenetwork.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/V2\\_Action-contre-la-violence-envers-les-femmes.pdf](http://jip.thepeacenetwork.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/V2_Action-contre-la-violence-envers-les-femmes.pdf)





## The role of the Network in these various partnerships

- ∞ Make contact and facilitate communications with government representatives.
- ∞ Coordinate meetings between field experts and government officials.
- ∞ Capture notes of the meetings and ensure regular monitoring of the files.
- ∞ Promote the Report to our members, partners and collaborators.
- ∞ Highlight the 12 Days of Action on Violence Against Women.

## Partnership with the Institute of Social and Emotional Education (ISEE)

In continuation and furtherance of the Network's involvement in the field of Socio-Emotional Learning, which has been the key underpinning of our bullying prevention work since 2014, the Peace Network has established a formal partnership with the Institute of Social and Emotional Education.

- ∞ ISEE co-directors, Sophie Langri and Tara Wilkie, began working together in 2007 at École Buisonnière and developed a program called *Zone de Paix*, with the support of Network member the Brian Bronfman Family Foundation.
- ∞ ISEE was launched in 2015 and has created a range of services that are diversified and adapted to the realities of different partners. ISEE has developed a program called "Me-You-Us-CS3." It began offering workshops and trainings for administrators of educational institutions, for teachers and parents, and for university staff, as well as offering innovative teaching tools. Its partnership with an American university led to Tara and Sophie meeting with the Dalai Lama for the first time in 2016. In 2018, they were invited to the Mind and Life conference in India, where they presented the results of their research and their Me-You-Us-CS3 training course. This presentation was streamed live to more than 700,000 viewers.



Following this presentation, the Omydiar Network (a philanthropic foundation created by the founders of eBay) decided to provide financial support for the development of ISEE's program, with the aim of extending their reach worldwide. ISEE now plans to offer professional development services to various schools and other institutions in Quebec, the United States and Asia.

Next up, ISEE will pilot its program in Quebec, with the Peace Network assisting it in managing part of the allocated budget. The Network will also assist ISEE with the publication of its first CS3 teacher's guide, which will cover kindergarten to Grade 3.

## Name change

In 2018, the Peace Grantmakers Network changed its name to the **Peace Network for Social Harmony**, to make its moniker more representative of its mission. This change required the modification of all our communication tools, both on the Web and in our presentation documents. During this transition year, we also updated the website with new articles and links for consulting our newsletters and our press review.

## Website history and challenges

- 2017** Website redesign. Creation of a dynamic website with a variety of tabs to help visitors discover our campaigns and projects, as well as peace actors and stories of peace presented in collaboration with the Tools for Peace Network.
- 2018** The website continues to evolve but is facing severe technical problems.
- ∞ Between January and August 2018, we updated our visual tools (including the logo) and created a more engaging interface.
  - ∞ In September 2018, we unveiled the full programming of the International Day of Peace, but technical problems occurred and we lost access to our website.
  - ∞ A temporary site has been created waiting for a new, redesigned version.
- 2019** Working for the creation of a new website that is informative, technically simplified, and easy to navigate for visitors.

[www.thepeacenetWORK.ca](http://www.thepeacenetWORK.ca)

## Social media

*[Réseau pour la paix et l'harmonie sociale](#)*  
*[Journée Internationale de la Paix - Montréal - International Day of Peace](#)*



Our Facebook pages have taken off in 2018 by increasing the quantity and diversity of our publications. They have thereby become more engaging to visitors. However, the number of visits on our two pages must continue to grow, in order to better publicize the Network's actions and its interests.

## Newsletters

We publish four newsletters per year, one of which specifically relates to the International Day of Peace.



## Annual General Meeting 2018

The Peace Network Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. The Royal Bank of Canada warmly and generously hosted the event. The AGM was a valuable opportunity for our members to see and exchange with one another. The Peace Network team presented its accomplishments from the previous year. Members were also shown the Network's financial statements and were given an overview of newer projects presently under development.



## Networking cocktail 2018



On June 7 2018, the beautiful offices of Peace Network member the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec provided the setting for our organization's annual networking cocktail, which attracted Network members, supporters, collaborators, and potential partners.

The 80 or so guests in attendance – who came from the worlds of philanthropy, business, government and the community sector – were provided an overview and update on the Network and its activities, and were given plenty of opportunity to connect and exchange information and ideas.



## Membership Committee

- ∞ The Membership Committee met twice in 2018. These meetings helped to initiate certain actions, specifically (a) the conducting of a survey aimed at knowing more about our members' needs and interests with respect to the Network, and (b) the organization of a members' luncheon.



- ∞ Survey results showed an enthusiasm for the holding of informative meetings based around themes related to peace and social harmony. One of the most prominent themes mentioned by our members related to cultural, economic and social reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The Committee therefore suggested that the Network, in collaboration with the McConnell Foundation and Philanthropic Foundations Canada, organize an event bringing together our members and partners to address this issue.
- ∞ A luncheon on the theme of reconciliation was held on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ashukan Cultural Space in Old Montreal. During the event, we had the honor of meeting Marie-Josée Parent, Montreal's first elected Indigenous official, who presented us with the perspective of the City. Other speakers presented their ongoing efforts related to reconciliation and spoke of the opportunities for involvement from the philanthropic sector.

## Membership

The Peace Network has enjoyed tremendous membership expansion over the years. The efforts of its President, Brian Bronfman, as well as those of various key members have helped to increase and solidify our membership. Today we have 22 members and 6 Friends of the Network!

In 2018, we were delighted to welcome:

- ∞ **3 new corporate members:** Sandalwood, Marsh Insurance and Borden Ladner Gervais.
- ∞ **4 new Friends of the Network:** Jeff Hart, Michel de la Chenelière, Jed Kahane and Nadine St-Louis.



**Friends of the Network:** Natalie St-Pierre, Jane Siblin, Jeff Hart, Michel de la Chenelière, Jed Kahane et Nadine St-Louis.