

April 7, 2022

To the Concordia community and members of The Link Publication Society,

My name is Olivier Cadotte, and I am president of *The Link's* Board of Directors. I have been actively involved with *The Link* since my second semester as a student at Concordia in 2017.

Things have not been easy for anyone since March 2020, and this school year of hybrid learning, uneven administration messaging, and overall uncertainty has been no different. That being said, we on the Board of Directors have seen *The Link's* masthead, staff, and contributors continue to provide the Concordia and Montreal community with the fruits of their hard work, both in print and online. The gradual return of art shows and Stingers games, protests and demonstrations, COVID news at Concordia, showcases of community members fighting against gender and racial inequality, and, yes, even trucker convoys, were all part of the multitude of beats *The Link's* reporters strove to report on for the Concordia community in a way only this publication can. Thank you to every single person who contributed to *The Link* this year, no matter the size of the contribution. It's you who make *The Link* what it is. And, I would also like to extend a special thanks to Volume 42's masthead, many of whom had to learn on the fly this year and responded greatly in the second half of the volume. Finally, thank you to EIC Sheena Macmillan, for being the fearless leader of this volume.

We'd also like to thank the wonderful *Link* alumni who were willing to give their time so as to provide invaluable lessons to *The Link* community through our workshop series: Philippe Authier, Julia Wolfe, Craig Silverman, Clément Liu, and Tristan D'Amours; as well as Concordia Journalism alumnus Paul Graif who did the same in his workshop. *The Link* is lucky to have such a strong network of alumni in the industry today, and we hope that the contributors of today will themselves become the alumni of tomorrow. Thank you also to *The Link* editors who gave workshops themselves and helped organize this year's workshops, and thank you to Laura Beeston for keeping track of which alumni would be interested in giving their time to us after all these years.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to be on the Board of Directors this volume: Laura Beeston, Colin Harris, Diane Yeung, Michelle Pucci, Cassandra Pigeon, and Thomas Quinn. And of course, thank you very much to Rachel Boucher for her continued service at *The Link* after all these years.

Finally, congratulations to all those who were nominated in this year's JHM awards. While *The Link* did not win any prizes this year, you should still be extremely proud of the work you've done.

*The Link's* Board of Directors has also been active despite an unsuccessful bid for a higher fee levee during the CSU bye-election; we believe that *The Link* has been able to show itself as being an important piece of the Concordia puzzle. We hope that our continued presence on

campus as well as the quality of our reporting will convince the Concordia community of the validity of our request, with which we will be even better equipped to provide the community with the reporting they want and need.

We have also, with the assistance of the masthead of Volume 42, worked to establish a new and improved publishing schedule, with the aim of making every step of the editorial process run that much smoother. We are hopeful the masthead of Volume 43 will be able to use this new schedule to great effect.

Furthermore, we have continued the work undertaken last year to ensure *The Link* is the workspace it strives to be in terms of racial and gender diversity inclusivity of marginalized peoples, so as to better work for members of these communities at Concordia and in Montreal and for the sake of journalists who are members of these communities who are or who would want to be a part of *The Link*. An audit of our policies has shown us that we still have a lot of work to do, and we are committed to doing that work for the community's sake and our own.

Finally, based on years of performance auditing in terms of readership as well as discussions with masthead, we are proud to announce a new print format for *The Link*: a bi-weekly newspaper, to go along with our current online reporting. We have chosen to return to a newspaper because we believe that this format will better serve our communities, it will allow contributors and masthead to work more cohesively online and in print within similar formats. We are still proud of the five volumes of magazines created by *The Link*, and we hope some of the positive lessons learned as a magazine as the media world transformed itself several times over the last half-decade will translate to our return to a newspaper.

To conclude both this AGM and, in a roundabout way, this school year, we are hopeful that you will look back on this year as one of growth, personally and professionally. *The Link* is not always an easy place to work in—especially at this time of year. That being said, *The Link* also offers so many wonderful things to its contributors and masthead members that are hard to replicate anywhere else, and chances are some of the people you will have met during your time at *The Link* will become some of the most important people in your lives. You don't have to cherish it now, as many of you are probably extremely tired currently (I know, I've been there, and so have many of the members of Board) but there is a reason we stick around on Board, and that we come back to help as alumni. *The Link* is, and always will be, a special place.

Thank you for your time, both in this meeting and throughout your time in this publication, and thank you for making *The Link* what it is,

Olivier Cadotte