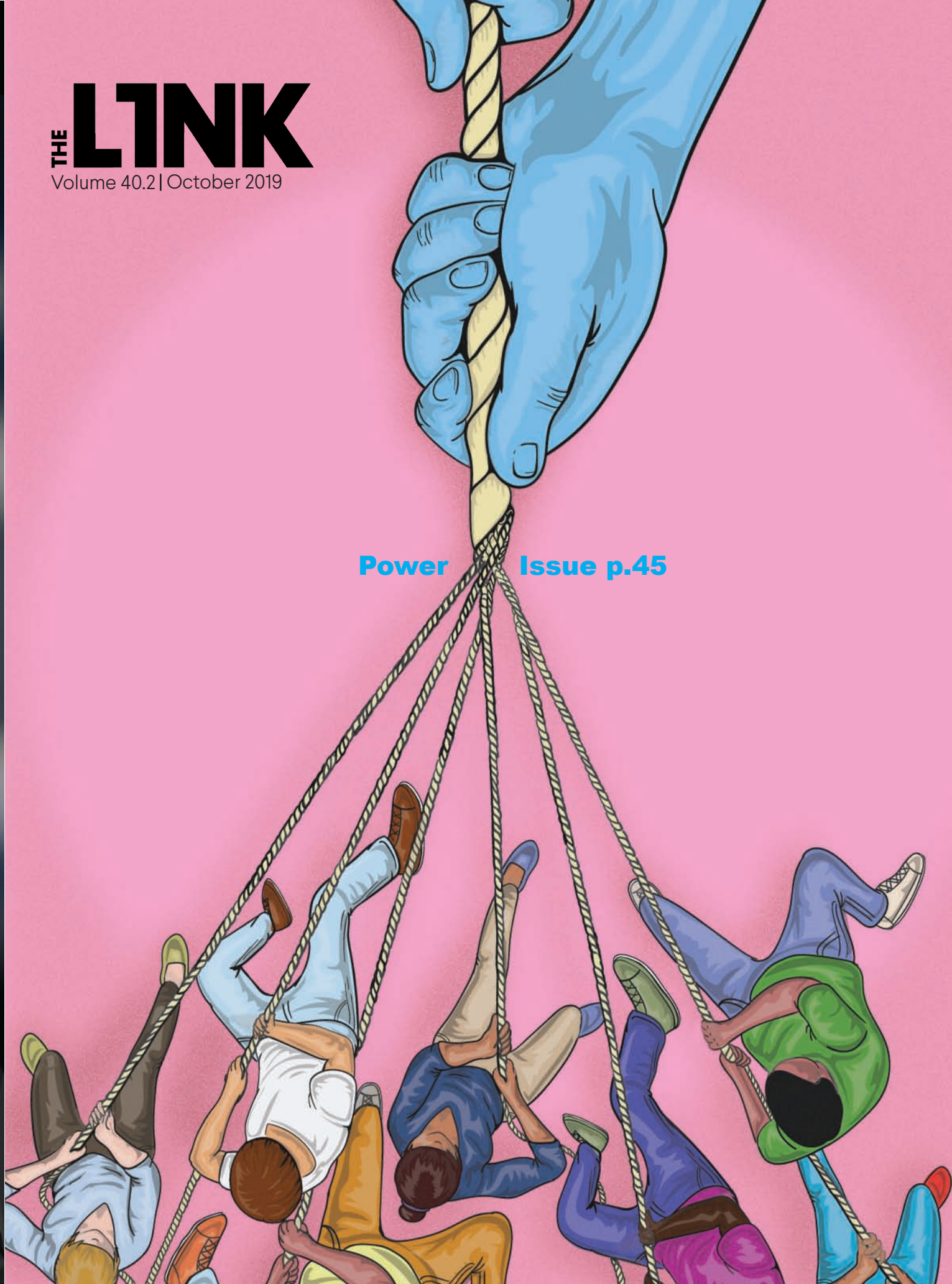


THE LINK

Volume 40.2 | October 2019

Power Issue p.45





INTERNET
WI-FI



DON'T FORGET OUR LEGENDARY
"SHOOTER" NIGHTS

VODKA
ORANGE CRANBERRY
2 FOR **\$8.00**

**RUM &
COKE
WHISKEY
& COKE
GIN &
TONIC**

SANGRIA
\$15.50

SHOOTERS
WHISKEY • PEACH SCHNAPPS
KAMIKAZE • WINDEX 5 FOR
\$15.00

THURSDAY
6 FOR
\$16.00

THURSDAY
6 FOR
\$17.00

SAMBUCA
TEQUILA
JAGERMEISTER
GOLDSCHLAGER
5 FOR **\$17.00**

THURSDAY
PITCHER
\$11.00
BIG BOCK
\$5.75

3702-3704 BOUL. ST-LAURENT 514-844-6211

THE SECOND FLOOR IS AVAILABLE
FOR FESTIVITIES OF ALL KINDS.

Table of Contents

Volume 40, Issue 2: POWER

p. 6	GENTRIFICATION: SMALL BUSINESSES ARE CLOSING DOWN
p. 11	CONCORDIA'S ONLINE SEXUAL VIOLENCE TRAINING FACES CRITICISM
p. 15	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PAY TOO MUCH FOR THEIR HEALTH PLANS
p. 19	A LIFETIME OF FOLLOWING YOUR PASSION: LESLEY CHARTERS COTTON
p. 26	A SELECTION OF POEMS
p. 29	ESPORTS: CONCORDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET
p. 32	ADAM VANCE'S FINAL STINGER DAYS
p. 35	THE STRAIGHTS ARE JUST FINE
p. 36	SEX ED(ITORIAL): GENDER AND FAKING ORGASMS OH MY!
p. 39	PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF CANADA: THE ASBESTOS WORKERS' STRIKE
p. 43	COMICS!

THE POWER ISSUE

p. 46	WHAT HAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DONE IN A YEAR
p. 50	LAVENDER PROJECT: CHALLENGING TABOOS WITH POWER&POISE
p. 52	WHO ARE THE PEOPLE ON THE SIGNS IN YOUR RIDING??
p. 55	THE ONLY ELECTIONS SURVIVAL GUIDE YOU'LL NEED

thali

cuisine indienne

Since 2009

Authentic Indian Cuisine

1409 St-Marc

514-989-9048 • ThaliMontreal.com



Biryani



Butter Chicken



Seekh



Tandoori



Chana Samosa



Chicken Wrap



Chana Bhatura

Thali Non-Vegetarian **\$13**

Thali Vegetarian **\$12**

Butter Chicken, Rice & Naan **\$13**

Alu Gobi, Rice, Naan **\$12**

Wraps **\$7**

(Chicken or Lamb Kebab or Vegetarian)

Dosa **\$9**

Biryani **\$11**

(Chicken or Lamb or Vegetarian)

Tandoori Leg, Rice, Naan **\$10**

Chana Samosa (2) **\$7**

Chana Bhatura (2) **\$9⁵⁰**

All taxes are included in our prices
(Dine in or take out only)



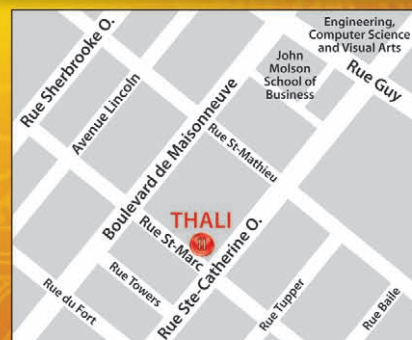
DELIVERY

DOORDASH

GOLO

Uber
Eats

Order Online



EDITORIAL:

Politics Care About You Even If You Don't Care About Them

From the food you buy to the rent you pay, the work you do, the art you consume, and even where you party—politics are everywhere.

It's impossible to live a life devoid of them and whether you're overly political, apolitical, or anywhere in between, you exist in a system where those in power dictate nearly every aspect of your life. But, it's important to remember who gives them power: us.

Last October, François Legault's Coalition Avenir Québec party won a majority government despite having only won about 38 per cent of the popular vote.

If the majority of the province wanted someone else in power, how did this happen? Only about 66 per cent of registered voters took to the polling stations—about five per cent less than the last provincial election.

Three electoral divisions saw less than 50 per cent of their voters exercise their fundamental right. Montreal averaged a 58 per cent voter turnout, where the CAQ's support is at its weakest.

Voting is one way to directly participate in our democracy and—believe it or not—your vote does make a difference. In 2015, those aged between 65 and 75 years old were the demographic with the highest participation rate.

Since you'll probably be alive much longer than them, and with millennials expected to overtake the boomers as America's largest generation this year, it's in your best interest to cast your ballot and be heard. And no, abstaining from voting because elections are “bourgeois” isn't a good excuse.

Don't actually know how to vote or who to vote for? There are tools to help you out with that.

The act of voting, while instrumental to the proper functioning of a democracy, is a daunting task—especially for new voters or those without a traditional support system—be it parents, school teachers, or anyone else that would help you figure out the complex process of casting a vote.

Out-of-province students and people who have just turned 18 might have countless questions and nobody there to answer them. Elections Canada's website is an extremely effective tool and can serve as a mechanism to quell any concerns you may have about the entire process.

Everything from how to check your electoral riding, where to go to cast your ballot, to how you register to vote, and what kinds of pieces of ID are allowed at your polling centre are available on the

Elections Canada site.


All the information you could ever need about the big scary world of the electoral process is readily available. All you have to do is know where to click.

But what about those who have already been voted in? Or those who hold power but aren't part of the democratic process?

Collective action and protesting is another way of exercising your democratic rights. Power is an omnipresent part of everyone's life—we shouldn't treat the people in power as our benevolent overlords.

The word power implies one group dominating the other, and many in positions of power do not think twice about using their status to dominate—and even subjugate others—either politically, economically, or socially.

That's why it's so important to hold those in power accountable, so they don't prevent us from getting the most out of this life. Part of The Link and other journalistic publications' mandates is just that, but we should all strive to make sure we do not remain complacent in the face of power.

With that in mind, even if you don't care about politics, they care about you. After all, how can you be heard if you don't speak out? 

Closed for

How do threats to local commerce endanger the character of Montreal?

MARCUS BANKUTI

Frank Servedio—the owner of Clarke Café—tells people he became a man in Mile End. When he started at his father's sandwich shop over 15 years ago, he encountered an ethnic and cultural mix he says changed him as a person. “It really opened my eyes,” said the self-described “LaSalle kid.”

His affection for the eclectic community helped inspire his decision to spend the rest of his life at the family business. So where is Clarke Café? It's not tucked away amongst the clothing boutiques of Laurier Ave., nor nestled on the Clark St. for which it is named.

It's not in Mile End at all—it's in Pointe-Saint-Charles, 40 minutes by transit from its predecessor, Boulangerie Clarke, which closed in 2015 after 35 successful years. “I thought I was going to be there forever,” Servedio said of the establishment

founded by his grandfather. “I thought I was going to take over the business. The last day, I didn't even want to be around the place. It was very upsetting for me.”

His uncle sold the building to Danny Lavy and Stephen Shiller of Shiller Lavy Realities, a firm whose blue signs can be seen in windows around Mile End. To facilitate the deal, the business was purchased simultaneously to ensure his father also profited, said Servedio. The bakery subsequently continued its operations as a different company on paper, so the business itself was still family-owned, he explained.

Boulangerie Clarke continued to pay its previous rental rate for one year, after which, said Servedio, its monthly rent would have tripled.

The booming provincial economy has hastened the transformation of Montreal's commercial streets, inviting speculation

linked to empty storefronts and an influx of flashy businesses with the potential to alienate longtime residents. Increasingly, some fear the very character of Montreal is being upended.

As it stands, the commercial market is virtually unimpeded by regulation. The city recently announced that its committee on economic and urban development and housing will study the situation surrounding commercial vacancies, with a report to come in December and public consultations to follow.

“Almost every iconic street in a neighbourhood is its commercial street,” said Craig Sauv  , a member of the ruling Projet Montr  al party and Sud-Ouest city councillor for the district encompassing Clarke Caf  . “Some of the places we cherish the most are those long-held ‘mom-and-pop’ joints.”

Sauv  's party promotes a vision for



Photos Olivier Cadotte

Business



Photo Marcus Bankuti

neighbourhoods it calls *mixité*, or mixity. “We want different socio-economic, ethnic, and religious cultures to live in different neighbourhoods together and to be able to blend together,” he said. This requires a balance of businesses and services that fulfil the needs of the whole community, something at risk in many areas of Montreal.

“A lot of money is coming into the city, a lot of investment,” said Sauvé. “That means the people that are speculating are thinking, ‘Oh, it’s going to go up and we’re going to invest in the main neighbourhoods.’”

He explained that commercial landlords do not require vacancy permits, meaning speculators have no strong disincentive to await a “jackpot” tenant willing to fork over unprecedented sums. What’s more, when a building sits empty, its losses can be written off come tax time.

Some neighbourhoods are particularly threatened by commercial speculation. “We’re not sheltered from that [in Sud-Ouest],” said Sauvé. “Mile End is probably the best example.”

Boulangerie Clarke on St-Viateur St. W. became a sushi restaurant, but the building again sits empty after that business closed in August. A block away, another storefront has been vacant for over a year. Its interior is a husk. A wall is peeled from one side and on the other, a refrigerated prep table stands askew. The room looks as though to set foot in it would yield a mouthful of dust.

In rainbow hues, the chalkboard still welcomes you cheerfully—“Bienvenue au Cagibi!”

Le Cagibi was an offbeat café and performance venue. “Our space was queer, student and artist-friendly, demi-punk, easy-going,” said Jess Lee, a co-owner

since its inception in 2007 and a former employee of Pharmacie Esperanza, which occupied the space previously.

“The culture around Pharmacie Esperanza and Le Cagibi contributed to the cachet that attracted the tech community of Ubisoft and, in turn, attracted tourism and corporate real estate interests,” she said. “Cagibi came to represent the last holdout of a particular time and feeling in Mile End.”

The building was acquired by Jeremy Kornbluth and Brandon Shiller, the son of Stephen Shiller, according to the *Montreal Gazette* and confirmed by Lee. The two men are also administrators of Patisserie et Boulangerie Clarke Inc. and are named as its shareholders in the province’s enterprise registry.

Le Cagibi had been paying around \$3500 plus GST and QST in rent on a net lease, meaning it also paid a share

thali

cuisine indienne

Since 2009

*Authentic
Indian Cuisine*

1409 St-Marc

514-989-9048
ThaliMontreal.com



Thali

Non-Vegetarian

\$13

Vegetarian

\$12

DELIVERY

 DOORDASH

Order Online

“Part of the problem is that the new residents ultimately displace all of the old residents unless something concrete is done to stop the process.”

— Ted Rutland

of municipal and school taxes. The new landlords demanded a rent of \$7500 net, which would have totalled nearly \$10,000 each month, according to Lee.

She said Le Cagibi had a host of priorities it placed above profit margins. Such high rent was a nonstarter.

The café has since reemerged as Coop Le Cagibi, a worker-owned cooperative in nearby Little Italy on the outskirts of Mile-Ex.

“[Le Cagibi] was great,” said Servedio. “It sucks that they were in that situation. I’m happy that they were able to relocate right away.”

Its old location is listed on Shiller Lavy’s website. It is also being advertised by Sutton Group, where its asking price is \$9800 per month plus tax.

“The space needs a major physical transformation to become a profitable restaurant, and at that rental rate I can only imagine a corporate chain with the deepest pockets to float the vision,” said Lee. “I suspect the space will remain empty for a long time.”

Media coverage of vacancies in Mile End has brought attention to Shiller Lavy Realities, which did not respond to a request for comment. The company has even inspired a parody account on Twitter, @shillerlavy, which counts Sauvé and his colleague Marie Plourde, Plateau Mont-Royal borough councillor for Mile End, among its 200 followers.

The account’s operator, who declined to share his identity out of fear of litigation, said he was inspired by the reporting of Tim Forster of Eater Montreal, who has repeatedly highlighted the company’s role in Mile End.

The operator said he picked Shiller Lavy as his target but that the firm is no different from others following the same playbook. The point, he

said, is to draw attention to an issue he cares about. “I’m hoping that if I keep screaming into the void, in a way, then maybe someone will listen.”

He particularly worries about the incursion of chains, such as the Lululemon that opened on St-Viateur St. W. in a building owned by Lavy and the elder Shiller, according to the Montreal Gazette, or the David’s Tea across from it.

The person behind @shillerlavy refers to the tapestry of local stores and cafés as the living room of Mile End. “You’re not going to get that kind of experience at David’s Tea,” he said. “And you’re definitely not going to get that kind of experience waiting for a David’s Tea to open.”

An unscientific survey conducted by the Coalition Commerces — Vie de Quartier, an informal group that arose from the Comité des citoyens du Mile End, was presented to borough council in June. More than 100 respondents answered a question asking which businesses they would never visit. Lululemon was ranked number one.

The survey found Le Cagibi was the business most often missed.

Lee, who acknowledged several strongholds she believes carry forward the “old school spirit,” warned that wistful feelings about a neighbourhood’s vibe should not conceal gentrification’s most vulnerable victims.

“I think gentrification is a worldwide process that has the highest impact on racialized, marginalized and low-income communities and spaces,” she said, specifically citing the impact of the Université de Montréal expansion into Parc-Ex as an example of what should be the “highest priority for folks thinking about gentrification in Mon-

Rent has been rising steadily in the Mile End pricing many businesses out. The message printed below can be seen on many buildings in the area.



treal today.

The Cycle of Gentrification

“Our society values poor artists in a way it doesn’t value poor people who work at Tim Hortons, unfortunately,” said Ted Rutland, an associate professor at Concordia’s Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment.

He described a process by which those with symbolic cultural capital but not necessarily financial capital, such as artists or students, move into a neighbourhood and make it more desirable, after which those with financial capital begin to outbid and displace both the “gentrification pioneers” and historical working-class residents.

“We’re also talking about corporations [...] aided by the government to establish in a neighbourhood,” he said. “Mile End would have very likely gone through some kind of gentrification process regardless, but the arrival of Ubisoft with all its capital and all its government support played a huge role in transforming that neighbourhood into one hardly anyone can afford anymore.”

The sheer number of Ubisoft employ-

ees in Mile End, more than 3000 according to its website, is often cited as a driver of gentrification. Some of them had been among Boulangerie Clarke’s regular customers.

Clarke Café also attracts workers from the technology sector among its broader clientele. Its customers include, for example, employees of GSoft, a company with between 201 and 500 employees according to its LinkedIn. Its office building, a 10-minute walk from the café, is home to other tech companies as well.

Another factor driving commercial gentrification, according to Rutland, is a tendency for some new street-level businesses to seek the “gentrification frontier,” where they have the chance to shape a neighbourhood in their own image, he said, citing Saint-Henri, Petite-Patrie, and Verdun.

The result is that longtime residents may no longer see themselves reflected in the community in which they live. “If you get a bunch of more fancy stores opening up in a neighbourhood that people used to call their own, but they

can’t afford to enter, or they feel culturally alienated from, people do really feel that and it’s a big deal,” said Rutland.

Servedio said he is aware of the French-speaking, Irish, and working-class roots of Pointe-Saint-Charles—which has a history of fighting back against gentrification—and prides himself on fitting into the existing neighbourhood.

“We’re not doing pear and brie sandwiches,” he said. “I’ve got customers that come in here that have been living here forever, and they like the place because it’s not pretentious. It’s very simple. You come in here and you can have an affordable lunch.”

He said the neighbourhood reminds him of Mile End when he started at Boulangerie Clarke and that its affordable rent is critical to his business. “I don’t want to look in somebody’s eyes and say \$20 for a sandwich,” he said. “I wouldn’t do it.”

His father’s bakery was at Clark St. and St-Viateur St. W. for 35 years he reminded me. “I want this business to be here for that amount of time.”

The conditions necessary for that

longevity may be an open question. Sustaining the vision of mixity promoted by *Projet Montréal* requires significant government intervention, argues Rutland. “If you don’t use political tools to stop the process that’s dominated by the people with the most money, then you’re just not going to have that mix anymore,” he said.

“Change in a neighbourhood can involve new kinds of connections, new kinds of relationships, new kinds of ideas. Part of the problem is that the new residents ultimately displace all of the old residents unless something concrete is done to stop the process.”

He suggests those who reside in gentrifying neighbourhoods should pay attention to the activities of their local housing committees.

Sauvé maintains that mixity is good policy but agrees that housing and community action are critical. “It’s a matter of public education, public democracy, community work and community development. The whole point, I think, is that every neighbourhood has to have, in terms of housing, affordable housing in it, and it has to be off-market housing,” he said.

He invoked suburban imitations of urban life to illustrate his vision of an interesting city neighbourhood. “If you want to enjoy the real urban life, if you want to see that social beauty, which is the commercial street with everybody meeting and sitting and walking and smoking and laughing and kids playing, whatever, you’ve got to go into the city. The beautiful chaos that is the city.”

Many of the kinds of businesses that help sustain this kind of community depend on affordable commercial spaces.

The Role of Regulation

“I don’t think you should be able to have a commercial space that’s \$2000 a month, and one year to another increase it by 400 per cent,” said Servedio. “That shouldn’t be allowed to happen.”

Montreal is one of the best places in North America to eat, he said, but high rents threaten that distinction. “If we don’t control that, it’s going to be garbage. It’s just going to be a bunch of chain places

where everything comes out of a freezer or out of a box.”

Rutland believes most people would agree that longstanding local businesses shouldn’t have to close because of large rent increases. “Can we figure out what really matters to us and craft a policy that ensures that? I think it’s possible, and I think it’s obviously worth doing,” he said. He cited regulations around zoning, land use and rent control as tools we can use to assert democratic control over our surroundings.

Sauvé said the commission studying the plight of local businesses will look at the possibility of commercial rent control, but like many hypothetical interventions, it would be beyond the city’s authority to institute. He is hopeful, however, that thoroughly-studied recommendations coming out of a mixed-party commission could carry weight with the province.

Certain actions have already been implemented, at least on a small scale. Sauvé cited a so-called one-in-six rule implemented in Saint-Henri that he says succeeded in stymying a rash of restaurant openings there. His party’s 2019 budget cut taxes on the first \$500,000 of non-residential property values, effectively cutting costs for local businesses whose leases make them wholly or partially responsible for paying these.

“Hopefully we can find a balance. I’m not against change,” said Servedio, who came back stronger when his life took an unexpected turn. “I think it’s a positive thing for the neighbourhood.”

As I wrapped up my inter-

view at the modern but humble Clarke Café, several people who looked to be in their early 20s fell laughing through the door. The café was suddenly bursting with life.

The youthful group took pictures of an employee banging two pieces of bread together. His staff always do that before making a sandwich, Servedio told me. “There’s nothing worse than biting into a pizza or a sandwich that has a lot of flour underneath, because you get a bitter taste.”

The group said they were from GSoft. They were on a scavenger hunt. Steps away, Dollar Plus Store—which opened in 1997—is going out of business. Samina Saboohi, its owner, is angry that for all the taxes she’s paid, the government did nothing to protect her from the Dollarama that moved onto her block. As she spoke, a man entered holding a plastic broom handle. Saboohi told me she sells the same one at a lower price. Another customer carried a green reusable bag, and with it, the logo of the Goliath next door.

They say big fish eat small fish, Saboohi told me, that this is only natural. There’s only one problem—“We’re not fish.”



It Takes All of Us

A Look Into Concordia's Mandatory Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Program

BREE ROCKBRAND

IRELAND COMPTON @IRELANDCOMPTON

“Concordia University is dedicated to a learning and working environment, that’s free of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual violence,” says a solemn looking Interim President Graham Carr in the introductory video to “It takes all of us.”

Late last month Concordia announced the launch of its new sexual violence awareness and prevention training, titled “It takes all of us”—despite having been involved in sexual misconduct mismanagement scandals over the last two years. Professors in the English and Philosophy departments had been accused of sexual misconduct, and the university refused to disclose the findings of the complaints as per Quebec’s privacy legislations.

This sparked student protests, like the one on April 12 demanding a stand alone policy. Something akin to a well designed powerpoint, with bright graphics, powerful facts—like how incidences of sexual violence are more likely to occur during the first eight weeks of the semester—and questions to engage participants, “It takes all of us,” takes the user through four key sections.

that's okay!
I took the online training
And the group training sessions.



Graphics Paulina Dominguez

From defining sexual violence and consent, to learning how to intervene as a bystander and support survivors, “It takes all of us,” is designed to educate Concordia students, staff, and faculty on campus sexual violence.

Accessible from an email sent out to Concordia students, staff, and faculty earlier this month, or by logging on to My Concordia, “It takes all of us” is a mandatory program to be completed by everyone in the university before Oct. 4.

Students who have not completed the training by this date will have a hold placed on their winter registration, while faculty or staff who fail to complete the training will be addressed through their respective collective agreement or employment policies. Depending on these, consequences may range from a letter of reprimand, suspension, to potential dismissal.

The training was developed by for-profit eLearning platform KnowledgeOne and Concordia’s Sexual Assault Resource Centre, in consultation with the Standing Committee on Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Violence.

The standing committee was formed in 2018 with the goal of addressing and implementing the University’s obligations under Bill 151, a legislation passed in 2017, mandating post-secondary institutions in the province to improve and implement new sexual violence policies.

Part of this process included implementing sexual violence awareness and prevention training.

“It takes all of us,” which offers members of the Concordia community the option to take the training either online or in person was implemented on Aug. 15.

“We’ve been working on [the training] for years,” said Lisa Ostiguy, special advisor to the provost at Concordia. Ostiguy

sits as the chair of the Standing Committee, which has been working on the training for Bill 151 for the past year. “Concordia’s actually been working on training since 2013. So this is more like an expansion of what we’ve already been doing,” she added.

The training was developed with student focus groups and a training sub-committee, composed of both undergrad and graduate students, according to Ostiguy. Ahead of time, a survey had been published by the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Violence that “had indicated what students were looking for in a training,” she said.

Implemented in 2013, SARC has been handling sexual violence on campus since its’ conception and providing in-person sexual violence training since 2015. Before 2016, the center relied on its only full-time staff member, Jennifer Drummond, to handle claims of sexual assault and lead the training.

“I think it’s a really positive thing that everyone on campus is going to have more awareness of the issue, resources, increased knowledge, and a shared language which can lead to more in-depth conversations about a topic that is quite challenging to talk about,” said Drummond.

Students, staff, and faculty need to know how to intervene if they see something happen, Drummond explained. She stated it is important for them to know how to respond to disclosure, know what resources there are, and what sexual violence consists of, so they can identify a situation that has the potential of escalating

Now with two full-time staff

members, Drummond said another full-time facilitator will be hired to carry out requested in-person trainings, though Ostiguy said the in-person trainings have not filled up.

“Thinking about how our population at Concordia is [about] 50,000 people, that doesn’t lend itself well to in-person training,” she continued.

Backlash against online training

“[With] online trainings, you can’t really monitor who’s not paying attention or just clicking random

boxes, or rolling their eyes and joking with their friends while they’re doing this,” said Margot Berner, a student on the standing committee and active on the standing committee for Sexual Misconduct.

“People have begged [the university] to have in-person training and they just don’t particularly want to put the resources into it. You can see how few people are working at the SARC offices,” she continued.

Online training makes it far easier to get around actually completing it. On Concordia’s subreddit, students have been discussing ways to use certain features of the training to skip





through segments, absolving its use and importance. “I have always been very concerned with the idea that the training that they’re offering is online,” added Sophie Hough-Martin, a recent graduate and former general coordinator at the Concordia Student Union. “Especially when there was a study done in 2018 with hospital staff in emergency departments responding to sexual violence, which showed empirically that in-person consent and sexual violence training was more effective than online training for this specific topic.”

When she brought this up to the administration, she was waved off and assured that online training was just as effective.

Though Bill 151 states that students must be involved in the process of creating a sexual awareness training, Hough-Martin wishes that the Bill stipulated what that meant.

Hough-Martin sat on the standing committee last year, where they met only three times throughout the year to discuss the training.

“There wasn’t even really a meaningful opportunity for students to participate in the creation of that training,” she said.

“I think Concordia is not alone in the fact that for a lot of their sexual violence policy and sexual violence approaches, they consult students by having us in the

room, but they don’t meaningfully engage with our input,” she added. Ostiguy said she thinks “it’s unfortunate that people are finding ways to go through the training quicker, because it’s important that everyone who’s able to do it is able to go through the training.”

Begging for a change of policy

According to Bill 151, secondary educational institutions in Quebec must implement a stand-alone, survivor-centric, sexual violence policy, one “where the complaint procedure for complaints of sexual violence is separate from a student code-of-conduct or any other policy,” explained Hough-Martin.

A policy on sexual violence has been in place in Concordia since 2016. Updates of the policy were approved in December 2018 to fit the mandate, and have been implemented as of this September.

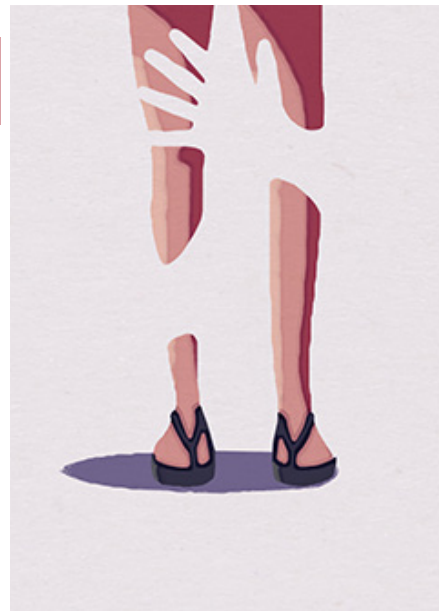
“We changed some of the language [and] added info to clarify the process of what to do in situations of sexual vio-



lence,” said Ostiguy. She says they also elaborated more on the sexual assault response team.

She added that a document that further clarifies the processes and procedures under the code of conduct and sexual violence policy—including the disclosure and complaint processes—would soon be released.

Some students worry that not enough is being done for the actual policy. Many feel that a lack of systematic change overrides the university’s attempt at a training.



Though the policy has been updated to include more intersectional language, “the complaint mechanism and the ways that you, as a survivor, were to pursue an internal justice process, are exactly the same,” said

Hough-Martin.

Last April, students rallied against Concordia’s inaction towards sexual violence.

Around 100 students met outside Concordia’s doors to protest the university’s lack of an action plan that would address recommendations students had shared in meetings.

Following the 2017 Our Turn report, a national student-led movement that works to address and end campus sexual violence, reviewed Concordia's policy against sexual violence. Rated under five sections, including but not limited to topics such as "formal and informal complaint process" and "composition of the review committee or decision makers", Concordia received a D-, the lowest grade of all 14 schools whose student unions had signed on to the action plan.

Last year, Hough-Martin went through the rubric herself, to see if Concordia had improved. It hadn't.

"We increased in certain areas, but overall, our policy is still exactly where it was two years ago when Our Turn came out," she said.

Concordia is still one of the only schools in the province "that refuses to inform students whether their complaint of sexual violence against a professor is considered founded or not," according to a tweet posted by the National Observer.

"I don't think an institution that holds up a hegemony at the end of the day is right for advocating individuals," said Annika Horsford, president of the Concordia Association for Students in English. "I feel like it's not going to be done for the sake of the individual, or of the students, but for how the school looks."

Following last year's slew of sexual misconduct allegations, Horsford just wants people in their community to feel safe. They state that CASE is more community minded, focussing on person-to-person interactions rather than policies that "don't always work," they said.

Sharing the training

Concordia announced on Aug. 21, 2019 that it would be sharing its training on sexual violence awareness with educational institutions across Quebec, "and beyond", reads the announcement.

The vast majority of schools across Quebec are using Concordia's training as their mandatory training, with minor adjustments to reflect their realities, according to Ostiguy.

"I think Concordia is not alone in the fact that for a lot of their sexual violence policy and sexual violence approaches, they consult students by having us in the room, but they don't meaningfully engage with our input."

—Sophie Hough-Martin

"We should all be collectively trying to work on this together," she continued. "We have a network of universities and CEGEPs that we work with, and we thought that this would be a perfect opportunity to share our resources."

Berner stated that she feels the sharing and promoting of the KnowledgeOne training is a "victory tour." She says it seems as if the university is simply trying to get rid of bad press, "without actually dealing with the systemic problems".

"I feel like it's kind of odd that they should be proud of this considering there were protests on the streets from students who were so unhappy with the way they handled complaints of sexual violence," Berner said. "They're really doing the very bare minimum and it's more and more obvious that anything they have done has been for the purpose of publicity."

"It's really just brutal, the clarity that it gives about where Concordia's priorities are," she continued.

The undergraduate student believes that listening to survivors and other students is "just not a priority for them." She reiterates the fact that SARC has only two full-time employees to support a student body of nearly 47,000.

Berner said she feels one of the problems with this approach to sexual violence training where it comes from the top-down is that a lot of sexual violence is bred within these hierarchies. When someone has so much power over those who are afraid to complain, it's easy for bad things to happen to people, and predators can gravitate to these positions, she explained.

With information often confined within departments, those outside them won't know what's going on until it's too late.

"I understand that a lot of things are kept insular, and a lot of people don't talk to each other, but it sucks. Cause it feels like you're going through it alone, and you're really not," Horsford said.

"At the end of the day, even though these things are being implemented, it's because we had to beg for them," they added.

Insured, But At What Cost?

Unpacking International Student Healthcare Costs At Concordia

Ireland Compton
@irelandcompton



Since Pauline Bosteels first came to Concordia from France to study international business in 2014, she's encountered a number of issues with the university. First with the credit system, then with a program transfer, and finally with the international student health plan.

"I just felt like the administration was not trying to help us, but going against education," she said.

As of 2019–2020, Concordia's mandatory international student healthcare plan costs international students \$1,176 annually—making it the most expensive plan in Canada. Covered by Blue Cross, like other universities in Montreal, Concordia's plan is more expensive than the rest by nearly \$100. This, for roughly the same amount and in some cases, even less coverage.

There is no universal plan set out by Quebec's government to cover all universities in the province. Each university negotiates its own plan with one of two insurance providers—Blue Cross and Sun Life—with the exception of Université Laval, Université de Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke, and Université de Québec who negotiate a group coverage plan under Desjardins. Under regulations set out by the Quebec Ministry of Immi-

gration, Diversity and Inclusion and the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, all international students must be covered by a healthcare plan that meets government standards for the duration of their stay in Canada.

But with rising international tuition, and the most expensive healthcare plan in the country, Concordia is putting its international students in financial jeopardy.

"The first year, I remember I paid \$800. The second year I paid like \$1000, it just increased more and more," said Bosteels. "It was just so expensive, and now it's my last semester [...] I have to pay \$1,200 and I only have one class."

These high prices can negatively impact students even beyond the financial side of things. Financial stress can put a strain on academic performance, and failure to pay up on time can prevent students from participating in exactly the things the university encourages them to participate in.

"I don't have help from my parents, so it puts another \$1,000 [on my plate]," Bosteels said. "I had this class in accounting and I failed it like three times. Because I had this financial stress, it prevented me from really focusing on that class, which

I have to pass and it's a vicious cycle for me."

To add to this stress, Bosteels said she had to overcome roadblocks placed in front of her when attempting to go on exchange in Spain. Given that she was unable to pay for her semester on time, a hold was placed on her account and she was unable to access documentation required for her to complete her registration process for the exchange.

"I couldn't access my [transcript], so I couldn't send it to Spain on time," she explained. "I had to contact the Dean to get a letter so I could go and study abroad, and all of this because of a hold on my account because I had like \$500 to pay."

"I felt that this was unfair and counter to what they want us to do," she continued. "They say 'Do it, but at the same time, don't do it because you have something to pay.'"

But, why are Concordia's rates for international students so high when its resident student healthcare plan is among the least expensive?

To start, the domestic student healthcare plan is kept at a lower cost by the fact that it merely adds extended coverage for services like dental, health, and mental

health care specialists, and prescription drug costs to supplement the coverage offered by the Régie d'assurances maladie du Québec. International students are not covered by the RAMQ, and so not only must their plan cover the extra services covered under our Studentcare plan, it must also cover basic services like medical examinations and procedures.

Because the plan has to cover so much more than a resident undergraduate student's plan, it's naturally more expensive. This, however, doesn't explain why Concordia can't offer a plan at a rate comparable to other universities in Montreal and across Canada—the reason for that being the structure of the system itself.

The plan is currently under the jurisdiction of the university's administration. They negotiate the coverage and premiums every few years, and from what it seems, they haven't had much luck negotiating for better rates or more coverage in recent years.

"It's a big contrast because Concordia international students have the most expensive health and dental plan in the country whereas the Concordia Student Union undergrads [with resident status] have the least expensive health and dental plan," explained CSU Finance Coordinator, Désirée Blizzard.

After hearing complaints from international students about the financial burden this plan presents and noticing the premium's cost continuing to trend up, the Concordia Student Union is aiming to take on this responsibility moving forward.

"Based on what we'd seen around the country, in the provinces that do have international student health plans, every single one of them is cheaper, some are significantly cheaper," said former CSU finance coordinator John Hutton.

Manitoba's plan costs approximately \$630 a year, while Ontario is comparable to that. In Quebec, the cheapest one hovers around \$900 while Concordia's is over \$1,100.

"Based on what we saw with Concordia not seeming to put a lot of effort into their health plan negotiations, we thought the insurance company was basically walking

"I don't have help from my parents, so it puts another \$1,000 [on my plate]. I had this class in accounting and I failed it like three times and because I had this financial stress, it prevented me from really focusing on that class."

— **Pauline Bosteels**

all over them," he continued.

The CSU believes that given their history of success in negotiating an affordable plan with sufficient coverage for domestic students under Studentcare with Desjardins, they would be able to negotiate for a better plan for international students as well.

"If you look at the Concordia Student Union health and dental plan for non-international students, it is the best in Canada," said CSU General Coordinator Chris Kalafatidis. "If you look at the health and dental plan for international students, it is the worst in Canada. To me, it's just common sense that we could do better."

In January 2019, ahead of the university's renegotiation of the plan, the union presented the administration with a proposal for their management of the international student healthcare plan in collaboration with the Graduate Students' Association.

The proposal stated that the student movement advocates for international students to receive full coverage under medicare and for expansion of medicare to include more services such as mental

health care, while stressing that more questions should be asked.

"Why is most health care covered but not dental care, vision care, or pharmaceuticals? [...] Why do student unions need to have health plans in the first place?" the proposal prompts.

It called on the university not to sign a new agreement with a health insurance provider for international students. Instead, they urged the university to transfer management and responsibility of the international student health plan to the CSU and GSA who will then take the necessary steps to have a plan in place for September 2019.

The proposal also added that if necessary, the CSU wants the administration to extend the existing contract with Blue Cross for just long enough to provide international students with coverage until a new CSU and GSA plan could take effect on Sept. 1, 2019.

In the meantime, the administration went ahead and has already negotiated a new plan for the 2019-2020 school year with input from student representatives, according to Interim President Graham Carr.

"We are just bringing into effect a new plan, which will be in effect for the next two years," he said. "Both the CSU and the GSA were invited to participate in the selection of the service provider and the details of the plan that's coming into effect."

Carr says they will continue to include student representatives in discussions pertaining to the health plan, and hope to hear more suggestions from international students to improve the plan.

"Health plans are complicated, they're important, and there are a range of options out there," said Carr. "I feel very confident that the university is trying to provide high quality, comprehensive care for international students."

While the administration sees the work they're doing as enough, the transfer of the management of the plan to the CSU is not off the table yet, said Blizzard. She said the CSU is aiming to take on the plan and renegotiate for better coverage and more



affordability, to come into effect in 2020–2021.

While the CSU is in the hands of a new executive team, the goal remains the same. This year's team will prioritize this project in order to offer international students the better coverage for less, said Kalafatidis.

"The CSU's job is to be there for every student, not just non-international students," said Kalafatidis. "International students are a very important part of this university. In fact, if you look at Concordia's history, we've always been a university with a very active participation from international students, so it's a no-brainer that we need to do what's right for [them]."

In March 2019, a referendum was passed with students voting overwhelmingly in favour of mandating the CSU to take on the responsibility of managing the health care plan for international students.

"International students are not convinced that the cost of the health insurance is providing sufficient value to them," reads a statement sent to the Dean of Students in late May. "With a better understanding of the process Concordia is using to manage and negotiate the plan for international students, we are more convinced than ever that there is significant room for cost improvement as well as improved services for all international students."

While this referendum has passed—proving this is what students want—that doesn't mean the university is quite ready to give up control. Kalafatidis expressed that there has been pushback from the administration on this project.

"They seem to not understand that we can do a better job with this plan, at least when we speak to them, that's what they seem to show," he said. "They seem to think that they're more equipped, they believe they have a team that's been there for a long time, they have the expertise, they're adapted specifically for international students, but I don't see why it would be any different under our care."

Kalafitidis said the administration has a tendency to try and wait out executive teams from year to year in hopes the new team won't bring an issue with the administration to the table under their mandate. The new executive team feels they've done a good job demonstrating the importance of this issue and they won't just go away in co-signing the statement released in May.

He believes with the right amount of pressure, it's only a matter of time before the administration gives up the plan and complies in transferring the plan to the CSU and GSA.

"At the end of the day, there is only so long that you can hold onto something when it's having a direct, negative impact on your students. If they don't want to do the right thing, we will have to take this to the students."

While there may be hope of an improved plan moving forward, for Bosteels, her time at Concordia has left her with a sour taste in her mouth.

"All of [my bad experiences] made me hate the system and institution that Concordia is. It's a business school, they make money," she said, explaining how all of the costs related to studying in her program here have added up. "It's ridiculous, a ridiculous amount of money."

Lesley Charters Cotton and Street Dancing: A Story of Alchemy

“What I’ve Done Around Dance in the Last 20 Years Is Just Exploring My Limits, Figuring Out Who I Am in It, and I’m a Lot in It.”

Victoria Lamas

Charters Cotton’s Definition of Street Dancing: “[It] embraces many different styles: hip hop, house, reggae, popping, cardio, and stretch.”
The challenges: musicality and groove.
The rewards: health, confidence, and community building.

“I trained to be a secretary and I learned to type with a fellow student at the back of the room. We were not into it, and she would bring straight vodka to class. And we would giggle, we would type and we would giggle, and somehow it got us through this nonsense of secretarial [studies]. We couldn’t imagine ourselves as secretaries.”

Lesley Charters Cotton didn’t stay a secretary for very long.

The 71-year-old Montreal street dancer leads an exciting life. She’s traveled, studied, followed her passions, and often circled back to being a teacher. Charters Cotton bridges people and disciplines.

When she was 31, she taught a photo print making class at Concordia’s Loyola campus, and she’s been a teacher of Chinese medicine for decades.

For parts of the 70s she worked for an airline in Alberta, selling tickets, handling luggage, communicating with

head office. After, she worked in an architect’s office as a secretary.

“They asked me to do the bookkeeping and I’m sure that’s probably why they ran out of business because I wasn’t very good at that,” she said.

“But that was a thrill because I worked with some now internationally famous architects, so I now think back to the days when they used to hang out by the front desk and they would chat.”

Charters Cotton wasn’t dancing then. She was 12 when she got sick—with paralyzing migraines, body pain, loss of sensation in her extremities—and until doctors diagnosed her properly and cured her at 50, she couldn’t partake in dance, the medium that allows her to express who she is.

“And then I was able to dance,” said Charters Cotton. “And that’s what I’ve been doing ever since. And I thought I would maybe get it out of my system, that it would last maybe three or four years.”

But Charters Cotton never let go of the love she found: street dancing. She is prominently a house dancer, but has tried a lot of styles over the years.

“If I were a two-dimensional artist,” she said, “I’d be collage. It’s multi-layering, but it’s also multi-textural, so that the mood can change as it does with the music.”

Charters Cotton knows everyone in the Montreal street dancing community and they all know her. She has danced with every instructor, attended every event. She goes to dance battles and street dancing events around the city, danced in every studio.

“It’s been almost 20 years since I have been doing this seriously,” she said. “And when I say seriously, it means making an effort to grow with it and at the same time really not necessarily having a goal.”

“It’s very interesting when you get in your sixties, and now I’m in my seventies, this sense of ambition changes.”

Nine-year old Charters Cotton performing onstage at Victoria Hall, 1957.

Over the last two decades, through dancing, Charters Cotton looked into herself and explored her limits. That introspection, that inner voyage that dancing still grants her, and a sense of instant satisfaction from putting in the effort keeps her hooked.

Many days, she said, she still feels like she is beginning. Her sense of ambition is steered towards the present tense. Dance remains fresh. Charters Cotton said she grows through that exploration.

“Because I’m attracted to street dance, I think there’s chaos in me that gets explored,” she said.

“And that’s good news and bad news all at the same time. I think that we all live with a kind of personal chaos that needs to be ordered, that needs to be categorized, and the street dancing allows me to indulge so much into the inner chaos.”

Around 1996, Charters Cotton joined Dale King’s dance studio Soul Impact. It was two years before Charters Cotton got healed. She headed into a cardio funk class, a style now known as zumba, taught by King.

“It triggered a migraine that lasted for two years,” said Charters Cotton.



Courtesy Lesley Charters Cotton

“Maybe this pain is going to kill me but I’m gonna do this.” It was like a breakthrough in the sense that I became so determined.”

It became a preoccupation—the desire to dance wouldn’t go away. She said she was going to dance nevertheless.

In some ways Charters Cotton’s life was shaped by the pain she was living with, leading her to study yoga, gently initiating her to Chinese medicine.

She recounted teaching the fire element, which governs the heart, “and that’s about the aspect of joy in our life.”

“And I started to cry. And you know sometimes when you cry,” she said. “You just sob and you don’t know what it’s about, but you know that it’s in a

Later, when she was alone, she wondered about what happened. The answer was dance.

Despite the pain, she was compelled to stick with the classes. King’s influence, her teaching skills, the music playing during the classes, the energy in the room—Charters Cotton wanted more of that in her life.

“So she’s just taken off, she’s just run,” King said. “And it’s something to see, it’s really something to see that you can always have your dreams and never be afraid to follow them.”

Charters Cotton has danced with everyone, but what she hadn’t done until last June was a solo performance. She choreographed a routine that she

“I think that we all live with a kind of personal chaos that needs to be ordered, that needs to be categorized, and the street dancing allows me to indulge so much into the inner chaos.”

— Lesley Charters Cotton

performed at the event So You Think That Was Dance at the Fringe Festival.

She recalled that stepping onto the stage, she did not experience stage fright or freeze. Rather, it was just a continuation of a process that had been ongoing for months. She had been rehearsing nearly every day in preparation for the show.

“There were moments [during rehearsal] when I was alone with the music and I just realized that I was transcending something,” she said. “This was good and bad. I wasn’t sure how it was going to come across. And I was bound and determined that no one was going to see me do it until the day of the show.”

She went to a few experts for upper body consultations and advice on how to include certain movements.

The dance was five minutes long, and when it was over, Charters Cotton realized she had blanked on the choreography during the middle of the performance.



“That’s been very instructive because I realized that I was trying too hard, I was too engaged, and that’s what created that,” she said. “But I was very impressed with how I recovered. It’s more than just the solo, it’s things like that where I’m thinking, ‘Wow, I’m good.’”

“The canoe is tipping and we didn’t

end up wet. I balanced out. I just did a couple of turns and then I went right back into the dance exactly in the right place where I was supposed to be.”

Charters Cotton said that in most classes, she is the only dancer over the age of 30. “At the beginning it was weird for me and for them,” she said. “Now it’s

only weird for them.”

“I’m the age of their grandparents,” she said, “and they wouldn’t dream of their grandparents indulging in this kind of behaviour.”

That is, until they see her dancing. Then they become friends. Charters Cotton expressed that it is “healing beyond belief.” That close friends were once strangers, and there is no distinction when they dance together.

King said that in the hundreds of people she has met and taught, very few clients become friends. She can count those on her two hands. Over the years, they became close, and Charters Cotton still attends some of her classes today.

“She believed in me more than I believed in myself sometimes,” said King. “And that I will always, always cherish [...] and I humble to that.”

King described a moving gift she received from Charters Cotton in the early years after they first met—a picture of 9-year-old Charters Cotton in a little ballet outfit, on stage. “This is what I’ve always wanted to be,” King recounted Charters Cotton telling her. “And you’ve given me the opportunity to explore it.”

“She has a true sense of tranquility,” continued King.

Charters Cotton got married to her brother’s friend in 1969. “She never tried to change him, he never tried to change her. He knew who he was marrying, and accepted every part of her. It’s amazing,” King said.

In 1967, Meredith Cotton and Charters Cotton met for the first time. From Alberta, he was en route to Europe and stopped in Montreal. They visited the Expo 67.

“He was on his way to Europe, and this was the end of the 60s, and he had quit his job, and was going to find himself—he was a real hippie. He didn’t know how long he was going for, and I thought I’d never see him again.”

The next year, when Charters Cotton’s brother got married, her and her husband-to-be were the only ones in the wedding party that weren’t attached, “so that was kind of magic that hap-

pened.” “He took me buffalo [sighting] in Alberta. That was it. We fell in love,” said Charters Cotton.

Cotton has a PhD in chemistry, and is now a writer. “Their life is arts and science,” said King.

Fast-forward to the end of the 90s, at Soul Impact, Charters Cotton was on a path of noticing. What else was going on behind those doors? She started taking classes with Marvin Baptiste, who was teaching clubbing, now called house dancing. It snowballed. “Seven days a week wasn’t enough,” said Charters Cotton.

“You can tell she loves dance,” said Baptiste. “She’s just a ball of energy, of positive energy [...] she’ll make you feel better.”

Baptiste said Charters Cotton shows up for the community. She supports dancers, events; she connects people.

Over the past year, Charters Cotton started teaching at the YMCA residence, that supports refugees and asylum seekers.

“For one hour a week, we just dance,” she said, “and I try to make it fun and at the same time challenging. So I present a choreography that needs to be accomplished.”

Charters Cotton expressed that she sees herself as a “liaison person,” having in her skillset the ability to see strengths and build connections between things, cross pollinate disciplines.

“It’s 2019,” she said. “We’re connected through social media. We don’t have to be so alone. There are those bridges that exist that we’re not even noticing, let alone go over. Like what we’re doing today, we need to use each other a little bit more.”



Decolonizing Art at Peripheral Hours and Métèque

How Alternative Art Spaces Create a Pathway for Marginalized Voices

Bree Rockbrand

It's hard to find a physical space where [people] can sit down and talk to each other," said Victoria Catherine Chan, standing among renovations at Peripheral Hours. The alternative art space, inaugurated by Chan in the fall of 2018, lives in a triplex. It lies tucked in a residential area, between homes in the Chabanel district.

"Because [of] the way contemporary spaces are being built, you're just going there to consume, but there's no space for conversation or intimacy, and eventually people don't have these moments of connection and community," said Chan.

The space has been under renovations for the past four months. Once the work is done, Peripheral Hours will come to life once again. The space advocates for and invites BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) and queer artists to make and exhibit their art, one of the few art spaces in the city where minority groups are actively encouraged and supported to stretch their practice as far as it can go.

It is difficult for marginalized artists to find space and representation in the contemporary art world, explained Chan.

Creating Peripheral Hours is about

reclaiming a space, she explained, and reclaiming power in a society that does not always reflect her. She says it is a form of self-empowerment.

Born in Montreal to Chinese immigrant parents in the era of Bill 101, Chan says she has always been questioning her identity.

She spent her childhood assimilating and integrating with Quebec's franco-phone culture. She learned to navigate the realms of identity politics that strike the province and learned to speak the language. Blending into the landscape, she molded herself into a "Quebecer."

Feeling "sucked in with a collective identity," Chan's young adult years had her itching for a change.

"I wanted to make art. But I was not given [the] opportunity," she said. "I was not given the support to express myself creatively, to have an artistic voice."

With immigrant parents who did not support her dreams of becoming an artist, a lack of representation in contemporary art, and a lack of spaces that invite and support marginalized artists, Chan felt stuck. The white walls of an institution are beneficial to some, but for others—especially marginalized voices

"I have been colonized all my life. I have to now decolonize myself for the rest of my life."

— Victoria Catherine Chan

in Quebec—they can be stifling. A lack of representation means many artists—including Chan—don't find themselves with an opportunity to flourish.

A "whitewashing" of the art world leaves POC and immigrant artists at a loss. A lack of discourse about the province's—and the country's—colonial history doesn't allow for true symbiosis



of culture.

"The system is actually very racialized—it's systematic racism that has been ingrained in our colonial culture for 500 years," said Chan.

"What does it mean that we have not been informed and taught history classes about the wrongs that have been committed by the European settlers? What does it mean that we are living on an occupied territory, and it's actually an unceded territory?" she continued.

"Quebec is very closed in terms of gallery space, exhibition space for immigrant artists, and most of them experience rejection constantly," said Carolina Echeverria of *Mètèque*, an atelier and workshop dedicated to representing a diversity of artists.

Nestled in N.D.G., *Mètèque* has been focusing on fostering relationships between Indigenous Peoples and "immigrants," a term Echeverria means

to describe "people who came here yesterday, and people who came here 200 years ago."

In its third year of existence, *Mètèque* also provides a space for BIPOC and immigrant artists who have had trouble breaking into the local art scene.

"There's a very perverse hiding of the story that this land is about, especially to immigrants," said Echeverria. "You think you're coming to Canada, but it's Quebec, then you think you're in Quebec, but really it's Native land."

Echeverria, a Chilean immigrant of 33 years, said it took her 23 years to learn she was on Indigenous land.

"Once I understood this was Indigenous land, I thought, well, I have more in common with Indigenous people here than with the Canadian nation," she said. "As an immigrant, I understand being displaced. I understand loss of language, I understand lost culture, I understand being a minority, I understand not being

treated very well."

As part of the wave of Latinx immigration in the 1970s, Echeverria said that her experience as a newcomer in Quebec was a positive one. Now, however, she says things have changed.

"There's a growing racism and fear," she said. "Having said that, I felt like the national portrait of who we are as a society is so outdated. It's not going to look the way it looked before when everyone was super White, or British, or French."

The idea to start *Native Immigrant*, the not-for-profit project behind the atelier, came to Echeverria back in 2013. "I come from a country that is also colonized. So, you don't want to leave something to come and become part of the problem when you've already suffered that."

The atelier hosts workshops and showcases the work of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists. The space is striking in its colour—bright portraits line the walls, dresses full of patches and bead-

Peripheral Hours hosted an art exhibition last May, exploring domesticity and consumerism



Photos Aysha White

work catch the attention of people passing by the window. A table full of beads lies in the center, shiny and glimmering.

“We are Indigenous-focused,” explained artist and workshopper Martin Akwiranoron Loft. “Being a printmaker myself, my portion of it will be on fostering an Indigenous space where Indigenous artists can make work.”

Though the atelier focuses on giving space to Indigenous artists, it’s not exclusive, he said. In the upcoming months, Loft will be leading printmaking workshops from a printing press.

The Kanien’kehá:ka, or Mohawk, artist has been involved with Métèque for the past year and a half. A studio like this, that offers opportunities for Indigenous artists, has been long awaited in the community, according to Loft. Though a small step, he said, it’s an important one.

Peripheral Hours is striving towards the same goal of cultural diversity and inclusion.

In the fall of 2018, Chan made a spur-of-the-moment decision to host a pop-up exhibition in the house she manages. A mere three weeks after her strike of inspiration, Peripheral Hours was born. A “conceptual location, a space in our collective imaginary,” according to Chan, the

space was designed to create an immersive environment that would blend the worlds of art and domesticity to explore identity in a safe space.

The triplex had been in her family for over three decades. She was inspired by the alternative art spaces in Europe and in New York City, where she lived and worked during a ten-year artistic exploration journey.

“Being abroad and in a foreign land, for me, it was a neutral environment,” said Chan. “Within that, I discovered a part of my identity and individuality far away from the Quebec identity politics.”

Creating Peripheral Hours, a space that embraces and encourages meaningful dialogue, is part of Chan’s personal healing and journey to self-discovery. “I’m taking root,” she explained, “and I want to reclaim my identity.”

From improvisational sculptures created on the spot with found objects, video montages screened against a bedroom wall, to bright paintings tucked neatly into hidden closet spaces, the first exhibition space brought 38 artists, many of whom were international BIPOC artists based in Montreal.

Spaces like Peripheral Hours are integral for immigrants new to Montreal, accord-

ing to Jin Heewoong, an installation artist who recently moved to Montreal from Korea. Heewoong showed his installation pieces at the first exhibition, which took place on Oct. 4, 2018.

Struggling to find a network in a new city, Heewoong felt exhibiting his work at Peripheral Hours led him to meet local artists. “We are trying to build up a community of our own,” he said.

Aiming to flesh out the truth behind colonization, Chan seeks to create a space where this narrative is explored through workshops, exhibitions, and intentional conversation among artists.

Colonialist patterns are part of the modern Quebec culture and are perpetuated within the society. More than just a one-time event, colonization is ongoing and systematic. “We live in a time of reconciliation,” explained Chan. “For me, it matters to decolonize art history, contemporary art, and our bodies. Our way of living and our way of being with the others. That’s the first step.” my life,” she added. “I have to now decolonize myself for the rest of my life.”

“I have been colonized all my life,” she added. “I have to now decolonize myself for the rest of my life.”

Please Find Attached Three Poems

"Vertus des vagues" (Carina Dumais)

My heart sank and my stomach churned
At the sight of waves crashing from down under,
A blood bank, for clear skies I yearned,
As the blistering winds made me shudder

They were cruel
The way they threatened me
A lackluster pool
Nature's weaponry

Nearing the edge of a forbidding precipice
A sudden unfounded urge awakened;
To leap into its engulfing mouth, ludicrous
My will; utterly shaken

Along with a low growl
The rocks stood out
Fangs in a wolf's salivating jowl
A perpetually starving snout

It snarled at me in thundering crashes
Almost begging through whispers
A whirlpool of shoreline lashes
Howling out in endless whimpers

And so I cried for the ocean
I cried for its depths that would never see the light of
day
I cried for shipwrecks, the ones that never got away
I cried for streams, gleams, scour, frown, doubt
I cried for dreams' screams that were drowned out.



"AUTOMATE" (Elizabeth Pinault)

Je mastiquerai le temps perdu
Jusqu'à ce que mes dents s'effritent
Jusqu'à ce que ma mâchoire déboîte
Qu'elle craque et se disloque
Cédant sous la pression des secondes gaspillées

Je ravalerais les regrets
Ganglions vifs d'amertume
Ignorant la douleur
Je les laisserai brûler ma gorge
Dans les toilettes de l'échec
J'irai cracher du sang
Je polirai la commissure de mes lèvres
L'enduirai de peinture
Camouflant la souffrance résidente de mon système immunitaire

Les jours indolents me pèsent
Les secondes ternes m'engourdissent
La mort est un havre
Je le contemple de loint
Faisant bien attention de ne pas trébucher trop proche
Je ne frôle pas la ligne jaune
Ne frôle jamais les rails
Ne traverse jamais sans autorisation
J'obéis à la vie
Aux complaisances nécessaires
Je fais de mon mieux
Pour éviter le pire

Mais mes efforts essoufflés perdent leur sens
La fatalité me rattrape dans les pauses trop longues
Dans les silences trop forts
Pourtant mon pouls automate persiste
Son rythme ne veut plus rien dire
Sauf que mon corps a bien appris
Appris à persister
Sans revendications
Sans but

L'espoir n'est qu'un mirage
Sur sable souillé
On a détruit les oasis
Sûrement pour construire des condos
On est foutus
Mais le blanc siroté au onzième étage goûte la réussite
Vue panoramique sur la ville en flammes
Tu apprendras à cloître les rideaux
Et danser au gré des élans artificiels
De ton âme mécanique

"projecting"(Mila Gizli)

the skin on my hands is still raw
from the 2nd degree burn, given by those
last two matches that ignited a flame

though my brain wouldn't listen, senses heightened
the warmth creeping up the nape of my neck

and just like every other time: a combustion
the world spins backwards on its axis
before the sun hits our part of town and
my palm puts out the fire

now I'm left with a permanent scar,
one for each might-have-been, God,
it still aches to the touch

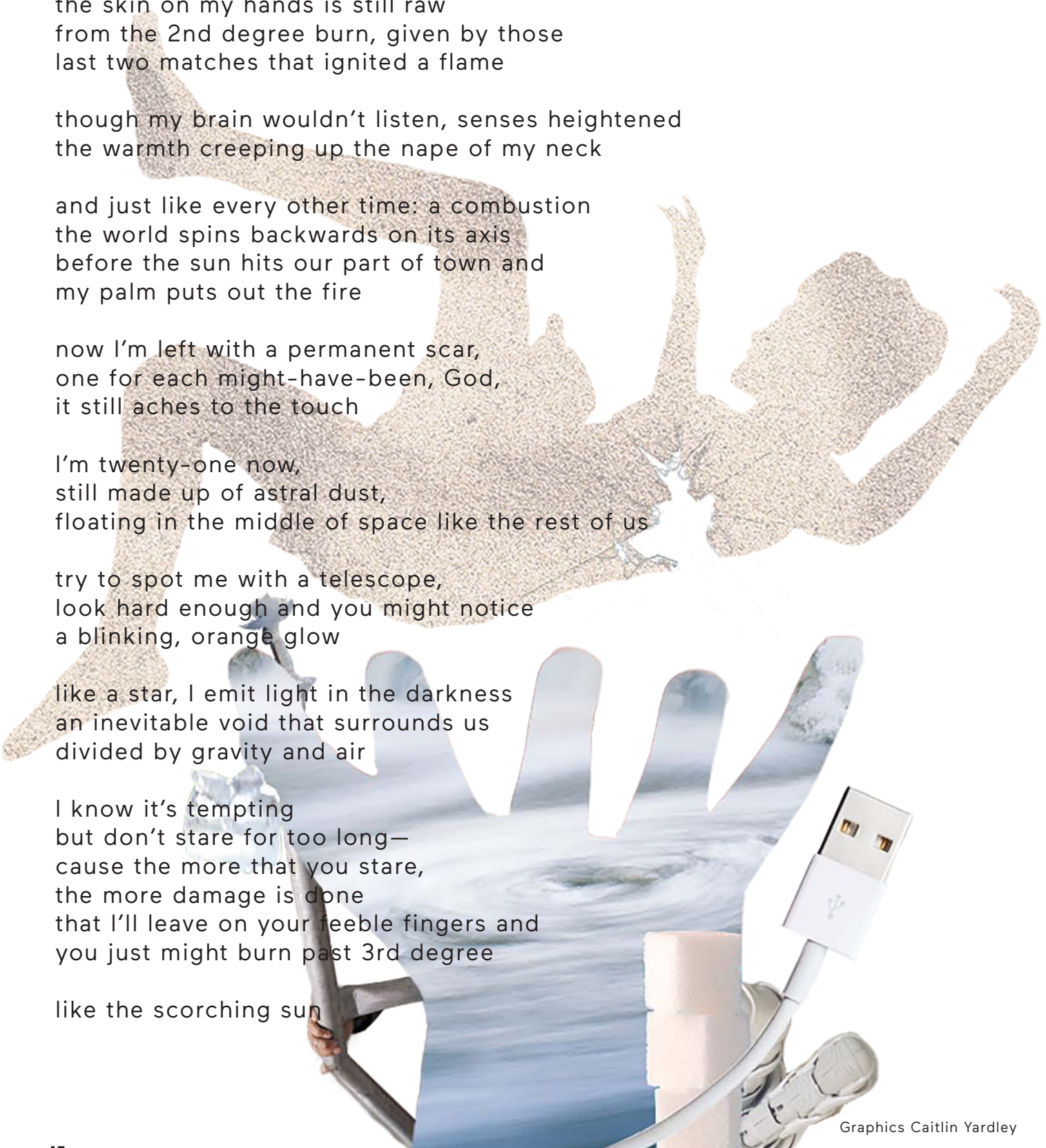
I'm twenty-one now,
still made up of astral dust,
floating in the middle of space like the rest of us

try to spot me with a telescope,
look hard enough and you might notice
a blinking, orange glow

like a star, I emit light in the darkness
an inevitable void that surrounds us
divided by gravity and air

I know it's tempting
but don't stare for too long—
cause the more that you stare,
the more damage is done
that I'll leave on your feeble fingers and
you just might burn past 3rd degree

like the scorching sun



Graphics Caitlin Yardley

Concordia's Esports Association Might Be The Best Teams You Don't Know

Despite Space Issues Last Year, Concordia's Esports Association is Going Strong

OLIVIER CADOTTE
@OLIVIERCADOTTE

When

you hear someone speak about Concordia having successful teams, a lot of things come to mind. The Stingers' basketball teams, hockey teams, and rugby teams, to name a few, have all had a lot of great moments and players in the past few years.

However, there is another team that has experienced success—although club is a more appropriate term for them: Concordia's Esports Association. Outgoing president Dimitri Kontogiannos chalks that up to a few different elements, most notably the growth of esports at the highschool and CEGEP level.

"You see more and more school having their own dedicated esports clubs, because there's so many colleges and universities that have these high profile teams, even places with their own scholarships. You get people who come here on their first day and the first thing they ask is 'Where's the esports team?'"

Kontogiannos also says the association has been pivotal as an entry point to first-year students' university lives. "It's a place where people can get to know



people with the same interests. It's pretty easy to be lonely and distant in your first year, so having people who like the same thing you do is great, especially when you might be new to the city or the country."

"I was the same way when I started in 2015, so we all have the same entry point, even the president."

New games come out every day and, almost as often, something new is at the forefront of popularity on social media, like the massively popular streaming service Twitch. This year alone, games like Apex Legends, Dota Auto Chess (now Dota Underlords), and Teamfight Tactics have been released and have developed their own followings and even competitive scenes.

While it might be tempting for competitive players to latch onto and focus on whatever the new, hot game is, it's important to keep focus on what's popular and what you know.

Think of it as if an Olympic athlete changed sports every few months. It's with that mindset that League of Legends, a multiplayer online battle arena

game (or MOBA) has had strong staying power, both among its more casual members and as the cornerstone of their competitive efforts.

It's important to know your role, but be able to be versatile in it.

"We played against someone who was amazing at just one League [of Legends] champion, so we kept banning that champion [from usage] every game and he did nothing at all."

Sports and esports have more in common than one may expect (or that each would like to admit). Kontogiannos himself comes from a sports background, as he's currently working for the Montreal Alouettes. As president of the association, he's been focusing his efforts on sponsorships and partnerships—like for their jerseys, with one having the gamertag (the online username) of the wearer.

Hearing Charles Morin (or Chas, his gamertag), their League of Legends coach and avowed sports non-enthusiast, talk about what kind of training and preparation his players go through, you'd almost forget he's talking about a video game.

Despite accepting different kinds of players the club is a tightly knit group



Photos: Olivier Cadotte

First, there's tryouts.

"We don't just look for personal talent, there's stuff like chemistry, who can fill what roles, and who can communicate, too. If you can't talk, you can't be effective," says Morin.

Individual players from different backgrounds, coming together to become a team sounds like every sports movie cliché ever.

However, that's what it's like for a club when their version of a recruiting class is highly varied in terms of experience at high levels of play and in terms of styles of play.

Sometimes instead of players, it's whole teams that come to join and are already formed beforehand. That was the case for their League of Legends B team. "They were five friends who said they wanted to play together, and they were really good. I can't say that happens a lot, but it happens," says Kontogiannos.

Once a team comes together, it's time for practice, and lots of it. "We play [scrimmages] against other college teams, we play online, and my role in that is to study the meta, which players on their team plays what, who on our team plays which way, it's a whole lot of studying," says Morin. "I make them watch replays

of games to show them what they do well, and what they do wrong."

"It's a lot like watching film in hockey," added Kontogiannos. "Actually, a lot of this is a lot like the advanced practices that high profile sports teams have now. And it shows, because the practice really helps, especially for people who might just be used to playing without taking that

“We don’t just look for personal talent, there’s stuff like chemistry, who can fill what roles, and who can communicate, too. If you can’t talk, you can’t be effective.”

—Charles Morin

extra step of studying outside of a match." Speaking of studying, they also have the same attitude towards academics that the varsity teams do. "The last thing we want is for people to burn out of their studies to game," says Kontogiannos. "We want people who know how to balance school and the team and the rest too, because once those first midterms come, if you've been doing nothing but playing League,

you won't last long at Concordia."

Despite League's massive popularity, Kontogiannos says they aren't afraid to branch out into other games' competitive scenes. They already have a team for Overwatch, Blizzard's popular 2016 first-person, team-based shooter, and have players who specialize in other team-based first-person shooters like Counter-Strike: Global Offensive and Rainbow Six: Siege. They're also looking into getting players involved in the latest genre to take gaming by storm: battle royales.

Named after the controversial Japanese film, battle royales usually follow a similar formula: a group of players (often 100) are all put in a map where loot (armour, weapons, etc) is dispersed. Over the course of the game, the map is made smaller and smaller, until the last player (or team, depending on the game mode) alive wins.

Gaming's current juggernaut, Fortnite, is a battle royal, as is the previously mentioned Apex Legends. Even traditional first-person shooters like Call of Duty and Battlefield, once the rulers of online multiplayer gaming, have added battle royal modes to their game, with nowhere near the success of Fortnite.



Real Space for A Virtual Medium

Last year was a good year for the club, with the start of their League of Legends intramural league being much more successful than expected. “We were expecting a couple of teams, and we got eight. That’s thirty people, for a league that didn’t exist this time last year,” said Kontogiannos.

Yet a familiar burden to Montrealers impeded them significantly: construction.

Returning students will be familiar with the Hall building’s renovations last year. The construction took away the auditorium they had used in previous years, which meant they now had to try and book space at the John Molson School of Business building, whose auditorium is busy almost every day of the year.

“We try to have our events on Fridays or weekends to make it easier for people, especially people who bring their own equipment. Getting access to space on those days, especially before breaks, it’s really tough,” said Kontogiannos.

The alternative is booking a classroom,

which might not have the outlets or space necessary for five to 10 computers, wires, plug space, and all the people that come with it. Esports don’t need a field, or a gym, but sometimes the logistics can be even harder to achieve than something like football or soccer.

“We don’t have the same monetary support has other schools we’re competing with, especially some American schools that have their own varsity programs,” said Kontogiannos.

They don’t exactly have their own giant, luxurious space to get together and organize events, either. Their club-room looks more like a supply closet with a desk, complete with enough old electronics to make a Radio Shack manager blush.

The room, besides being cramped, also offers what can be best described as mediocre climate control. “Once there’s more than four people in the room, it’s pretty much unlivable if it’s hot, and the heater doesn’t really work, so it’s not any better in winter,” said Kontogiannos.

It’s nothing like the room you’d imagine one of the teams in League’s collegiate

division would have, especially when compared to other teams around North American campuses. Space aside, one underrated part of esports that gets taken away by not having a dedicated space is human contact.

“Not having a room can make practicing a little tougher, just because you don’t get that human contact that can make teamwork so important. Putting a face to a voice and a gamertag, you wouldn’t think it’s that important, but it really helps build rapport,” says Morin.

Yet, they take their position and resources (or lack thereof) in stride.

“We play teams that have teams that are sponsored by their school, and have scholarships—they’re pretty much paid to play games, when you think about it. And we beat them. That always feels really good,” said Kontogiannos.

While it may be unlikely esports will supercede conventional sports at Concordia, it’s clear that esports aren’t going to disappear anytime soon, not if Kontogiannos, Morin, and the other members and team members from Concordia Esports have anything to say about it.

A New Challenge for the Final Chapter

Adam Vance Takes on the Role of Older Brother in His Final Year of Football

Dustin Kagan-Fleming
@dustinkfleming

You would think with an important chapter coming to an end, there would be a temptation to look back and get nostalgic.

“Nah, stick in the moment,” said Adam Vance, his usual relaxed smile across his face.

Vance is in the midst of his final season as the quarterback of the Concordia Stingers. He doesn’t feel any different this year. He’s not willing to put the extra pressure of treating his final snaps as final on himself. He’s taking his last year day by day; no differently than he has before.

As tumultuous as his years at Concordia have been, Vance truly does seem to be living day by day, enjoying every moment as it comes.

He’s all smiles, praising his coaches, enjoying a brand new offense that he’s playing in, and just generally feeling at peace with where he is.

It would be easy for him not to be. Not only is it his last year but he’s suddenly been surrounded by an almost entirely new coaching staff, a new offensive scheme, a large group of rookies, and just a general overhaul of the entire program.

But so far Vance is loving the changes

and the changes are loving him.

“It didn’t take long to [form] an opinion of him. By day two of spring ball I was already sold,” said Stingers offensive coordinator Alex Surprenant, who Vance credits with putting together on offense that he really feels that he fits in.

The two have already built a strong relationship and the coordinator’s offense is a big reason Vance is enjoying his final season on the field so much. It’s a style of offense that focuses on tempo. It has a reliance on things like run-pass option plays—where the quarterback gets to choose between throwing a pass or handing the ball off depending on the look of the defense—and just generally resembles the kind of offense that Vance was used to playing in when he was in California.

The fact that he’s taken to the changes in the team so quickly and is handling them well is a major plus for his coaches.

“It’s paramount to what we want to do here. If we didn’t have a fifth year quarterback it would be a lot tougher,” said head coach Brad Collinson. “He loves football, it’s important to him. I think he just wants to end his chapter here on a good note.” It’s important because

Vance’s experience and understanding of the system gives the team a new kind of teacher and leader, a real asset on a team with 38 rookies listed on their roster.

Vance’s comfort lets him take the time to explain some of the newer and more complicated plays and issues to younger players. Learning a new offense is hard for any player, learning it while adjusting to a brand new league like U Sports is even harder. Surprenant has noticed the effort that Vance puts into helping younger players.

Whether it’s explaining the intricacies of certain plays to young quarterbacks or just giving them the perspective of an experienced player who is on the field, unlike coaches, Vance is making sure he helps his young teammates as much as he can.

“We have three rookie quarterbacks. He’s really good with them [...] he raises his hand sometimes in meetings to help them. He has an older brother attitude,” said Surprenant.

It’s a new role for Vance, who’s always been one of the younger players on teams he’s played for. Whether at Concordia or Golden West College in the U.S, he was

Vance has spent of the season grooming the three rookie quarterbacks

Photo Dustin Kagan-Flemig



never the veteran. But just like he is with his team's situation, he's embracing the new.

"I enjoy it so much. They're a great group of QB's. Good dudes that want to work. They all know their stuff [...] almost as well as me. Some of them might even know it better," laughed Vance. "It's been nice to not have to babysit them, but just be able to learn and grow with them."

This isn't exactly how the quarterback pictured things ending up a few years ago when Concordia recruited him though. Fresh out of the American system, he had his doubts about coming to play up north and what Canadian football was.

"When I was getting recruited, I'm not gonna lie, I thought it was a joke. I didn't think people up here took it as seriously as we do down in the states," said Vance. "Man, has my mindset changed on that one."

It took some time for him to get past those preconceived ideas though. A hectic first year with Concordia helped that.

He got his first meaningful game action in a tough situation against one of the best teams in the country: the Laval Rouge et Or.

His head coach at the time, Mickey Donovan remembers the game well.

Stingers star quarterback Trenton Miller, who had rewritten the record books for Concordia, went down with an injury midway through the game. Vance had to come in against a top team in an imposing stadium and take over a match in which Concordia was a heavy underdog.

Vance would orchestrate a drive from his own eight yard line, all the way to the Laval ten in just a minute and 44 seconds. They would fall just short, losing 12-8, but a game in which the Stingers were longshots, came down to the final play.

"It was a hell of a job. He had a lot of potential, a lot of skill. He did a great job that first year that we had him," said Donovan, who is now the special teams coordinator for the Montreal Alouettes. "He's a guy that you want as your quarterback."

That game would be the start of Vance's

"I thought it was a joke. I didn't think people up here took it as seriously as we do down in the states. Man, has my mindset changed on that one."

— Adam Vance

education, but it wasn't until a play-off matchup against the division's other behemoth, the Université de Montréal Carabins, that he really began to understand things.

It was a display of dominance by the Carabins and the game Vance credits with really changing his view on both the skill level in Canadian football and how seriously it is taken. It cemented his respect for both the Canadian game and U Sports after that.

Though his understanding of, and respect for the Canadian game improved, Vance's next season was a difficult one. It had some highs—throwing for the second most yards in the Réseau du Sport Étudiant du Québec and a last second touchdown to complete a comeback against Sherbrooke—but before the year

even started, Vance and his teammates lost two coaches. Mickey Donovan resigned to take his current position. His brother Pat would succeed him as head coach, only to resign shortly after as well. Collinson came in and had little to no time to instill his own staff, playbook, or prepare adequately for the season. The team was behind the eight ball from the start and would end up last in the RSEQ standings, missing the playoffs in the last game of the season.

With all of this, it's not hard to see why Vance is excited and optimistic about the changes, and feeling so good about being comfortable.

It's as good a year as any for the quarterback to be in a comfortable place and a good mindset, because he's most likely in for a major change after it.

"I'm probably done with football," said Vance, not without care but with a calm acceptance.

"If something with football did come up, I would love to take it. I love the sport and I want to keep playing but if it doesn't, it doesn't. I had a good run."

Vance doesn't say that with an attitude of indifference. He simply knows where he's at in life and has reached a point of enough self confidence and self awareness that he can sit with the facts and take life as it happens when it comes to football.

It's not the kind of thing you see with athletes at a high level very often. These are people who have worked incredibly hard and been a part of their sport since they were children. Whether at the university or pro level, the eventual day when it all ends is never easy, and many fight against it to no avail.

He also feels he's leaving Concordia in a bright spot. He believes in the path that they're on and is planning to continue watching them travel it.

He doesn't know where that will be from yet. Maybe he'll head back to the states, but the California QB who once thought of Canadian football as a joke hasn't ruled out setting his roots down in Montreal. He's fallen in love with the city and has plenty of reasons to stay. But like he said, for now he's just sticking in the

Don't @ Me: A Isn't for Ally

Being an Ally Shouldn't Be Your Fashion Statement

Dustin Kagan-Fleming @dustinkfleming

Everyone,

I have good news: The straights are going to be OK.

Karen will finally get the recognition she deserves for loudly throwing her bachelorette party in the Village and awkwardly calling Tom from accounting "one of the girls." True justice.

Some people that have been ignored and underappreciated for too long are finally about to be justly recognized.

We've hit a point now where the most oppressed group in the LGBTQIA+ community is finally being recognized. That's right, I'm talking about straight allies.

What? Where are they in that community? Well, in the A of course. You thought that stood for asexual? But then what letters will straight people have?

It's kind of mind-boggling that some people, and companies like American Apparel, have decided to actually rework the acronym, or simply don't know how it works.

For some people, the breakdown is not lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual, and +. Instead, they

throw the A in for people that don't really need the letter.

Why do we need a whole letter for allies? Who does it actually help?

Look, I love allies and recognize the need for them. I respect the work so many do to push back against unfair laws, day to day oppression, and plenty of other work.

Many friends of mine are straight allies, as are my family members. As a bi man, it makes me feel happier and safer to have support from so many amazing people who may not be members of the LGBTQIA+ community but support me and it without reservation.

I'm not looking to attack or alienate allies here. There are just some things that can be done better by some.

Most people get that being an ally is a basic level of decency. It means you support people and their basic human rights. The problem is that some people are less about actually being supportive because it's the right and obvious thing to do, and more about making it a bit of a

fashion statement. It's things like making A stand for ally or chasing after the idea of having a gay BFF because it's chic or woke to seem extra accepting.

The LGBTQIA+ community is awesome and incredibly fun, but that doesn't mean you need to immediately grab a letter to enjoy some of what it has to offer the world. You can be a great ally by taking action and helping people more than by taking some selfies in the Village with the caption #truehome #gayingitup.

The acronym isn't there to be the social equivalent of a woke Supreme sticker. It's there because certain realities come with not being straight and having a community makes that easier.

Supporting that community and using a level of privilege to help as an ally is great. Taking the spotlight and thrusting yourself into a role of importance or calling every gay guy you know "biiiiitch" when you're not really that close and don't know if they like it? Maybe less.



Graphic Jessica Lee

(Sex)Editorial:

Fake It Till You Make It

The Gender Politics of Feigning and Demanding Orgasms

April Tardif Levesque @AprilTardif

When I wrote an article on the orgasm gap between men and women, a number of things happened. No, I didn't get any death threats, probably because I held off on some opinions I had—we all know women with opinions get some real spicy fan mail.

What did happen was that a student from the psychology department, male obviously, linked his own research to me on Twitter once my piece got a bit of attention—probably wishing I'd consulted him first about something I've seen and heard about firsthand.

This isn't much of a surprise, but one comment was from a woman, who went off about how we need to take it easy on the men because they have a hard enough time pleasing us as it is.

It was phrased longer and was more cringeworthy, but essentially that was the message.

Think of the men.

On the subject of ladies being denied equal pleasure.

Look, men treat sex like water, food, the need to defecate.

We let guys off with lighter sentences for rape because somehow too many judges and jurors have the attitude that somehow sex is inevitable for men.

Sex is for men.

Women who want pleasure from sex or enjoy it in a context where they're not the server but the subject, are not framed the same way.

So where does this tie in to orgasms?

For women, they're optional.

Men must always finish and they almost always do.

Stats can be found by asking any psychology department about studies they've done—they'll gladly oblige, but the gold is in the lived experience. That's where you find the nuance.

In my golden days of socializing, I found myself in many women's washrooms. Women talk to one another quite comfortably when no men are around.

This is where the sauce meets the pasta. The substance.

One woman I spoke to, who is both a sex worker and sexually active in her everyday life, totally enjoys sex most of the time. She wants it, gets it...but has

never had an orgasm. Not even once.

I have spoken to older ladies, married for years, who have either never had an orgasm, or who did once upon a time with a lover they knew 20 years ago on a vacation.

I wondered then how the men took it.

I wondered also how, with an orgasm gap so huge in the studies, how the men in their lives handle it.

I've narrowed it down to about three possibilities: he is too lazy to try, and never asks because he doesn't know the orgasm exists for women; he has concluded that there is something wrong with his partner despite not ever having figured out the "code to the safe;" or she has faked it every time, and he's convinced all is well in the world.

Let's unpack what's up with this and how power dynamics contribute to this.

If indeed he never asked and assumed sex is accomplished and well done because he came, that's enough of a power dynamic in itself.

It's self explanatory in that he truly believes sex is for men, and women are but an instrument to that.



Graphic Caroline Tran

Air? Who needs it? We survive merely by pleasing them. The belief that sex is something that men do and that it's something done to women is all wrong; one is the subject and the other is the object.

Sex is a participation activity that should involve mutual enjoyment. Never asking your partner if they're satisfied or what they want doesn't quite fit that.

Now, if he says something is wrong with her because he's never satisfied her, it's safe to say he has a whole pack of problems and it doesn't end there.

Maybe he's lazy, or maybe he's a narcissist who can't accept that he can't figure it out.

Remember, many men derive a feeling of self satisfaction in making their partner satisfied that they tie deeply to their manhood and masculinity.

That's also problematic if it's more important than the partner—at what point is it about her or them and not just him?

So, the moment something challenges his abilities, he would prefer to blame anything but himself.

If that means gaslighting her into thinking she has a sexual dysfunction and playing both doctor and psychologist—so be it.

Some might say their ex could, as a way of saying something is wrong with their partner, but the ex could have been faking.

A wild notion I might introduce here is the possibility that not all women get off the same way—so assuming women are interchangeable and that there's no learning curve is equally absurd.

Perhaps the ex was faking because

he has the kind of character that never accepts criticism or responsibility and she felt uncomfortable being honest with him.

Which leads me to faking.

While many men fume at the thought of women faking and lying, because they're terrible, I would like to explore why that might be.

If you're a decent partner at all and you take feedback well, your partner would most likely feel comfortable giving you feedback.

It's a trust situation. If you ask and assure someone they won't deal with retaliatory outbursts, gaslighting, or arrogance, they might give you an honest and constructive answer.

But this isn't always what happens when women give their male partners feedback.

We tire of hearing about how actually, it's our fault. Or how actually, his 14 exes could, so he has no idea why you're not built the same.

We tire of hearing outbursts from men whose masculinity feels threatened by the notion that maybe they can improve enough to hold up their end of the bargain.

The power dynamic is as simple as who controls the arena.

Sex has long been an arena where men reigned supreme, but slowly we have shifted.

To think, once upon a time, the vibrator was invented as a means to control "female hysteria," which was essentially pent up sexual frustration.

Now, women can have both any partner they wish and any vibrator.

However, as much as we have seen improvements, modern pornography still centres around the male experience, gaze, and desires—the women merely objects to achieving male pleasure.

Sure, femme-friendly options exist now, but most men consume the mainstream and many act the part—seeing women as a means to help them achieve their pleasure.

Women have options, and why settle for options that don't provide the most basic of things—consideration?

When men can redirect a conversation to attack women's self esteem when their fabricated self image is attacked, we have a power dynamic that facilitates emotional and psychological abuse.

When men refuse to accept criticism or feedback, to the point where women fear even approaching discussions about wanting their needs met, we have a power dynamic that facilitates fear and that in itself can be abusive in some cases.

There is immense power in communication, but this requires an open channel—free of retaliation, judgement, fear, and power imbalance.



Graphic Vecteezy

ANDREW'S PUB



- Free pool table all day
- Large Beer \$5.50
- Pitcher: \$14.50
- Mix Drinks: \$4.00
- 20+ kinds of shooters: 4 for \$10.00

Taxes Included

Facebook: Andrews Pub - official

1241 Guy

South of St.Catherine Street

How Toxic Dust Awoke a Sleepy Town

A People's History of Canada Column

Samantha Candido



Although they had lost the war, as the expression goes, the workers behind the Asbestos Strike of 1949 in the Eastern Townships of Quebec did not miss the fight in leading a notable effort against Johns-Manville, an American resource extraction company.

In a time of workplace padlock laws and divisions between French and English Quebecers, the strike provoked a surge in the political consciousness province-wide. It was the launch pad for demands for public health reform by workers facing cutthroat restrictions.

The 1949 strike primarily centered around curbing the spread of a disease called asbestosis, which is the fibrosis (hardening) of the fluid in the lungs due to the accumulation of microscopic asbestos fibres within the lungs' lining that prevents them from expanding and

contracting, which could lead to suffocation.

The Jeffrey Mine was the largest chrysotile asbestos mine in the world, and the source of the citizens of Asbestos' glory and ruin. During the late 1800s, asbestos began being mined commercially for its fireproof and practically indestructible properties.

It was later integrated across a variety of common household products, including hair dryers, coffee pots, and potting soil. By 1920, Canada already began to take advantage of its mineral wealth, and was providing 84 per cent of the world's supply of asbestos. It was in this after World War I era that JM bought the mine from its local owners.

At first, the townspeople of Asbestos employed by JM enjoyed the fruits of their labour, as the production of asbes-

tos provided modernity and stability to their community.

Later on in the Second World War, JM included machines deep in the Jeffrey Mine to replace human labourers.

"Men with nomadic drills are busy all the time breaking up the larger chunks of rock. On the floor of the pit, a giant electric shovel (the largest in Canada) scoops up 14 tons [of rock] [...] it looks like some curious, prehistoric monster rooting about for food. This huge electric shovel is mobile, and can move to any part of the pit floor to load rail cars with rock at convenient points," said CBC reporter J. Frank Willis in a 1942 radio clip, observing the asbestos extraction process that took place at the Jeffrey Mine.

Striking became a way for them to bargain for benefits and rights. Miners



Graphic Aiden Locke



in Quebec lived in a sustained period of negotiation, using strikes as a way to communicate their needs to JM in a setting that defined workers as a hired person, which meant their status was inferior and temporary, at best.

Asbestos was one of the Quebec towns that went on strike very little, something favourable to Maurice Duplessis'

Union Nationale that assumed office in 1944. The party was anti-union, and brought in foreign investment by selling Quebec's labour force as a docile one that wouldn't rise up.

In 1944, Duplessis enacted the Labour Relations Act, which allowed the government to approve or reject unions and to supervise bargaining over collective

agreements.

In 1948 the workers of the Jeffrey Mine began negotiating for a labour contract that would take effect the next year. Part of what they demanded was a \$1 per hour wage, union security, a pension scheme, and a company investigation into environmental hazards that were causing asbestosis.



A report exposing the danger of asbestos-related disease was published in *Le Devoir* in January 1949 by investigative journalist Burton LeDoux. It was entitled “L’amiantose: un village de trois mille âmes étouffe dans la poussière, East Broughton.”

The article was printed in pamphlet format as well as the newspaper and circulated province-wide by unions. Many could read it and use the information provided as fuel to reinvigorate their fight for stricter safety regulations.

Union leaders set up a collective agreement negotiation based on this report, and workers later used the information contained within the report to insist on a “dust clause” that properly addressed the risks of asbestosis from harmful extraction processes.

Negotiations were deadlocked by early February. Both parties had to enter arbitration by law, and presented the Duplessis government an opportunity to use pro-business arbitrators to their benefit.

Against the advice of their union leaders, Jeffrey Mine workers gathered at the Saint-Aimé church on Feb. 13 and voted to go on strike. While the strikes used to negotiate in the past have been brief, LeDoux’s work had supplied fire to the workers. JM was not willing to compromise, and Jeffrey Mine workers were too desperate and informed in their push for stricter compliance in occupational safety.

The strike was illegal, as they were violating the *Loi sur les relations ouvrières* by not waiting for an arbitration board to be established before striking. Duplessis sent out the provincial police.

“Men
with no-
madic
drills are
busy all
the time
breaking
up the
larger
chunks
of rock.

— *J. Frank
Willis*

By requesting Duplessis send the police JM brought the focus of police and media on the violent potential of protestors and the need to control them, turning attention away from the point of the strike: the hazards to workers’ health.

On March 14, an explosion occurred on the railway track leading into the local processing plant, where JM had hired replacement workers during the strike and thereafter, a group of strikers abducted and beat up an official from JM.

Asbestos didn’t look like the usual quiet, small town it had been when the police intervention started during the strike. Police gathered to break picket lines and attacked strikers with tear gas and fired warning shots. It was on May 6, 1949 that heavily armed police stormed the town, arrested several men and severely beat them.

Several factors eventually spelled the end of the strike. JM was resilient in covering up and falsely reporting the safety of asbestos dust.

Moreover, as a result of the strike, workers had lost more than \$ 1.5 million in wages.

Throughout the second half of 1949, there were a series of arbitration meetings to settle the dispute and have both parties come to a solution on how to make the asbestos mining process safer.

While the JM company doctor Kenneth Smith and JM lawyer J. P. Woodard used evidence from studies to attempt to draw company attention towards the health hazards of asbestos, JM sought to hide the evidence.

The two sides agreed to a collective



Graphics Joey Bruce

Asbestos itself is now considered an outdated and extremely dangerous material when used in the insulation as a fireproof material.

One could say that asbestos now has a bleak existence. Once a world-class product used to protect and raise a healthy society, it is now known as a deadly monster responsible for the sickness and suffering of children, workers, and citizens alike.

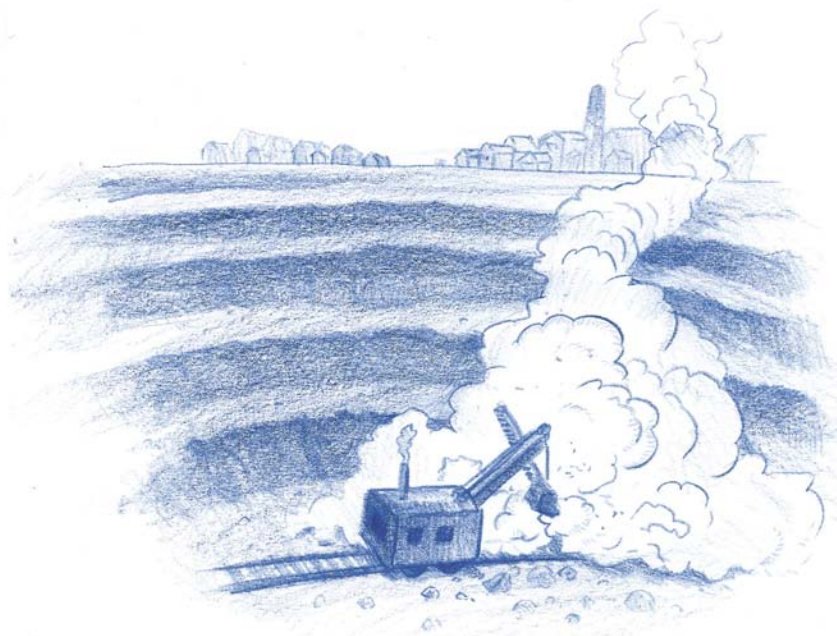
Whether a worker-driven initiative will see its intended political and societal changes come to fruition or not, it is an inalienable right to halt harmful corporations that hoard wealth and disregard the safety of their workers.

It is imperative to keep labour conditions in check and remind these corporations that workers will always be a central consideration in labour affairs. It is the most impactful move of the working class.

While the Asbestos Strike did not produce the intended result of a highly-unionized Quebec mining industry with proper workplace-health regulations and practices in place, it set a precedent for other union-driven movements and introduced public health as a key issue at the negotiation table of workplace standards.

Environmental health became the launch pad in which workers could up the ante in their struggle to improve their lives and lessen the risk of dangerous substances on themselves and their families.

Currently, the Jeffrey Mine is shut down, and the Canadian asbestos industry is abandoned.



The Epic Adventures of Every-Man by Every-Man @theepicadventuresofeveryman



Hastily Put Together! by Theo Radomski



THE LINK **Advertise With Us**

5,000 copies

150 distribution
points

Next issue November 5
Reserve by October 22



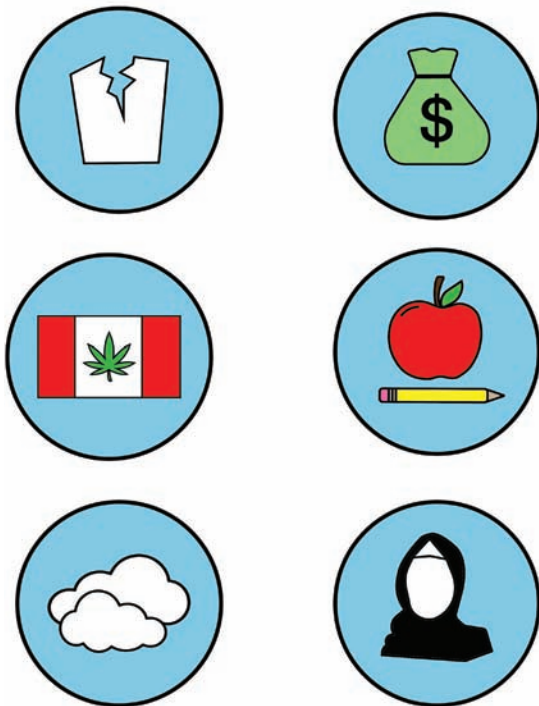
The Power Issue

The CAQ:

One Year Into Power

A Non-Exhaustive Analysis of the Provincial Government's Achievements Since Coming Into Power

Erika Morris @thingjpg



Whether you love them or hate them, François Legault's Coalition Avenir Québec is inching towards completing their first year in office. Their win effectively ended the decade-long pattern of alternating between Liberal and Parti Québécois governments, and they're the first right-wing party elected in the province since the Union Nationale in 1970.

In the midst of controversy around secularism and the tightening of immigration and cannabis laws, other plans seemed to have fallen through the cracks.

So, what has the CAQ actually accomplished since coming into power?



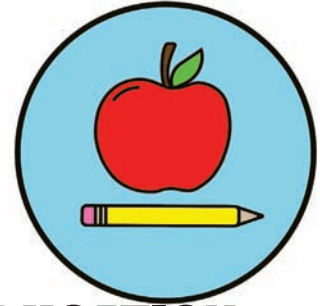
HEALTH

The provincial government's electoral platform had a plan to finally improve Quebec's underperforming health system. They promised to pour money into screening children under five years old for neurodevelopmental disorders, ensure every child has a family doctor, better access to care without appointments on weekends and evenings, more full-time nurses, and lower hospital parking fees. For seniors, they aim to enforce a mandatory two baths a week policy for seniors' homes and to double their meal budget.

As part of their health platform, the CAQ also promised to implement the most restrictive laws around cannabis in the country, bringing the legal age of consumption to 21 years old—while keeping alcohol and tobacco sales available to 18 year olds—and banning smoking marijuana in most public spaces. Legault pointed to studies suggesting cannabis use can harm the developing brain, but others—like Prime Minister Justin Trudeau—argue these laws would only push young people back into the arms of the black market, instead of giving them access to government-approved products.

When looking at the bills brought forward in the National Assembly, not many plans regarding the health sector seem to have been put in motion, but the CAQ has resumed its discussions around cannabis restrictions—known as Bill 2—in September. They plan on raising the legal age to possess and use recreational cannabis. They also plan on banning students from possessing any while on their campus. The law also prohibits smoking cannabis “on public roads, on the grounds of enclosed spaces where smoking is currently prohibited, subject to certain exceptions, as well as in all other outdoor places that are open to the public, like parks, playgrounds, sports grounds and the grounds of day camps,” says the bill. The prohibition against the Société québécoise du cannabis operating a cannabis retail outlet less than 250 metres from an educational institution will also be extended to all college and university-level institutions.

But, for now, 18-year-olds can still freely and legally light up as the bill is still in the works.



EDUCATION

Legault said he wanted to be known as the “education premier.” He campaigned on several ambitious plans, like offering free pre-kindergarten classes to all four-year-olds, regardless of their economic background, eliminating school boards, and ensuring elementary schools have two 20-minute recesses a day. He also promised to create service centres run by school directors, teachers, and parents, offer more resources to schools like more teachers, speech therapists, and psychologists as well as subjecting each school to be built in an architecture competition.

Offering pre-kindergarten to all four-year-olds is still in the works. Right now, as these classes are only offered for “underprivileged areas,” the CAQ decided to bridge the gap and make sure everyone can benefit from pre-kindergarten. He aims to free up as many as 50,000 spots in daycares. However, many schools say they don't have enough resources for this change and aren't confident such a radical change would be possible. Legault said he would resign if this plan failed.

On Sept. 13, Education Minister Jean-Francois Roberge released a report saying the English Montreal School Board was dysfunctional and should be stripped of all its powers, due to irregularities in how they handle contracts and major internal conflict. The *Montreal Gazette* reported that Legault said the report “has nothing to do with the reform that is proposed, but maybe it is an additional argument saying that there's something wrong.”

The CAQ's budget put aside \$4 billion over 10 years to renovate and build schools, with \$1 billion to go to the extension of pre-kindergarten. Smaller amounts will go to everything from special-needs screening to extracurricular activities, field trips, and eyeglasses for students.

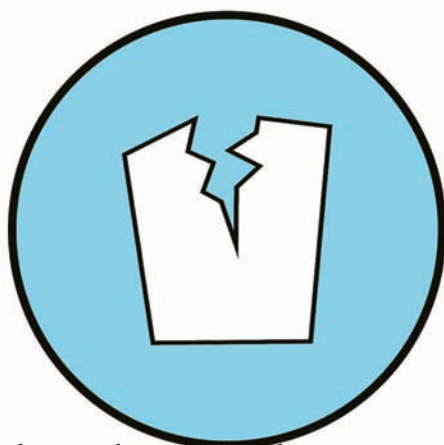
IDENTITY

Identity has always been at the core of Quebec values and politics. Quebecers are adamant about protecting the French language, and after years of talks of separating from Canada, the province clutches to its autonomy and desire to be recognized as a nation (though not a state). As well, the Quiet Revolution of the 60s—which brought the separation of the Catholic Church and government—cementing the value of secularism in the province’s collective consciousness.

The CAQ promised to pass a secularism law, limit immigration to “protect the French language,” to demand more autonomy from the federal government and to be recognized as a nation, more francization efforts, and to appoint a commissioner of French language.

One of the biggest and most controversial laws passed by the CAQ was a secularism law, formerly known as Bill 21, which effectively bars those wearing religious symbols from working in education or in the public sector, like judges or police officers. Supporters of the secularism law claim it’s important to have complete neutrality while being in positions of authority and representing the province. But, the bill also prompted massive outcries of xenophobia and sexism as Muslim women wearing the hijab seem to be targeted by the law.

School boards spoke out against the law—and some said they would refuse to enforce it—but with the threat of being abolished, the boards finally complied. There have been reports that Minister of Immigration, Diversity, and Inclusiveness Simon Jolin-Barrette plans to have his title changed to Minister of Immigration, Integration, and Francization, and there have been talks of Quebec ditching the notion of multiculturalism for interculturalism—which puts francophone culture at the centre while working to integrate minorities into a common culture. However, these talks are not new, and similar rhetorics have recently popped up in the European Union.



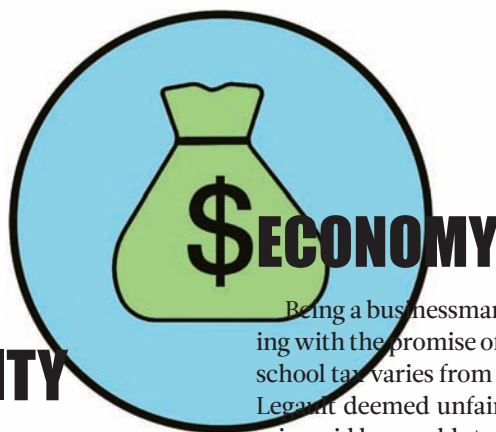
IMMIGRATION

Tensions surrounding immigration have been on the rise in the last few years—with the United States’ crackdown at their southern border being a prime example—and Quebec is not immune. A large part of the CAQ’s campaign was the promise to reduce immigration by 20 per cent a year, despite an increasingly alarming labour shortage in the province.

The CAQ also hopes to take over all immigration control from the federal government, impose values and language tests for all immigrants, and links immigrants’ permanent residency to their ability to pass such tests. However, the federal government would have to relinquish all control, which isn’t likely to happen. Legault wants to reduce immigration under the pretext of “taking in less immigrants but taking better care of those we do have.” To do this, the CAQ would double the amount of money dedicated to teaching French to newcomers and assisting them with integration, and the province will spend \$466 million on assistance for immigrants. Those who are struggling with the labour shortage have been critical of this plan.

At the same time as Jolin-Barrette was handling Bill 21, he also was overseeing Bill 9—a proposal to reduce immigration by 10,000 people a year. The bill was passed into law June 16, but no French or values test was included as many members of the National Assembly were scratching their heads on how these tests would be conducted. However, the province now has power to “accompany and verify” immigrants to assess their French skills and adherence to “democratic values,” though it’s unclear as to what this entails. Passing Bill 9 also meant shredding about 16,000 applications from hopeful immigrants, telling them to reapply in the new system. This is being contested in court by immigration lawyers. But, it seems the CAQ stayed true to their promise as Quebec accepted 40 per cent less immigrants in the first half of 2019. But, with business groups having implored the government to raise immigration to allow 60,000 immigrants a year due to labour shortages, these cuts run deep. And fewer French immigrants have come into Canada since the CAQ came into power. These changes seem counterintuitive to the spirit of Quebec’s immigration cuts—which Legault tried to justify by claiming that too many immigrants couldn’t find work and too few spoke French.





ENVIRONMENT+MOBILITY

The climate crisis seems to be on the mind of Canadians, with the federal government having declared a climate emergency and environmental issues put at the forefront of electoral discussions. Legault, however, had very few promises surrounding Quebec's fight against climate change during his campaign. He promised to export more "clean" hydro energy and to clean up the Saint Lawrence River.

So far, Hydro-Québec reported a surplus in electricity sales and have hiked up their prices outside the province, though they haven't necessarily been exporting more energy. An act pushing the government to comply with Quebec climate change-related obligations—like carbon emission limits—was introduced, but hasn't been revisited since February. Meanwhile, in November 2018, Montreal began massive sewage dumps into the Saint Lawrence River.

Everyone—especially Montrealers—knows being stuck in traffic just sucks. Part of Legault's platform was to invest \$10 billion in infrastructure to alleviate traffic in the next 10 years, build a tramway, extend the Réseau express métropolitain light-rail, and build an above-ground metro line in Montreal.

The Quebec City tramway is now fully funded by all three levels of government and the project is underway. The REM light-rail is also under construction. It includes a major line that runs from Deux-Montagnes to Montérégie, passing through downtown Montreal, and extending to the West Island and the Pierre Elliott Trudeau airport.

In March, the provincial government also adopted a plan to enable them to give more assistance and compensation to victims of disasters that threaten human safety—especially with flooding on the rise. These general compensation programs serve to improve the efficiency of compensation processes and allocate money for temporary housing, food, and clothes.



Being a businessman, Legault gained some footing with the promise of a booming economy. As the school tax varies from region to region, something Legault deemed unfair and problematic, the premier said he would standardize the tax at its lowest level in all regions. The CAQ also hopes to take over all income tax reports from the federal government and have Revenue Québec handle all taxes—which the federal government isn't likely to agree to—along with bringing high-speed internet and better cellular phone coverage around the province, and to create "innovation zones" for new technology and industries. To bring in extra revenue, the party also promised to export more hydro electricity to other Canadian provinces and the United States.

The CAQ came through on their school tax reduction promises, which homeowners will benefit from. Montreal's school tax used to be at \$0.17832 per \$100 of evaluation, and has been reduced to \$0.15035. It is set to fall to \$0.1054 in the next four years. The government promises to give back the losses back to school boards and Finance Minister Eric Girard said it would not impact the financing of school boards or the quality of education—but many working in education don't trust this.

The government released the province's fifth-straight balanced budget, with spending set at \$113 billion, 4.7 per cent more than the previous year. The budget shows increased spending on health and education, with plans to boost home care and seniors' homes, schools, pre-kindergarten, and more care for special needs kids—but specific plans remain ambiguous. There are also reductions in property tax rates and boosts in family allowances. Quebec's revenue is set to grow to \$116 billion, with the surplus going into the province's debt repayment fund. Legault's government also set aside \$1 billion to help keep SNC-Lavalin executives in Montreal following their corruption and bribery scandals in Libya. Despite the promising budget, Quebec's own-source revenue will only grow by 0.6 per cent in 2019–2020. In order to keep a balanced budget, the province will rely on an increase of 6.5 per cent in federal transfers, including a 12 per cent increase in equalization—the money Ottawa redistributes to poorer provinces.

Esther Calixte-Bea Addresses One of the Biggest Taboos: Female Body Hair

Self-Liberating Multimedia Project *Lavender* Is a Disruptive Celebration of the Authentic Female Body

Nanor Froudjian



Photo: Aysha White

On July 1, 2019, Esther Calixte-Bea's heart was beating out of her chest as she posted the first picture of her photo series on Instagram. Liberation had begun.

A handmade lavender dress, the combination of mesh and satin, exposed her chest hair; the morning sun kissed her skin. The response from her followers was unpredictable, which was distressing to say the least.

"I removed all my notifications, I turned [them] off so that I won't receive anything because I was so stressed. I was so scared [about] how people were going to react so I wasn't on it all day until night time."

Lavender was born out of Calixte-Bea's desire to let herself live freely without the constraints of unwanted constructs. She created a "self-liberating" project, as she described it, exposing her chest hair in a brave, poised way all while embracing her femininity.

Shocked reactions, admirative support, and ecstatic congratulations flooded her page @queen_esie. While some people unfollowed her page, Calixte-Bea explained that most of the comments were positive. With divided opinions, the controversy was apparent.

Dorothy Mombrun, a follower of Calixte-Bea's, was very supportive of *Lavender*—it led her to reflect on the constraints of imposed beauty standards.

"You being so unapologetic and proud of your body made me question my own perception of beauty and femininity," said Mombrun in a message to Calixte-Bea. "We

often forget to look at ourselves and our role in the perpetual policing of the female body."

"We internalize the expectations and impose it on others. When you posted your pictures, I realized how my first reflex was to think you should've kept the hair hidden. But after reflecting on it, I felt stupid for even thinking I had any say on what you should do with your body," she continued.

Many similar comments came from women who appreciated her bravery and ability to be so vulnerable.

Lavender was shared by Calixte-Bea's followers and exhibited in galleries as well as through online platforms.

Laetitia Duveau, co-founder of Berlin-based platform Curated by GIRLS, stated in an email, "Esther sent me her pictures and I was immediately blown away by her bravery and artistic talent! The way she is exposing her chest hair is very empowering! She is showing that body hair can be classy and beautiful. And that's very important!"

The online platform features the work of emerging artists, and said that it focuses on "female-identifying creators."

"As artists ourselves it was important," she said, referring to herself and her friend with whom she began the platform. "We all know how hard it can be to be heard [and/or] seen for young artists."

Colourful and uncensored, the projects featured on Curated by GIRLS showcase the value of diversity with a feminist approach. "We celebrate femininity in all its shapes,

forms and colours," said Duveau.

"The platform shows girls, womxn, and non-binary individuals from all over the world, emerging talents who, through diverse mediums like photography, graphic design, music, fashion, express their experience, feelings, and diverse visions, freely!" she continued.

Calixte-Bea's work fits with the general theme of expressing personal yet unconventional truths.

For her, the issue began in her early teenage years. She felt that her chest hair was a burden, an undesirable but undeniable part of her. "So when I was younger, I knew I had more hair than other girls."

Boys and girls in sixth grade couldn't shake the shocked expression off their faces when they found out that a girl...had...chest hair?

Despite trying to remove it many times and getting a bad skin reaction, Calixte-Bea said, "My body was just rejecting that, my body didn't want me to remove it. I never hated it, but obviously I didn't want it because I had never seen anyone else with that."

Through her paintings of Black women, Calixte-Bea told the stories she could not verbalize. The leading guideline of her work is beauty. "There's always that uniqueness in people that makes them beautiful, that's what I like seeing. And confidence especially," she said.

In museums and art exhibitions, she noticed that women's bodies are very often

Calixte-Bea's project accepts and celebrates the natural body through self exploration

painted with smooth and hairless skin.

Challenging that convention, she painted women with body hair such as those in her piece *Taboo: The Hairy Woman*, to normalize female body hair and change its usual negative perception.

Of course, the story was personal. It was obviously about her. But she kept denying it when asked.

"It was becoming really painful for me to always have to hide it," she said, explaining that it even affected her modeling gigs when she told designers to she wouldn't wear any clothes revealing her chest.

"I felt like that was stopping me from living in a sense, although it seemed so small, but it was really affecting me a lot. So I thought, 'How can I free myself?'"

Marrying the crafts of garment design, sewing, photography, and poetry, the one-woman production unveiled a burdensome secret.

"I really wanted to get a conversation started. I feel like it's one step but I had to really get out there and keep showing people that it is normal," she said.

The lavender dress, completed in her fibers class, was the first one she ever made.

"I struggled like crazy," she said, laughing. After carefully choosing the colour to capture the intended mood of her project, and the many trips to Fabricville before actually picking up the fabric, the dress came into being.

Equipped with a camera and tripod, Calixte-Bea went to a park near her house to take pictures on an early morning.

What would become *Lavender* took about three hours.

She posed in the grass and between trees, using her body language to convey the power and confidence of her message.

The project has inspired some of her followers to redefine their conceptions of attractiveness in relation to gender.

"I even questioned myself on why I thought chest hair attracted me in men but was not attractive on women," said Mombrun.

Calixte-Bea has stepped out without hiding her chest hair a few times already and intends on continuing to do so. Challenging current beauty norms, *Lavender* served as a vehicle to present an unexplored territory of feminine beauty.

Calixte-Bea acknowledges that modern societal trends supporting women empowerment influenced her decision to carry out this project, saying, "I feel like we're ready today."

"I want us to be able to live normally with that, because it is normal, in a society that has programmed us to think that it wasn't."

Courtesy Esther
Calixte-Bea


How Did **Your** Candidate Get Here?

Turns Out, Anyone Can Have Their Picture on a Plastic Sign

Olivier Cadotte @OlivierCadotte



Graphic Breea Kobernick and Photo Olivier Cadotte



It's federal election season in Canada! The time of year for about 8000 weird photo ops, awkward questions from family members about who you're voting for in October, and the almost literal overnight appearances of all those colourful plastic signs with the faces of the people running in the various ridings all over the country.

If you aren't familiar with Canadian politics, or need a refresher after following the Democratic party's nomination process in the States, here's a quick rundown: instead of voting for the Prime Minister directly, you vote for the candidate seeking election in your electoral district, more commonly known as a riding.

Ridings aren't always stable in their dimensions or the area they cover. They are usually revised based on the population of the area, as overseen by an independent commission for each province (as to avoid the problem of gerrymandering—the partisan redrawing of electoral districts—which is an omnipresent issue in the United States.)

The party who elects the most representatives wins the election, with the leader of the party usually named the Prime Minister. Interestingly enough, you don't need a majority government to win, just the most candidates, which leads to the almost always frustrating minority government.

Once the signs are up, a lot of people will probably have the same nagging thought at the back

It's easy to think that being a candidate requires notoriety, or a particular skill set, or even a basic background in politics of any kind. While that's not always untrue (more on that later), in reality, almost anyone can run to be a federal member of parliament.

of their head: "I have no idea who any of these people are."

How Did You Even Get Here?

It's easy to think being a candidate requires notoriety, or a particular skill set, or even a basic background in politics of any kind. While that's not always untrue (more on that later), in reality, almost anyone can run to be a federal member of parliament.

According to Elections Canada, to be eligible as a candidate in a federal election, you only need to be a Canadian citizen who is older than 18, and submit a nomination form—in which you need 100 people from the riding to consent for your running—either physically or online a mere 21 days before the election. You also have to be admissible under part 65 of the Canadian Elections Act. Inadmissible people include the incarcerated, provincial members of parliament, and election officers, to name a few.

It's a very simple process that allows a lot of people to run for office, which can lead to some goofy candidates. This includes my current personal favourite, the satirical Rhinoceros Party's Maxime Bernier, currently running in the riding of Beauce against

the leader of the People's Party of Canada, Maxime Bernier. His slogan? "If you're not sure, then vote for both!"

Even I, a 23-year-old university student, could run for office as an independent candidate in my home riding of Brossard-Saint-Lambert, as long as I filled out the form in time.

Now, here's the caveat on why that isn't exactly a great idea. First of all, I'd consider it a massive success if I got more than exactly two votes, and not just because not even my parents would vote for me. It's incredibly hard for anyone not running for one of the main parties to get elected.

Before the election, only eight of the 334 MPs sat as independents, and none of them were elected as such. Of course, I could try to run as a candidate for one of Canada's many different parties.

Did you think having the Liberals, Conservatives, New Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Bloc Québécois, and the People's Party of Canada was already a lot? There are actually 16 different registered parties as of May 2019! These parties include, to name a few, the aforementioned Rhinoceros Party, the Communist Party of Canada, the Alliance of the North—who are as much to the political right as their name implies—and the Marijuana Party.

But, these parties usually don't have candidates in every riding come election time. When they do run, they usually get a very small amount of votes. Same thing for independent candidates; not being

under the umbrella of one of the major parties can make it very difficult to get elected. Even candidates from the Bloc Québécois and the Green Party, two parties with name recognition, struggle to get elected.

There are a lot of possible reasons why being under a major political party's umbrella is usually advantageous for a candidate. For example, these parties have more money to run effective campaigns for their candidates. There is also the fact that some people vote for the party they want to win, as opposed to which candidate is running. Voters can get into an electoral rut of sorts, with attitudes like deciding that they've always voted for the same party in the past, so why change now?

That means these people might vote for anyone the party presents in their riding. This doesn't mean that parties don't try when selecting their candidates, but instead they can sometimes choose safer or more conventional candidates for stronger ridings. For ridings that are up for grabs, or ones where a party has been traditionally weaker, though, they'll bring out the big guns

A Star (Candidate) Is Born

Name recognition is one of the most important factors in a candidate's campaign success. For your average candidate, it can come either from being up for re-election, or by candidates putting themselves out there and making public appearances so as to gain name recognition. "Fortune favours those who stay busy and in the public eye for the four years between elections," says Paul Mason, a Dundas-based organizer of NDP campaigns.

In that sense, someone who the public at large already knows should have a big advantage in that department, right? That's exactly what the star candidate is supposed to be: someone who is already, politically or otherwise, known to the general public, or at least a large enough portion of the general public to make them theoretically electable.

The celebrity of a star candidate can vary. More often than not, they're some-

one who established themselves politically at another level of government. Former mayors, provincial elects, and even retired politicians asked to run one last time make up the vast majority of star candidates.

They are also often unknown to the vast majority of people outside their riding. Someone who lives in Rosemont will almost certainly not know who a star candidate running in Burnaby is, for example.

Other times, however, parties think outside the political box when choosing a star candidate, sometimes picking candidates with little or no prior political experience. Marc Garneau, the MP for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Westmount since 2008 and Minister of Transport since 2015, had no prior experience in politics before he joined the Liberal Party in 2006. What he did have, however, was name recognition.

Before his now decade long political career started, Garneau was an astronaut, and a famous one at that. He was the first Canadian to ever go to space, in 1984 aboard the Challenger space shuttle, and was also the president of the Canadian Space Agency from 2001 to 2006. He would go on to win his riding in 2008, and has since been reelected twice.

A few of the star candidates running in the 2019 election include Angelo Esposito—no relation to hockey legends Phil and Tony—running for the Conservatives in Laval's Alfred-Pellan riding. He's best known for being taken twentieth overall in the 2007 NHL draft by the Pittsburgh Penguins, then proceeding to play zero regular season NHL games.

Steven Guilbeault, an environmental activist and one of the founders of *Equiterre*—a non-profit community agricultural organization—will run for the Liberals in Laurier Sainte-Marie. Réjean Hébert, who was the provincial Minister of Health and Social Services in Pauline Marois' Parti Québécois government from 2012 to 2014, will run for the Liberal party in Longueuil-Saint-Hubert.

With the varying competency of star candidates, being able to run in basically any riding you want as long as you fill the conditions, and the vast difference between the impact an MP has on their community versus the impact the winning party has on the country as a whole, is the current system working as intended? Is it giving us the option to vote for the best possible

candidates, just the most convenient, or most popular at the lowest denominator level? These are questions Western-style democracies, not just Canada, need to answer.

So no matter who you end up voting for in October, remember this: just because someone is running in your riding, doesn't mean that they have any political experience, or celebrity, or even a real platform. It's easy to look at the party figureheads and think of voting in the big picture, but remember to think about the little picture too, in this case the pictures of the candidates that have now popped up in your neighbourhood.



Graphic Zoe Gelfant

A Canadian Election Survival Guide

Still Confused About How, When, Where, and Who to Vote for? We've Got You Covered.

Caitlin Yardley
Elias Grigoriadis @eligrigoriadis

The federal elections are just around the corner and so is all the stress that comes every four years. Not only do you have to choose the right candidate for you, but how do you even cast a ballot anyway? There are lots of simple steps needed to make sure you'll get to exercise your democratic right.

Why Am I voting?

That is always one of the first questions to leave the mouth of those skeptical of the voting process. "One vote won't change anything." "What's the point when all the candidates suck?" These and hundreds of other similar statements are not uncommon among young voters.

For some Concordia students like Building Engineering major Louis Rivest, the process of finding which candidate to choose to run Canada for the next four years is the toughest.

"I'd say the lead up to the vote is much harder than anything else. It's finding out who you want to vote for that's tough and then doing it isn't so bad," said Rivest.

For all those intimidated by the time it takes to make an educated decision on who to vote for, there are several

resources available to understand which candidate you prefer from 15 political parties registered for the election cycle. The quickest among them are the online quizzes which ask for your opinion on a variety of topics and then match you to a candidate, like a sort of political dating app.

The CBC has an extensive one that not only places you on a political chart, but shows you to what percentage you agree with the six national parties vying for your vote.

Immigration, climate, health, and religious freedoms are all hot topics being debated this cycle. Take time to decide which is most important to you and see what the candidates have to say.

Rivest also shares that it can be hard

to care about politics at times stating "It's hard to care when everything is going well, and it's hard to want to get involved when you actually have to put effort, and put in your own research, and spend time that could be used either studying, or partying, or whatever you want. It takes time to be informed, and it takes time to make a smart, educated decision so it's easier just not to make one."

The Registration Process

Elections Canada has made strides to ensure that registering to vote ahead of time became significantly easier. The Voter Registration section at elections.ca outlines the different ways to make sure you get no nasty surprises when you show up to your polling location.



You can also mail in your registration to Elections Canada, or go through their section on your yearly tax return. Three weeks before the election, you'll receive a new voter information card with all the details and reminders to have the appropriate paperwork before you leave for the polls.

If you didn't register ahead of time, do not worry. Voter registration is available at your polling station the day you go to vote. It will take longer to get into the booth, but it's a reliable safety net if you don't have an early registration card.

Your polling station will also be available on the same website where you can find out exactly when you can come to both advanced polling as well as on Election Day.

If taking these steps are still too intimidating, Rivest has one last piece of advice. "[Finding out how to register] is a very small sacrifice to make just to be able to vote. I think it's worth it personally. It depends on how invested you are in politics and what you want, but if you have the slightest interest or if you care in the slightest I think it's easy enough that it's worth it."

What If I Don't Live Anywhere Near My Riding?

Given that Concordia had just under 4,000 Canadian students who were not born in Quebec last year, a lot of them intend to vote for the candidates in their riding back home. Since not everyone has the resources or the time to go all the way back to their hometown to cast a vote in person which is why Elections Canada lets you vote by mail.

The deadline to apply is Oct. 15 at 6 p.m. You can do so either online at the Elections Canada website or in person at any of their offices across the country. Once you're registered, you will receive a special voting kit with all the information needed including how to properly fill your ballot out and where to send it.

You have to submit your ballot before Election Day since it must arrive in Ottawa

"Algorithms and platforms prioritize high-engagement posts, so disinformation posts are trying to elicit a strong emotional reaction from you,"

— Caro Loutfi

by Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

How to Find Help

But, going out there in the world of election paperwork and endless bureaucracy can be daunting, to say the least. Without any experience or people to guide new voters, a lot of mistakes or oversights could take place.

Apathy is Boring is one of the hundreds of Canadian non-partisan organizations that are part of a national effort to improve turnout amongst voters aged 18 to 34.

"We're running our largest ever non-partisan get out the vote campaign for this upcoming Federal Election," said Executive Director Caro Loutfi. "We've also co-launched the Canadian Vote Coalition, which is a group of over 500 organizations and young leaders working to mobilize their communities ahead of the election."

While this may not be the American election, widespread voter misinformation is still very common through social media. Loutfi and the rest of her team have set up multiple ways to counteract that such as reverse Google searches, and the manipulation of sites like Facebook and Youtube in order to see less purposely misleading information.

Make Sure Nobody's Lying to You

One of the more dangerous misinformation campaigns isn't even one trying to get you to vote for a specific candidate—it's trying to stop you from voting altogether. There are posts on social media trying to trick voters into not having the right paperwork.

"Algorithms and platforms prioritize high-engagement posts, so disinformation posts are trying to elicit a strong emotional reaction from you," said Loutfi. "[Misinformation] creates echo chambers that reinforce existing values and perspectives, increasing polarization online, and can spread disinformation."

According to Elections Canada, there are three ways of verifying who you are once you get to your polling station. Your first option is showing either your driver's license or any government-issued card that has your photograph, your name, and your address.

Another option is two pieces of identification that both have your name from a comprehensive list that can be found on their website. Documents like your voter identification card, a bank statement, or a student card are accepted so long as at least one of them has your address.

If those two options aren't available, do not worry. You can declare your iden-



tity by submitting your name and address in writing along with another person who is assigned to the same polling station as you.

Get Involved

Apathy is Boring will spend the entirety of the campaigning period that runs from Sept. 11 until Election Day on Oct. 24 holding online and in-person events. Through this, they're hoping to increase involvement from youth voters and build on the momentum that saw an 18 per cent increase in voters aged 18 to 24 during the last election.

"The digital campaign is about providing resources and tools to help youth get informed ahead of the election," said Loutfi. "We cover everything from how our voting system works, to how to navigate disinformation online."

When it comes to their work in person, Loutfi will be working

with the rest of the Canadian Vote Coalition in order to go out and meet potential voters rather than waiting for them to come.

"Our ground game involves volunteer-led street teams, going to festivals and concerts, asking youth to vote," said Loutfi. "We're also doing community events, table topics—where we send you a box of free food with a democracy menu to talk about the election with your friends—and election viewing parties, among other activities."

When asked if there was a single piece of advice she could give every young voter, Loutfi asked that everyone vote with their conscience and encourage others to do the same.

"Ensure your voice and the issues you care about are heard this election by showing up on election day to vote. And, encourage one of your less-engaged friends to do the same."

There are still a few weeks before the fate of Canada's next four

MASTHEAD	Ireland Compton Aysha White Olivier Cadotte Dustin Kagan-Fleming OPEN Erika Morris Nanor Froundjian Victoria Lamas Elias Grigoriadis John Nagala April Tardif	editor-in-chief creative director coordinating editor managing editor co-news editor co-news editor current affairs editor fringe arts editor fringe arts online editor sports editor sports online editor opinions editor copy editor photo editor video editor graphics editor business manager distribution system administrator
	Levesque Aysha White/Dustin Kagan-Fleming Caitlin Yardley Breea Kobernick Rachel Boucher Guy Landry	
CONTRIBUTORS	Marcus Bankuti Joey Bruce Samantha Candido Paulina Dominguez Carina Dumais Zoe Gelfant Mila Gizli Jessica Lee	Chris Michaud Paul Newcombe Elizabeth Pinault Theo Ramdomski Bree Rockbrand Sheida Shamloo Carolyn Tran
COVER	Paul Newcombe	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Tristan D'Amours Vince Morello Alexander Perez Savannah Stewart	voting members
	Laura Beeston Rachel Boucher Ireland Compton	non-voting members
TYPESETTING	The Link Hebdo-Litho	

The Link is published every month during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and student associations (ECA, CASA, ASFA, FASA, CSU, AVEQ). Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *The Link*'s constitution. Any student is welcome to work on *The Link* and become a voting staff member.

Material appearing in *The Link* may not be reproduced without prior written permission from *The Link*.

Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters 400 words or less will be published, space permitting. The letters deadline is Fridays at 4:00 p.m. *The Link* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length and refuse those deemed racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, libellous, or otherwise contrary to *The Link*'s statement of principles.

The Link acknowledges our location on unceded Indigenous land. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of these lands and waters. Tiohtiá:ke is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations.

Volume 40, Issue 2
Tuesday, October 1, 2019

The Link office:
Concordia University
Hall Building, Room H-649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8
Editor: 514-848-2424 x. 7407
Arts: 514-848-2424 x. 5813
News: 514-848-2424 x. 8682
Business: 514-848-7406
Advertising: 514-848-7406



**Start Your
Job Search!**

JOB SEEKERS

Looking for a career? ↘

- › Free employment counselling
- › Professional development workshops
- › Résumé writing and mock interviews
- › French for job seekers and Chit Chat language exchange
- › Career mentorships
- › Networking events and more...



**Start or
Grow Your
Business!**

ENTREPRENEURS

*create your own job
by starting a business! ↙*

- › Workshops on starting your own business
- › Access to financing
- › Business coaching services
- › Legal and accounting clinics
- › Webinars and online services
- › Networking activities and more...



**Earn a
Living from
Your Art!**

ARTISTS

*Turn your artistic practice
into a business! ↘*

- › Artist coaching services
- › Business skills workshops
- › Artists Conferences and events
- › Grants and loans information
- › Webinars and online services
- › Networking activities and more...

Successful futures start with YES.
Most services are **FREE** and many
services are also available online.

yesmontreal.ca
514-878-9788



YES is a not-for-profit organization

 **666 Sherbrooke W. Suite 700**
Montreal, QC H3A 1E7

Our centre is open, **free of charge**,
Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Funded in part by:



BIENVENUE SUR VOTRE PISTE DE DANSE !

LES MARDIS RÉTRO

LES CHANSONS CULTE DES ANNÉES 50 À L'AN 2000

TOUS LES MARDIS

LES JEUDIS THROWBACK 2000

LES HITS DES 25 DERNIÈRES ANNÉES

TOUS LES JEUDIS

LES WEEK-ENDS X-LARGES

LA MUSIQUE D'AUJOUR'HUI

TOUS LES VENDREDIS ET SAMEDIS

CAFÉ CAMPUS

BOÎTE DE NUIT • SALLE DE SPECTACLE

• DEPUIS 1967 •



**CAFECAMPUS
MONTREAL**

57 PRINCE-ARTHUR E. MTL



**SHERBROOKE
SAINT-LAURENT**