

March 30, 2017

To members of The Link Publication Society, the Concordia University community and whomever this may concern,

My name is Matt D'Amours, and I've been a part of The Link's family since 2014, filling a series of unconventional and unexpected roles along the way. It all started when I pitched the idea for a news podcast to former current affairs editor Verity Stevenson, and got an eventual green light from former editor-in-chief — and fellow board member — Brandon Johnston. As the anti-austerity movement in Quebec took to the streets in the spring of 2015, so did I, along with many other contributors and editors, and The Link came to be known as one of the go-to sources of live and online coverage of what went down.

In many ways, that period encapsulates one of the many things that makes The Link great: a willingness to go after stories that matter, and the capacity to tell them in innovative and evolving ways.

This year, as of March 21st, The Link had 143 contributors who made 459 contributions, excluding work done by members of our masthead.

Also, at The Link, we do our best to contribute to the knowledge and development of our writers and editors too. In that spirit, we had the joy and privilege of hosting some incredible talent as guest editors and workshop lecturers this year. Huge thanks are in order to everyone among them, including: Emilee Guevara, Savannah Scott, Nick Younès, Sydney Anna, Jonathan Montpetit, Adam Kovac, Andrea Bennett, Verity Stevenson. Christopher Curtis and Clement Liu.

In addition, The Link has come a long way in delivering news content on social media platforms, which has contributed to our growing digital audience. The same can be said for the newly resurrected *Download* podcast, which I started in 2014, and which will no doubt flourish in these new, capable hands.

I'd like to conclude by taking a moment to talk, not about the year behind us, but the year ahead — and the many, many years to come. Much of the work undertaken by The Link's masthead and board of directors in recent months has focused on the future, and how our publication will adapt to it.

This publication society has always thrived when, in the face of new challenges and possibilities, we have said “yes”, and then “hell yes”, and shown this campus — this city — what we can do. The shifts to web content, video, podcasting and live streaming weren't easy ones, but over time,

they served as the perfect canvases for the talent that The Link has always attracted. We hope the coming change to a online daily and magazine format will do the same.

It's customary for board presidents to finish these letters off with anecdotes, analogies or metaphors about the state of journalism. This year, I'd like to offer a simple truth about what The Link and its supporters are made of.

I've had the enormous privilege in the last few months to land a position as a reporter for CBC Montreal. In this short time, I've been able to confirm something that I had always suspected: you can't throw a CP Style Guide in a newsroom or high-profile news event without hitting a former member of The Link. The work we've done here — and the work you'll continue to do — is laying the groundwork for the future of Canadian journalism.

Go get em'.

Matt D'Amours, President, TLPS