

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

My name is Matt D'Amours, and I'm a graduate of Concordia's journalism program, as well as a member of The Link — in one form or another — since 2014. This is the second, and last, president's report I'm delivering to you all, and I find it difficult on such an occasion not to feel nostalgic.

My first interaction with The Link was during a first-year orientation session for journalism students, where the university's various publications and media outlets seek out new blood, with promises of glamorous editorial positions and, of course, free swag. I was immediately drawn to the Link, and started making connections with the people on masthead — some of whom I've had the privilege of working with all the way to the CBC Montreal newsroom.

What always attracted me to The Link was this publication's dedication to pushing boundaries, taking chances, and carving out its own space in the field of journalism. About a year ago, we were on the verge of a major change here: a complete shift in the way we deliver and present the news that matters to the students and staff at Concordia, and indeed, to the city of Montreal.

Some people lamented the loss of The Link as a newspaper — a feeling that, like many of you, I understood. But I didn't doubt for an instant that the magazine would be a success. I had an unwavering faith in the talent, dedication and vision of the people who make up The Link.

And y'all delivered.

Thanks to stellar work from masthead, and the 125 people who made 391 contributions as of March 13th, The Link exceeded every hope and expectation I had for this first year within the new format — and I know I'm not alone. The word of mouth I've encountered about The Link's transition has been unanimous in its praise, and people are taking notice of what's going on here.

Of course, I'd like to express my gratitude to the workshop lecturers who took the time to share their wisdom, and helped make The Link a place where important knowledge is shared and applied to the journalistic pursuit. Many thanks to all of you, including: Frank Lopez, Shayna Hadley, Isabel Macdonald, Jean Gounelle, my boss Helen Evans, Paul Graif, Jessica Deer,

Daniel J. Rowe, Aaron Lakoff and Nora Loreto. And thanks as well to the members of masthead who organized their own workshops throughout the year.

And I'd like to extend special thanks to the person who captained this ship through choppy waters, and helped make the new and improved publication so special: editor-in-chief Kelsey Litwin.

I must admit that today is bittersweet for me. While I'm filled with enthusiasm and excitement for the future of this publication, I know that my part in it will change. This will be the first time in 4 years that I won't have any official connection to The Link, as a contributor, staff member, board member or board president.

But that doesn't mean a part of me won't remain here. Sitting in this office with you now, I'm reminded of moments spent here that will stay with me forever: pitching a Link news podcast to former EIC Brandon Johnston; recording segments for said podcast with former sports editor Julian McKenzie; discussing story ideas with another former EIC, Michelle Pucci.

And those moments are more than just cherished memories; they're part of an invaluable learning experience that continues to inform my work to this day. So I'll leave you with this advice: every once in a while, take the time to soak all of this in. Take the time to appreciate your colleagues; to look at your work with a critical eye, and think of ways to do better; and to remember what it means to be a member of The Link's extended family, which spans decades and has members in newsrooms all across the country.

And most of all, remember to take chances, because there's no better place to do it than here.

Best Wishes,

Matt D'Amours, President, TLPS

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