

**THE  
COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY  
RESEARCH EXCHANGE  
(CURE CONCORDIA)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



**2018-2019**



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## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

CURE Concordia acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka people. The Kanien'kehá:ka are the keepers of the Eastern Door of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The island we call Montreal, called Tiotia:ke in the language of the Kanien'kehá:ka, has historically been a meeting place for other Indigenous nations, including the Algonquin peoples. CURE Concordia believes it is not enough to just acknowledge the keepers of this land. We encourage everyone to get informed and educated, and to actively resist colonialism and neocolonialism in the many forms it takes, and in the diversity of forms that resistance can take too.

## **OUR MANDATE**

The work of CURE is rooted in an anti-oppression analysis and a community-driven social justice research model that seeks to:

1. Give community organizations, specifically those experiencing social and economic marginalization, access to the knowledge and resources circulating in the academic sphere;
2. Facilitate productive, mutually transformative interactions between students and activists that redefine the boundary between universities and the communities that surround them;
3. Broaden the kind of academic work that is available to students; CURE strives to avoid the pitfalls associated with academic research, specifically with academic research that objectifies community organizing and activism. Co-optation of grassroots knowledge and movements by the academic sphere is a widespread occurrence and CURE aims to avoid this by taking direction from community organizations to define and have autonomy over their research needs.

# HISTORY

## 2007 – 2015

CURE began as a project of QPIRG Concordia and later became a collaboration with QPIRG McGill. CURE existed on Concordia campus as a cure project of QPIRG Concordia from 2007-2015.

## 2015 - 2016

CURE Concordia was awarded an 8-cents-per-credit fee levy, making us an independent and separately incorporated organization from QPIRG Concordia. In this year, our two initial co-directors Alex Heggie and Cassie Smith were hired, expanding the reach of CURE's work.

## 2016-2017

CURE worked on research projects with several groups including HOJO, the CSU, l'Anneau Poetique, le Projet Accompagnement Solidarité Colombie, Solidarity Across Borders and a coalition of community organizations in Pointe Saint-Charles.

## 2017-2018

- Hiring Hellan Said, a student employee to manage and grow our social media platforms.
- Hiring Jodie-Ann Muckler as Co-Director after saying goodbye to Cassie Smith, to continue developing and expanding the organization.
- Developing the Frigo-Vert project, where a student conducted research to identify their organic food suppliers to create visuals that promote them, as well as educate the public.
- Developing a project on shelters with McGill Social Work students. It consisted of contacting shelters in Montreal to understand their policies with regards to supporting people who are undocumented and/or living with precarious status in order to develop an informational resource for marginalized folks seeking services at shelters.
- Developing the Pointe-Saint-Charles Fighting Gentrification project, where we worked with students and activists conducting database research to protect low-income housing in the rapidly-gentrifying neighbourhood of Pointe-Saint-Charles.

- Developed a new research process, where student researchers work on a project over the course of a semester, allowing more space to give support to students, as well as more time to meaningfully engage with communities.
- Receiving a CCSL (Concordia Council on Student Life) grant to develop our workshop series called Research Skills to Break the Ivory Tower. We thank them for their support.

## **Report from the staff and board: Highlights of the 2018-2019 year**

- Receiving a CCSL grant to host our event Healing Through Generations: BIPOC Mental Health. It was a panel discussion where racialised mental health workers discussed their experiences working in the field and a racialised student shared her experiences with mental health support at Concordia and in her community. We thank CCSL for their support.
- Receiving funding from the CGA (Centre for Gender Advocacy) and partnering with them on this event as part of their Thick Skin event series. We thank the CGA for their generous support.
- Receiving funding from SAF (Sustainability Action Fund), and the CUAA (Concordia University Alumni Association) to develop a website listing mental health professionals of colour to increase the accessibility of mental health support to racialised communities. This website is based off of a static Tumblr page created by Jodie-Ann in collaboration with Project10. We thank them for their generous support! We could not have done this work without them.
- Beginning the development of this website with the support of racialised mental health professionals and other community partners.
- Receiving a grant from the CSU BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Colour) Committee to develop a survey distributed amongst Concordia students and community members to gain an understanding of their experiences surrounding mental health. We used the results from this survey to inform our development of the website. Thank you, CSU BIPOC Committee!
- Hosting the workshops Asking Effective Questions in Community Research, Alternative Sources: Amplifying Voice and Validating Grassroots Knowledge in Research and Stats, Surveys and Numbers in Community Work as part of our workshop series on research skills.
- Completing the first phase of our anti-gentrification project with organizations in Pointe Saint-Charles, consisting of database research to determine the tactics used by developers in the area.



- Completing the second phase of the anti-gentrification project where we conducted focus groups with past and present residents of the Pointe to gain an understanding of their personal experiences of gentrification.
- Beginning the development of the research process with Gabriella, the owner of the Racines bookstore in Montreal-North. We are currently working with her and a group of students to gain an understanding of and help create space for the stories of racialised people who were involved in the Maple Spring protests in 2012.
- Receiving the Experiential Learning grant from Concordia's new Experiential Learning office to support this oral history project. We are very grateful for their support!
- Hiring Sareema Husain as our new Campus-Community Outreach Assistant! We are super excited to welcome her to the team.
- Having one of our Co-Directors Alex facilitate a workshop called Radical Research - Undoing Academic Exploitation in Research with OPIRG Toronto, APIRG, RPIRG and a facilitator from Jane Finch Action Against Poverty.

## **Financial Outlook**

CURE Concordia begins its year in strong fiscal health. We hold positive balances in our accounts, carry no debt, and carry a substantial operating surplus into our new fiscal year.

CURE carried a small deficit of 7266 dollars this fiscal year. However this deficit was a planned draw-down of our previous operating surplus of 18,911 – we chose to spend a portion of our accumulated surplus on two goals. First, about \$3500 was invested in on-boarding of our new co-director Jodie-Ann Muckler, during which period we briefly held three rather than two permanent staff – our current staffing is stable and so this one-time situation will not recur this fiscal year.

Secondly, the balance of our increased spending was directed towards new program creation, specifically our mental-health focus and web-development project. Beyond serving a pressing community need, this investment has allowed us to develop a new area of expertise that is of great interest to funders, which will allow us to increase our budget surplus in years to come. This year we secured over \$14,000 in co-development commitments from on-campus sources, our best year ever.

Careful saving over the first three years of our existence left us well prepared to spend for this new opportunity while continuing to carry an operating surplus of \$11,685 into fiscal 2019-2020, fully 19% of our annual fee levy

### **Medium-Term Goal: Balance Fee Levy With External Sources**

Our goal for the coming fiscal year is to balance for the first year our fee levy revenue with external grant revenue. Having a second stable source of funding that equals our fee levy will allow us to provide a consistently high level of service to students and to community members through any possible reduction in the fee levy revenue, for example from reduced enrollment in a period of recession.

With our new program development tracks, and with our proven grant-writing skills, we are targeting \$95,000 in off-campus funding over the first three months of 2019.

## Draft Financial Statements

### Unaudited Profit & Loss Statement: September 2018 – August 2019

#### income

student fees	60449.98
project grants	2620
employment grants	6191.2
	69261.18

#### employee expenses

permanent staff pay and benefits	47455.31
student employee pay and benefits	10059.42
grant and contract staff pay and benefits	578.95
source deductions all staff	12998.11
	71091.79

#### operational costs

computer and smal equipment purchases	626.69
printing, postage, and office supplies	625.73
student bad debt expense	242.38
government fees	226.7
bank charges	50.1
petty cash	450
other operational costs	1371.11
	3592.71

#### program costs

board, community, other meetings costs	438.4
advertising and promotions	1074.1
training costs	180.33
other program costs	110
	1802.83

69261.18

76487.33

total	-7226.15
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previous years' surplus	18911.71
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total operating surplus	11685.56
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## Draft Budget 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

	BUDGET 2018	NOTES
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>CORE REVENUE</b>		
Undergraduate Fee Levy	60,500	
<b>Total Core Revenue</b>	<b>60,500</b>	
<b>EMPLOYMENT GRANTS</b>		
Canada Summer Jobs (HRDC)	3,881	
Young Canada Works	2,000	
Workstudy	6,500	
<b>Total Employment Grants</b>	<b>12,381</b>	
<b>PROJECT GRANTS</b>		
On-Campus Grants	15,000	
Government Grants	55,000	
Private Foundation Grants	25,000	
<b>Total Project Grants</b>	<b>95,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>167,881</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>PAYROLL &amp; EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSES</b>		
Payroll & Benefits Permanent Staff	47,500	Gross pay including 4% vacation
Payroll & Benefits Contract Staff	16,000	
Source Deductions	12,000	
<b>Total Payroll &amp; Employee Benefits Expenses</b>	<b>75,500</b>	
<b>PROJECT EXPENSES</b>		
board, community, other meetings costs	1,250	
Advertising and Promotions	2,000	
Training Costs	300	
Program Development	45,000	
Accessibility	850	
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>49,400</b>	
<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>		

Computer and Small Equipment Purchases	850	
Printing, Postage, and office supplies	650	
student bad debt expense	250	
government fees	250	
bank charges	50	
petty cash	450	
other operational costs	2500	
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>5,000</b>	
<b>STAFF &amp; BoD DEVELOPMENT</b>		
AGM	250	
Staff Training	900	
Staff Expenses	450	
BoD Training	600	
<b>Total Staff &amp; BoD Development</b>	<b>2,200</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>132,100</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>167,881</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>132,100</b>	
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>35,781</b>	

## On-Campus Funders

CURE Concordia was proud this year to apply for and receive funding for our campus initiatives from the following campus partners. It means the world to us at CURE to operate on a campus that recognises the value of working in partnership and community

**Note:** because many on-campus funders operate by spending their own money at the direction of a fundee, rather than direct granting, not all of this money flows through CURE's accounts directly, and thus is not all reflected in the profit and loss statement above, which concerns only accounts CURE directly operates.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Concordia Council on Student Life	875
Centre for Gender Advocacy	1,200
CSU BIPOC Fund	1,000
Concordia University Alumni Association	200
Concordia Experiential Learning Office	2,000
Sustainability Action Fund	9,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,875</b>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CURE Concordia would like to extend our sincerest thanks to folks who have contributed to our organization over the past year, including but not limited to:

### **Members of our board of directors**

Chelsea Obodoechina, Alina Murad, Chris Lechkobit-Carpenter, Jahlani Knorren, Melissa Lormil, Elijah Herron and Hannah Radziewicz

### **Cure Concordia staff**

Cassie Smith, Alex Heggie, Jodie-Ann Muckler, Hellan Said and Sareema Husain.

**And all student and community volunteers, both past and present who have worked with us on events, collaborated on CURE projects or generally supported a social-justice oriented, grassroots vision of research and knowledge production...**

