



# Activity report 2019

## The Peace Network: 21 members and 12 friends

- » 14 philanthropic foundations
- » 5 corporate members
- » 2 institutional members
- » 12 friends of Network

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## Board of Directors

- » Brian Bronfman, President
- » Dino Grifo, Vice-president & Secretary
- » Robert Kleinman, Treasurer
- » André Comeau, Director
- » Marcia Wetherup, Director

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*Program coordinator + administration and finance*

*Core mandate: Peace Promotion, networking and governance*

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*Core mandate: Diversity and inclusion*

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*Core mandate: Promotion of social harmony and prevention of racism*

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# Theme: Promotion of Diversity

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

On January 21, the City of Montreal celebrated Martin Luther King Day through a collaborative activity with *Youth in Motion* and the *Peace Network for Social Harmony*. The theme for this 16th edition of MLK Day was, "What Do Rights Mean to Me?" The topic was discussed by a panel of young people from diverse backgrounds. *Peace Network* Vice-President, Dino Grifo, also delivered a speech emphasizing the importance of fairness and equality across cultures, and the power of love as a tool for peace. To this end, he cited the following quote from the late Dr. King: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hatred, only love can do that." The event ended with a networking opportunity, encouraging people to connect in their pursuit of peace through joint action.



Credit : ville de Montréal, Sylvain Légaré



## MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK (MAW)

In commemoration of the deadly attack at the Great Mosque of Quebec City, which occurred on January 29, 2017, Ehab Lotayef, an engineer at McGill University, along with several of his colleagues, decided to create a week of action geared to the greater understanding of the Muslim community. From January 25 to 31, 2019, a multitude of activities took place to raise awareness among Quebecers about the lives of their Muslim co-citizens. The *Network* was one of the participating organizations charged with coordinating events, including the mounting of the "Quebecer and Muslim: What Does the Future

Hold?" photo exhibit at the McGill Library, organized in conjunction with the *Centre Justice et Foi*. *Peace Network* president Brian Bronfman also participated in the January 23rd press conference that publicly announced the week of activities, delivering a speech centered on the importance of diversity and inclusion.

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1593919>

## ACTION WEEK AGAINST RACISM

2019 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Action Week Against Racism (AWAR), which is a week to emphasize the importance of providing equal opportunities to all Quebecers. Under the theme of "Getting to Better Know the Past," the initiative provided a platform for a multitude of actions and activities, all of which were listed on the AWAR website. The initiative takes place annually in the context of the March 21<sup>st</sup> UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, whose goals unfortunately remain highly relevant and necessary today. The *Peace Network* is proud to be among the partners involved in promoting this crucial week for the development of a more just, equitable and harmonious society.





## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE

The International Day of Living Together in Peace, which takes place every May 16<sup>th</sup>, was introduced by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017. According to the UNGA, this day represents "[...] a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony."

This year, the *Peace Network* worked to highlight this unique day by participating in the development and implementation of collective initiatives from early May to mid-June. Here are some key partners with whom the *Network* collaborated in promoting a society that lives together in peace: *Femmes Internationales Murs Brisés Canada*, *Café Floraison*, *Artistes pour la Paix*, *ATSA Quand l'Art passe à l'Action*.

### More than 100 students show their commitment to peace

Nearly 140 individuals, including approximately a hundred students from three different schools, gathered at *Dawson College* on May 14 to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Ambassadors of Non-Violence. The event was organized by the *Academy of Nonviolence*, which is the training centre for *Femmes internationales murs brisés (FIMB)*, a global organization that is active in 105 countries. The *Peace Network* was one of several partners lending support to this initiative, which helped build bridges between students of different ages and cultural backgrounds, all of whom shared a commitment to non-violence. The main objective of the event was to create a joint "Manifesto for living together in peace" – a gesture intended to establish the underpinnings for a better world. Participating students all took part in a series of Chindai® workshops and in turn undertook to give short workshops in their classes at school, Chindai being a martial art that acts as a tool for non-violent behaviour and communication.



Credit : FIMB © - Catherine Béreaneck & Gilles Pilette



From left to right: Brian Bronfman, André Michel, passed president of Artists For Peace and Dino Grifo

## Peace Creators 2019

Les *Artistes pour la Paix*, an NGO whose mission is to promote peace through the arts, used its "Peace Creators" initiative to engage some 80 Quebec artists in the creation of artworks with a peace theme. These works were gathered and curated into an impressive exhibition at Montreal's *Écomusée du fier monde* and presented from May 29 to June 16, 2019. The undertaking involved the collaboration of multiple partners, including the *Écomusée du fier monde*, *Artistes Pour La Paix*, the *Peace Network Social Harmony*, the *Mont-Saint-Hilaire Museum of Fine Arts*, and the *Association des Artistes Peintres affiliés de la Rive-Sud*. The *Peace Network* was proud to participate in the initiative by awarding both the Jury Prize and the Audience Award to winning artists. As such, the *Network* played an important role in encouraging artists to use "peace" as inspiration for the development of creative works that promote a more harmonious and non-violent society.

## Cuisine ta ville: an innovative intercultural event

The *Peace Network* has become an important partner in a unique and exciting initiative centred on diversity and inclusion through a partnership with *ATSA Quand l'art passe à l'action* and its presentation of the second edition of *Cuisine ta Ville*. This compelling and unifying event, which took place from May 9 to 12 at Montreal's Place des Festivals, attracted an estimated 15,000 visitors. Multiple cultural communities and immigrants to our city presented culinary experiences, artistic performances and testimonials as a means of presenting their lives and their stories, all of which is intended to generate greater openness, understanding and empathy within the general population. With the contribution of 124 volunteers and 30 partner organizations, representing 35 countries, *Cuisine ta Ville* helped strengthen the social fabric among Montrealers through spaces dedicated to intercultural rapprochement and dialogue. Congratulations to *ATSA* for this outstanding initiative and to all those involved in the great success of *Cuisine ta Ville*!



Credit : CuisineTaVille2019 © ATSA - Daniel Robillard



## A unique intercultural and interfaith encounter

"Meditating Together for *Vivre-Ensemble*" was the theme of a unique event that took place on May 16<sup>th</sup> co-organized by *Café Floraison*, *AISA* and the *Peace Network for Social Harmony*. That evening, representatives of the Islamic, Buddhist and Christian traditions presented a series of guided meditations that were accessible to all, and which made for a unified message around the practice of mindfulness. The event culminated in the sharing of an Iftar meal, as participants of all backgrounds celebrated the end of a day of fasting for Ramadan, in solidarity with their Muslim companions.



# Theme: Violence Prevention

## COLLABORATION WITH PREVNET

The Peace Network is pleased to have collaborated on an important *PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network)* study aimed at strengthening the capacity of educators to prevent dating violence and to promote healthy relationships. The project is being carried out in five provinces (Quebec, BC, Alberta, Ontario and Newfoundland) and involves the development and testing of three models that help to inform and support educators about the creation of healthy relationships and the prevention of violence among adolescents. The project is led by Dr Wendy Craig from Queen's University, while the team in Quebec will be led by Drs Melanie Dirk and Chiaki Konishi from McGill University, and Alexa Martin-Storey from the University of Sherbrooke. The *Peace Network* facilitated the inclusion of Quebec educators and adolescents in the study, and it solicited and facilitated the participation of the *Lester B. Pearson School Board*.



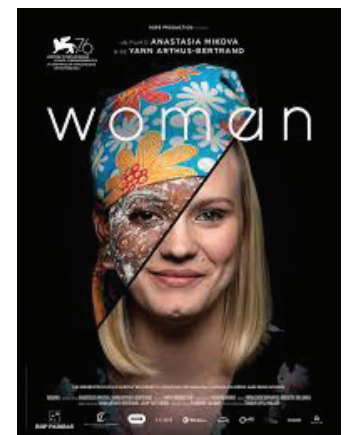
## MOVEMENT FOR SCHOOLS WITHOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Over the past two years, the *Peace Network* has been collaborating with more than fifteen national organizations through monthly meetings of the *Movement for Schools Without Sexual Violence (MSWSV)*. This initiative was created in the spring of 2018 in support of a group of young girls from Maison d'Haïti who had spoken out publicly to demand real and lasting changes that would counter sexual violence in their schools. The *MSWSV* aims to better inform government on the topic, create training and awareness tools, and organize activities aimed at promoting healthy relationships among youth. The *MSWSV* is powered by the synergy of its members and uses the strength of collaboration in carrying out its actions. Although the *Network* is not a field expert on the subject, we work to facilitate the connection between different stakeholders while promoting the *Movement's* activities and initiatives.

## SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY "WOMAN"

On October 18, as part of the Network's Peace Days 2019 initiative, the North American premiere of the documentary "Woman" was screened at the Imperial Theatre. This tremendous film gives voice to some 2000 women from 50 different countries, who provide very personal testimonials related to issues that impact the lives of women. This Peace Film Soirée, a partnership between the *Peace Network* and the *Festival du Nouveau Cinéma*, provided those in attendance - including both stakeholders and the general public - with an opportunity for reflection on the terrible nature of violence perpetrated against women and girls as well as the great accomplishments of women around the world. To make the evening even more special, directors Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Anastasia Mikova were present and answered questions from the audience, providing the hundreds in attendance with insights on the process of making this film for which 2000 interviews were conducted and thereby giving voice to women from Canada and around the world on subjects that concern us all.



## REPORT ON THE FORUM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN

The Peace Network's "Report on Violence Against Women and Girls and Its Impact on Children" was released at the end of 2017. Through ongoing collaboration with partners in the field, the *Network* continues to promote the Report's 12 recommendations with key government stakeholders on how best to approach this societal problem.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION (ISEE)

Since 2014, the *Peace Network* has focused on socio-emotional learning (SEL) as a key element in violence prevention and the development of healthy relationships. As a result, in 2018, we established a formal partnership with the *Institute of Social and Emotional Education (ISEE)* and its founder Dr. Tara Wilkie. *ISEE* recently expressed its gratitude to the *Peace Network for Social Harmony* for its ongoing support and engagement, and explained that its 2019 activities in North America and India included:

- » A four-week training at *Siddhartha School Ladakh* on teachers' personal SEL skills and on how to become models for other teachers.
- » A two-day SEL workshop with the *American School Mumbai (ASB)* for both teachers and parents.
- » A three-day SEL training at *Gandhi's Ashram* in Ahmedabad working with teachers who are supporting impoverished communities (slums).
- » Multiple school workshops in North America, including Montreal's *Lester B. Pearson School Board* and *PSX14* in the Bronx.
- » Pilot project for school-wide implementation of its CS3 program (Core Skills in 3 domains of ME, YOU and US), including standardized evaluation tools to measure the program's impact.
- » Production of a Game Booklet to accompany its Feelings and Needs cards.

*ISEE* and the *Peace Network* remain in conversation on potential future collaborations.

# Theme: Peace Promotion

## PEACE DAYS 2019, SEPTEMBER 1 TO OCTOBER 18, MONTREAL

For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the *Peace Network for Social Harmony* had the privilege of coordinating the joint programming for Peace Days, its flagship initiative related to the September 21<sup>st</sup> UN International Day of Peace. The name was changed in 2019 to "Peace Days" in order to reflect the large number of activities and partnerships involved in the initiative, and to show that efforts go beyond one single day of peace. Once again, the programming offered to Montrealers made it possible to highlight the peace builders in our community, and provided the perfect opportunity to reflect and act, both individually and collectively, for peace.

### An edition with exceptional outreach!

In 2019, the *Network* redoubled its efforts to develop visibility for the initiative and its rich programming, in order to create greater public awareness and involvement. This included:

- » Launch of a **Peace Days website** ([www.thepeacedays.com](http://www.thepeacedays.com)) which went online on August 30 and has been viewed by over 2000 people. It includes an interactive calendar allowing users to view all of the programming and to see descriptions of each activity, along with a list of implementing partners and financial partners, etc. Registrations of Peace Days activities could also be made from the site using an electronic form, and satisfaction surveys (including a survey intended for the general public) could also be completed using the site.
- » Development of a **Communication Plan**, undertaken in conjunction with a specialized firm, intended to help identify effective tools for generating greater public visibility for the initiative. Guided by the Plan, the Network team decided to implement a partnership with public figures as Peace Days Ambassadors, and to purchase Facebook ads that ended up reaching more than 5,400 Montrealers.
- » Naming of our first Peace Ambassadors, as **Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman of YidLife Crisis** and author **Kim Thuy** helped increase the visibility of the Peace Days initiative and its messages of peace and social harmony, such as by sharing our Facebook posts and thereby extending their reach by more than 27,000 views.



67 implementing partners

25 first-time partners

29,000 people reached

31 financial partners

NOS AMBASSEURS DE  
L'ÉDITION 2019 !



"La paix est difforme et changeante, essentielle et fragile. Et certes, intangible.  
Sans elle, on peut survivre mais on ne peut pas 'être', c'est-à-dire grandir, rêver, créer, réfléchir, jouir."  
Kim Thuy



JOURNÉES DE LA  
PAIX

"Nous visons le rapprochement en célébrant tout ce que nous avons en commun, particulièrement en tant que Montréalais - les fusions fascinantes de nos cultures, nos aliments, notre musique, notre comédie, nos amours ! Tant de choses rassemblent les Montréalais, es de tous les horizons d'une manière qui remplace toute rhétorique pouvant autrement nous diviser."  
YidLife Crisis



- » Production and dissemination of **3 public service announcements** featuring our Peace Days Ambassadors and produced by CTV and broadcast on their airwaves 47 times, as well as 29 times on Vtélé's Elles fictions network.
- » A **press release** promoting Peace Days 2019 was prepared by the Network team and disseminated through the CISION agency, which generated appearances in 25 media sources (online, social and print).

## Flagship activities and first-time initiatives!

Under a theme that reflected our city as well as our core values, "Let's celebrate difference and unite for peace," the Peace Days 2019 program featured both flagship activities and first-time initiatives. Multiple activities that have been featured during other editions of Peace Days were once again included in 2019, such as:

- » The annual official launch of the Peace Days initiative, co-organized with the *City of Montreal* and presented at City Hall, takes place on or around the September 21st UN International Day of Peace. In 2019, a panel was organized for the event featuring the question, "How is my difference actually my strength, and how does it contribute to the development of Montreal society?" The event also featured a dynamic performance by Inuit throat singers Nina Segalowitz and Lydia Etok.



Credit : ville de Montréal, Sylvain Légaré



Credit : Michael Abril



- » Interfaith and intercultural walks continue to be co-organized with different pastorales sociales. This year, three such organizations helped introduce their communities to new cultures and religions.
- » The "Festive Public Event", by the *Collectif 21 Septembre*, was held on September 21 at Laurier metro station, under the theme of the climate emergency. This year, the *Collectif* also offered a peace-themed concert.
- » A great variety of peace-related workshops, conferences, plays, exhibitions and film screenings, including those organized by *Dawson College*, *the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts*, and community organizations.
- » Public awareness-raising campaigns, including the fifth consecutive one offered by the *Tools of Peace* network.



Credit : Maryse Boyce



In addition to activities offered by long-term collaborators, the arrival of new partners and the creation of first-time activities enriched and diversified the Peace Days 2019 programming, helping it to cover more themes and to reach different target audiences. More than 25 new partner organizations collaborated on this past edition, including *Yellow Pad Sessions*, the *Institut National pour l'équité, l'Égalité et l'Inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap*, *Jesuit Refugee Service*, and the *Centre de recherches et d'activités culturelles et communautaires pour les diversités*. These organizations tackled themes such as living with disabilities, the situation of refugees, and LGBTQI+ matters.

Finally, the closing event for this 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Peace Days was a Peace Film Soirée co-organized with the *Festival du Nouveau Cinéma* and featuring the powerful documentary "Woman." (Refer to page 14 for further details.)

## TOOLS OF PEACE

An initiative unique to Quebec, the *Tools of Peace Network* unites 12 organizations that build social harmony through the active prevention of violence in all its forms, with a focus on the development of peace skills within communities. *Tools of Peace* encourages innovation and the sharing of best practices between its members. It also encourages joint actions and partnerships around the challenges of peace and non-violence. Relations between members are based on trust, transparency and accountability. The *Peace Network for Social Harmony* has given assistance and encouragement to *Tools of Peace* since its founding, including the provision of a coordinator for the past several years, in order to assist member organizations to work together more efficiently and effectively.

In 2019, its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the *Tools of Peace Network* was entrusted with overseeing the "Community of Practice" project involving beneficiaries of the Fonds Inclusion for *Centraide*. The project includes monitoring and evaluations tasks, and the creation of joint working tools. For further information, please contact Lori Palano at [projet@outilsdepaix.org](mailto:projet@outilsdepaix.org).



## Communications

Every year, the *Peace Network* increases its efforts to strengthen communications, in order to better publicize its mission and its actions. The *Network* started 2019 by working with the *Foundation of Greater Montreal* to organize a roundtable for their members and friends that addressed the different communication challenges within each organization. Participants were invited to present their organization and their calendar of annual events. A discussion ensued about effective and essential communication tools (digital platforms, social media, etc.) in people's daily practice. The idea of establishing a communications exchange group was also proposed.

The publication of newsletters three to four times per year remains an essential communications tool, as a means of informing our members, friends, partners and allies about ongoing

and completed activities. The Network's Facebook page, as well as that of Peace Days, remains useful for disseminating news, describing past and future events, as well as other information related to our lines of action.

Regarding the Network website, we are making the necessary efforts to update it regularly, in order to optimize dissemination and access to clear and direct information for visitors. This was also the thinking behind the creation of a separate and independent Peace Days website.

# Networking

The annual member's lunch, organized by the Network Members' Committee with particular assistance this year from the *Foundation of Greater Montreal*, took place in June and featured United Nations mediator Michael Brown, who shared his experience in conflict resolution and as an international peace professional. The Members' Committee will meet again in 2020 to plan the next event and discuss various topics concerning members and friends of the Network. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the committee.



Credit : Michael Abril



The *Peace Network for Social Harmony* was officially launched with a Peace Soirée on November 18, 2009. As such, it was most appropriate that on November 18, 2019, we had the pleasure of celebrating the organization's 10th anniversary at the beautiful Maison Louis-Joseph Forget, with an event that attracted many Network members, friends, and partners. The event featured a retrospective on a decade's worth of Peace Network activities, reaffirming our vision, our mission and our commitment to the betterment of society through peace and social harmony. Our wish - and our intention - is that the coming years will build off of the remarkable collaboration, unity and partnerships seen in our first decade.

# Membership

This past year, we were proud to welcome two new members to the *Network*: the *Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation*, and *l'Autre Maison*. With respect to the "Friends of the Network" category, created in order to allow individuals to stand alongside the organization, we were pleased to have 5 new additions, namely Catherine Boulos, Soryl Rosenberg, Larry Markowitz, Phyllis Lambert, Miriam Roland and Geoff Moore. As a result, by the end of 2019, the *Network* counted 21 members, including 14 philanthropic foundations, 5 corporate members and 2 institutional

members, as well as 12 friends. We would like to warmly thank our members and friends for believing in the strength of collaboration for peace in action. In fact, without our members and friends' financial contribution and involvement, the *Network* literally would not exist. We would like to thank our members and friends for their commitment to the *Network* and to the cause of peace and social harmony.



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