



# Activity report 2020

## **The Network: 22 members and 17 friends**

- » 14 foundations
- » 6 corporate members
- » 2 institutional members
- » 17 Friends of the Network

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## **Board of Directors**

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

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*Files: Peace Promotion | Violence Prevention | Governance and Member Relations*

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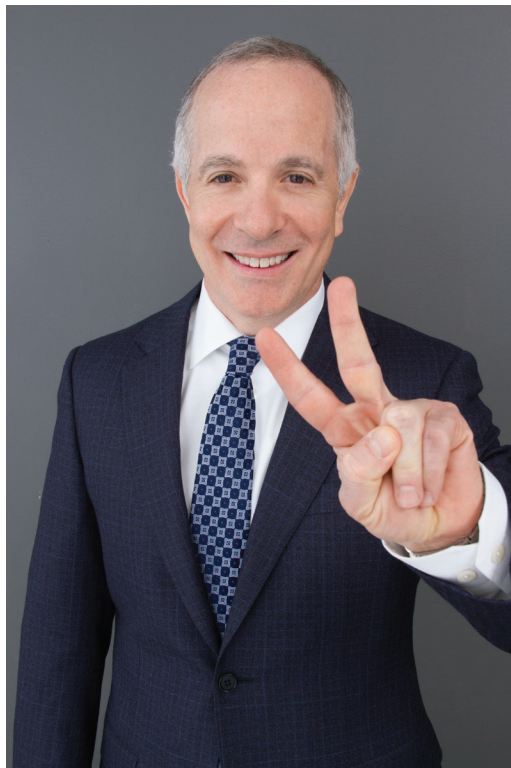
# Overcoming the Challenges of the Pandemic

The year 2020 was marked by the arrival of an unprecedented pandemic. For 10 months, we went through many hardships, making us more aware of the importance of social ties, of human fragility but also of the strength of our society. This has been a period of great change, necessitating plenty of adaptation, creativity and innovation on the part of everyone.

In 2020, the Peace Network for Social Harmony did not slow down in pursuing its mandate. Through daily Zoom meetings, phone calls and various forms of written communication, our team – which has never been so close and engaged – has made a great effort to successfully carry out our projects and to develop and strengthen our partnerships.

I believe that as we gradually emerge from this pandemic, we will want to ensure that society moves into a future where its humane core values remain intact. These values include the desire to build and maintain peaceful communities, to support diversity, equity and inclusion, to reject violence and hatred, and to create healthy and harmonious relationships. Such values have been at the heart of the Peace Network for over a decade now, and they continue to inspire the mandate we will pursue into the future.

Societal problems such as the domestic violence and racism that have emerged during the pandemic reflect the ever-increasing need for our work. We will continue to pursue peace through collaborative initiatives with community organizations and experts working in the field. And one last note: none of our accomplishments would have been possible without you, our members, friends, supporters and allies; we remain eternally grateful for your involvement.



Brian Bronfman, President

# Central Theme : Diversity and Inclusion

For the past 3 years, the Peace Network has become increasingly involved in the field of Diversity and Inclusion. We have built a network of some 70 partners from different specialized sectors in the realm, such as education, dialogue, arts and culture, and so on. We collaborate with these partners through a variety of projects. Given our unique positioning at the crossroads of different

sectors (community, institutional, philanthropic, business, academic, etc.), we are constantly listening to the needs of the field. Partners call on our expertise to support the development of their initiatives and to facilitate further collaborations, resulting in their initiatives having greater impact.

## Our Projects



Credit : ville de Montréal, Sylvain Légaré

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

For more than 10 years, the Peace Network has partnered with the City of Montreal and Youth in Motion to promote the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr., an exceptional person and role model who denounced and fought social injustices through non-violence and who defended the values of peace, equity, tolerance, dignity and unity.

On January 20, 2020, we commemorated the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of Martin Luther King Day through a panel moderated by Michael Farkas, Director of Youth in Motion. Discussion centered on efforts to promote diversity, inclusion and non-violence on university campuses. Our four panelists – Nalini Mohabir (Concordia University), Marie-Livia Beaugé (UQAM), Julie Guernier (University of Montreal) and Lina Bensaidane (McGill University) – came from diverse and complementary backgrounds. The event concluded with the uplifting music of the People’s Gospel Choir, followed by a much-appreciated networking opportunity among participants.

## PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING FORUM ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Experience shows that stakeholders in almost any given field rarely have the opportunity to meet in order to share information, explain their practices and engage in joint reflection. Recognizing this need in the sector, the Peace Network started 2020 by planning for a Forum on Diversity and Inclusion. One of the first steps was to identify the major issues of concern to our grassroots partners, so on two occasions we brought over a dozen of them together to begin a consultation process in preparation for the Forum. Consultations also began with Balarama Holness of Montreal in Action and David Leonard of 6 Degrees, as well as the team from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, regarding the implementation of the project. These consultations have helped put us on the right track to making our Forum a well-received and impactful event.



## Collaborations

The Peace Network for Social Harmony collaborates with countless stakeholders in Diversity and Inclusion, assisting them through the development of their own partnerships, through logistical support, with help in management of their initiatives, and with promotion of their events.

### MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK (MAW)

The Peace Network is proud to collaborate, along with many other dedicated partners, in Muslim Awareness Week (MAW). This initiative commemorates the attacks on the Great Mosque of Quebec on January 29, 2017 by creating opportunities for dialogue and exchange among people and groups from all faiths, with a focus on helping them understand the realities and the diversity of Quebec's Muslim population. This mandate was well-reflected in the MAW 2020 theme of "Get to know each other!"



### MONTREAL HAPPINESS FESTIVAL

The second edition of the Montreal Happiness Festival, organized by Mtl la plus heureuse, was scheduled for mid-March, but the pandemic forced the 2020 Festival to be in the fall (during Peace Days). Two public online activities were offered: an optimistic writing workshop, and a panel promoting intergenerational dialogue. Network partner Femmes Internationales Murs Brisés Canada also participated in the Festival by presenting online testimonies of hope for the creation of a better world from their Youth Peace Ambassadors.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE

At the start of 2020, we brought together 16 partners from the Diversity and Inclusion sector, providing them with an opportunity to meet one another and to discuss potential initiatives and possible collaboration in the context of the May 16th International Day of Living Together in Peace (IDLTP). At two meetings coordinated and facilitated by the Peace Network, we were thrilled to see to how easily and enthusiastically different organizations were connecting. This set the stage for collective action in the context of the IDLTP and for developing collaboration beyond this event.

The Peace Network also partnered in AISA Canada’s online IDLTP panel entitled, «Living Together in Peace as Seen by Young People,” featuring five socially engaged young adults, as well as a presentation by Esteban Benavides, coordinator of the Central Secretariat of the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together.

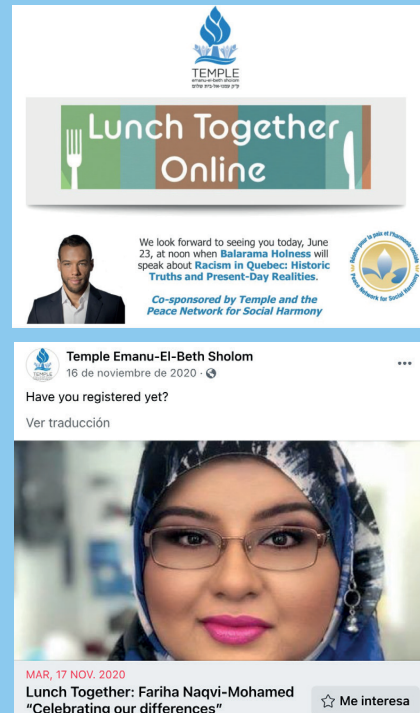


## PARTNERSHIP WITH TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM

\*\* Lunch Together Online: Racism in Quebec

\*\* Lunch Together Online: Celebrating Our Differences

The Peace Network partnered in 2020 with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on two virtual events related to our Diversity and Inclusion theme. The first was a webinar entitled «Racism in Quebec: Historical Truths and Present-Day Realities,» presented by Network ally Balarama Holness. The second webinar, entitled “Celebrating Our Differences,” was presented by another ally, journalist Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed. The Peace Network is proud of this partnership, which contributes to intercultural and interfaith understanding, and to the prevention of racism and discrimination.



# Central Theme: Violence Prevention

## Our Projects

### MOVEMENT FOR SCHOOLS FREE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Peace Network has collaborated for the past three years with more than twenty national organizations in the monthly meetings of the Movement for Schools Free of Sexual Violence. This initiative was created in the spring of 2018 in support of a group of young girls from the Maison d'Haiti who spoke publicly to demand real and lasting change in countering sexual violence in their schools. The Movement uses its collective strength to challenge political decision-makers on issues, to disseminate information, to provide Canada-wide trainings, and to share tools that promote healthy relationships in young adults.

Our Network was called on last summer by its member the Canadian Women's Foundation to participate in the co-ordination of the Movement for 2020-21. As a result, Adriana Eslava, our Director of Violence Prevention, has worked on this file since last October.

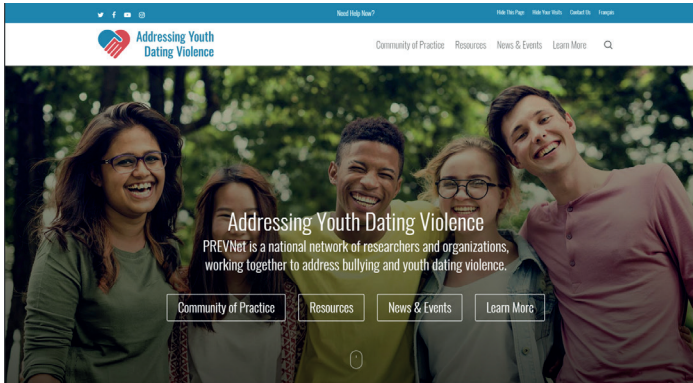


### NETWORK COLLABORATIONS WITH OUR MEMBERS!

2016: Forum on Violence Against Women and Girls, with the Canadian Women's Foundation and the Foundation of Greater Montreal.

2018: Forum on the Power of the Arts, with the Michaëlle Jean Foundation

## Collaborations



### PREVNET: YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEBSITE

PREVNet is the country's leading scientific research network for the prevention of bullying and other forms of violence. This year it launched a new "Youth Dating Violence" website that provides global access to resources for preventing violence in young people's dating relationships. Our Network remains committed to its long-standing partnership with PREVNet, especially in facilitating partnerships among experts in the field at the pan-Canadian level.

### TOOLS OF PEACE NETWORK

Unique to Quebec, the Tools of Peace Network unites 12 organizations that build social harmony through active prevention of violence in all its forms via the development of peace skills within communities. This network promotes consultation, exchange on best practices, innovation and the sharing of skills among its members, in addition to promoting and encouraging joint initiatives for peace and non-violence. For several years, through 2019, the Peace Network made one of its staff available to Tools for Peace for the coordination of their organization. In 2020, we partially funded the coordination instead. Even though the form of our support has changed over time, Tools for Peace remains an essential grassroots partner in the field of violence prevention, and one to which the Peace Network remains committed.

[www.outilsdepaix.org](http://www.outilsdepaix.org)



### INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL EDUCATION



The team at the Institute of Social Emotional Education, headed by long-time Network associate Dr. Tara Wilkie, has created its first commercially-available educational game, "Connect Card: Feelings and Needs," which includes the Institute's proprietary socio-emotional learning tools. After having been tested with families, young adults and in school settings, the ISEE received orders from a European company, a CEGEP administrator, and numerous teachers and families. The Institute is also working on the publication of its CS3 educational guides for teachers. These present essential skills in three areas of relationship development – 'Me,' 'You' and 'Us.' The Peace Network remains an active partner with ISEE and looks forward to continued collaboration with it.



# Central Theme: Promotion of Peace and Social Harmony

## Our Projects

### PEACE DAYS

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Peace Days took place from September 17 to October 17, under the theme of «United and Committed to Peace.» Despite the pandemic, and thanks to the mobilization and creativity of our implementing partners, Peace Days 2020 offered more than 50 activities divided into 5 categories: In Dialogue, Learning, Arts and Culture, Community and Peace Days Winnipeg.

**Online edition:** The majority of our implementing partners transferred their activities to a digital format, given the restrictions of the pandemic. This solution offered important advantages such as the simplicity of participating in activities through the click of a button, the removal of geographical boundaries, and, above all, the ability to meet in safety. Certain activities have been recorded and are still available to watch on our website.

**Interprovincial collaboration:** The unprecedented collaborations with Peace Days Winnipeg and the Paramita Center in Toronto had us go beyond the borders of our city and our province, increasing the reach of the initiative.

**Ambassadors:** For a second consecutive year, author and television host Kim Thúy, as well as Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, co-creators of the YidLife Crisis web series, signed up as Peace Days Ambassadors. To this, we added comedian and host Kevin Raphael, journalist and civil and human rights activist Will Prosper, as well as multidisciplinary artist Catherine D'Amours, who created the visuals for the 2020 edition.

**Media coverage:** Peace Days 2020 was fortunate to be accompanied by Stéphanie Girouard and Isabelle Benoit, two specialists who built the entire communications and outreach campaign. They ensured the presence of Peace Days in traditional media, as well as social media platforms Instagram and LinkedIn. Thanks to their expertise and experience, Peace Days had excellent visibility on social networks. We also promoted Peace Days in four languages: French, English, Spanish and even Polish through radio broadcasts featuring our Coordinator of Racism Prevention Anna Krol.

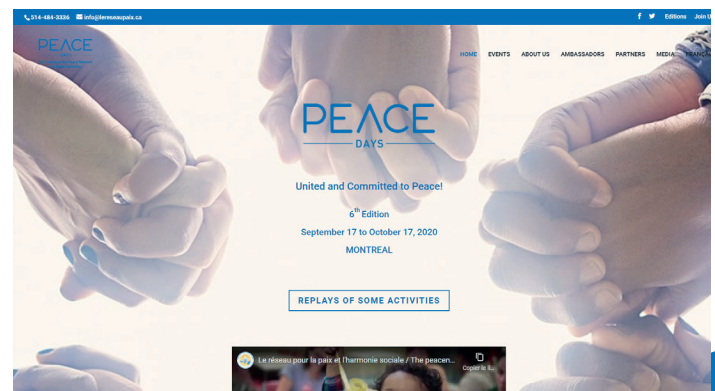
**MORE THAN 100**  
publications on  
social media

**15 870**  
people reached on  
Facebook

**1 209**  
views on LinkedIn



**Website:** The Network team, supported by Laurence Bourcheix Laporte, further developed and improved the Peace Days website, resulting in an interface that is more pleasant and easy to navigate.



# Communications

## NEW WEBSITE

"Peace at the heart of our actions, strengthened by the power of collaboration." It is with this motto that we welcome people visiting our new website, launched in September 2020. Our team reviewed and rewrote all previous texts, and also chose new visuals to better reflect our identity, our mission and our projects. We aim to make ourselves better known both to the public and to stakeholders, in order to mobilize and engage with as many people as possible in our important work. We invite you to visit the website and share it with your networks.

## NEWSLETTERS

The Network considers it vitally important to communicate its achievements, as well as those of its members and partners. In 2020, we distributed three newsletters as a way to highlight our key activities and central collaborations.



## SOCIAL NETWORKS

The Network uses social media tools on a daily basis to promote and support our many projects and initiatives, as well as those of our members, partners and allies. With so many activities taking place online in 2020, Facebook and Youtube proved especially useful for the simultaneous broadcasting of events. This made it possible to reach a large number of individuals and communities, not just locally but also on a national and international level.

# Member Relations

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Peace Network AGM took place online on June 17, 2020, drawing some two dozen people. The meeting was an opportunity to present our work from 2019 and the first half of 2020. The Network team was also able to share the progress of current projects, including the organization of the 6th edition of the Days. Peace. The presentation was followed by a discussion period among participants. The Network team would like to thank all of its members and friends for their interest, their trust and their active commitment.



## NETWORKING

Due to restrictions related to the pandemic, our in-person networking events were canceled for 2020, including the annual Members' Cocktail, commemoration of the International Day of Peace at Montreal City Hall, and the Peace Film Soirée. These ordinarily provide special moments of encounter among stakeholders from business, philanthropy, NGOs, the educational sector, and so on. They are opportunities for us to get to know each other and to learn from one another, in order to forge links of collaboration, mutual assistance and sharing. We look forward to once again offering you these meeting spaces as soon as conditions allow.



# Membership

Despite the difficult challenges of 2020, the Peace Network was successful in maintaining and even expanding its list of members and friends. We thank you for your loyalty and for working with us to support the fields of Diversity and Inclusion, Violence Prevention and Peace Promotion. The Network now has 22 Members and 17 Friends!



We were delighted to welcome in 2020:

- » 1 new Corporate Member: Power Corporation of Canada
- » 6 new Friends of the Network: Honey Dresher, Tony Loffreda, Geoffrey S. Moore, Jade Raymond, Brian Sokoliuk and Peter Turkstra



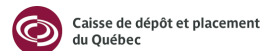
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Fondation du Grand Montréal



Stellabar Foundation



### Friends of the Network

Brian Sokoliuk

Honey A. Dresher

Jeff Hart

Natalie St-Pierre

Bruce Leboff

Jade Raymond

Larry Markowitz

Peter Turkstra

Catherine Boulos

Jane Siblin

Miriam Roland

Phyllis Lambert

Geoffrey S. Moore

Jed Kahane

Nadine St-Louis

Soryl Shulman Rosenberg

Tony Loffreda