

Student Leadership ...training student interns and volunteers in front line work

2014 MCM student interns/volunteers

- 7 Law (McGill, UdeM)
- 1 Social Work (McGill)
- 2 Social Sciences (Concordia)
- 1 Peace Studies (Saint Paul University, Ottawa)

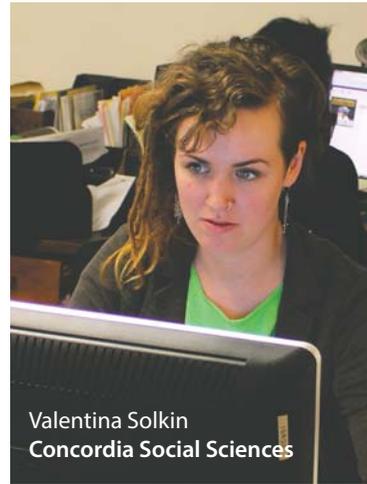
Creating a teaching environment with ...

Workshops at MCM on:

- Refugee & humanitarian immigration law
- Access to justice
- Social benefits for vulnerable migrants
- Plain language: legal terms simplified

Presentations to the wider academic community at:

- McGill School of Nursing
- McGill Social Work Department
- United Theological College
- Boston University School of Theology



Valentina Solkin
Concordia Social Sciences

"I was drawn to Just Solutions because of its focus on refugee & immigration law and, most importantly, for the opportunity to directly and tangibly impact individual lives. The hands-on experience and mentorship have been tremendous! The staff at Just Solutions is always eager to give students feedback on a daily basis, and empower us to tackle new and challenging cases."

Martha Cherkow, McGill Law



"MCM has been my anchor in Canada, and the MCM team my family. Being so far away from loved ones, I feel incredibly blessed to have found a safe port where I am supported, cared for and mentored."

Anne Rachut, international student from Germany, Peace Studies, St. Paul University, Ottawa



"It is a humbling and rewarding experience to lend a hand to newcomers navigating the complexities of immigration law. The clinic's talented legal team has also been very supportive in helping me to translate general legal knowledge from the classroom into concrete tools for making a real difference in people's lives."

Raphael Vagliano, McGill Law



MCM News

Kudos

...to MCM supervising lawyer Rick Goldman on receiving a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the United Theological College, for his long and faithful career serving Montreal's most vulnerable citizens. Rick's work, in particular with refugees and migrants, has gained him respect and admiration in the community milieu, the church, academia, and the legal field, both in Quebec and Canada wide.

Mazel Tov Dr. Goldman!!



Riders on the Storm

...for a second year pedalling, MCM participated in the annual bike-a-thon Ride for-Refuge. Our fearless riders and generous donors helped raise over 10,000\$ so that our work may continue and grow.

Thank you each and every one from the bottom of our hearts!

A new name

...and a new director for our joint choir program for kids and seniors with St. James United. Sara Wunsch is leading the Choeur du quartier, a name that reflects our location as the western door of the Montreal cultural/entertainment district, Quartier des spectacles, and our vision to be a neighbourhood choir where all are welcome regardless of age or musical background. Practice every Saturday starting at 10.

Contact us for more information.

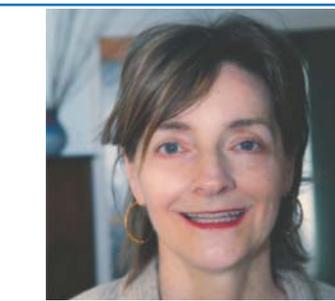


The buzz

...is being created by Katherine Wood Williams currently working at MCM on a six month grant in the area of communications and social media. Katherine's posts and videos are opening up a new window into the MCM community and reinforcing our connections with one another. Bravo Katherine!

Stability and innovation are two words that best describe Montreal City Mission in this time and place. Essential services continue, while new projects and partnerships take shape. And the energy is palpable... from the kids at Camp Cosmos... to the seniors at the Mobile Clinic. Together we embrace the future with excitement, knowing that this life-giving spirit, no matter how we define her, will fill us with wisdom and resolve.

Rev. Paula Kline, Executive Director



La Mission communautaire de Montréal
Montreal City Mission



A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

* disponible en français



1435 rue City Councillors
Montréal, Québec H3A 2E4
Telephone (514) 844 9128

Fax (514) 844 0067

www.montrealcitymission.org

montrealcitymission.blogspot.ca

www.facebook.com/montrealcitymission

@MtICityMission



...turning downtown montreal into a kid friendly zone each summer

Camp Cosmos offers six weeks of exploration, learning and fun to children from diverse backgrounds, including First Nations, and job training/experience to adolescents and young adults.



2014 season

- 55 campers
- 8 with special needs
- Fees waived or reduced for 6 families
- 6 Counsellors, 4 Shadows
- 8 Counsellors-in-Training (including 2 Shadows-in-Training)

Some Summer highlights

- Creating a 'compliment sharing tree'
- Building a friendship chain
- Growing organic vegetables
- Learning about bullying prevention
- Playing sports in Westmount Park
- Doing scientific experiments with water
- Visiting local farms



"When my family and I first arrived in Canada ten years ago, Montreal City Mission made us feel welcome... gave us things we needed to get settled in our new home... and I had a great summer at Camp Cosmos. Now at 15, I have 'graduated' to working as a Shadow-in-Training. It's been a marvellous summer... I've learned so much... and most of all, I think I've learned patience!
Gracias MCM!!

See the video interview with Bruno on YouTube at :
[Bruno: Shadow-In-Training, 2014](#)

JUST SOLUTIONS LEGAL CLINIC 10th Anniversary 2004-2014

... providing Access to Justice for refugees and vulnerable immigrants since 2004

Unique in Quebec, *Just Solutions* is the last port of call for many men, women and children in desperate situations:

- Women, victims of violence
- Children with special needs
- Families seeking to reunite
- Individuals struggling with mental & physical health challenges
- Individuals facing life threatening situations if returned to their country of origin

Our team of lawyers, law students and volunteers provide free legal information and representation to those who find themselves in a precarious immigration situation and have no other recourse.



Mylène Barrière, Rick Goldman, Marie-Pier Leduc at World Refugee Day



"When the letter came in the mail I started to cry. My son said – mom – what's happening – is it true – can we really stay in Canada..."

After three years of working on Diana's case and supporting her and her family, she was finally accepted as a permanent resident by Immigration Canada in July 2014. Now her children can get the special care they need and Diana can begin building her new life.

See the video interview on YouTube at :
[Just Solutions Legal Clinic: Diana's Story](#)

Departures

...it was with a heavy heart last spring that we bid farewell to our two stellar legal clinic coordinators - Andrea Dawes & Yolaine Williams - as they set off on new journeys. Their expert work and contagious passion have left a lasting impact on *Just Solutions*, MCM, and the people they so diligently served.

Andrea and Yolaine, your exceptional contribution will never be forgotten. We still miss you and always will.

Arrivals

...we were very fortunate to find two talented replacements: Mylène Barrière as coordinator of *Just Solutions* and Marie-Pier Leduc at the Seniors' Mobile Legal Clinic. Welcome aboard!



Andrea



Yolaine

Seniors' Mobile Legal Clinic

...partnering with health care professionals, social workers and other community colleagues to find creative solutions to the issues facing immigrant seniors. The only service of its kind in Québec!

We provide assistance with...

- Federal & Provincial Pension applications
- Information on legal capacity (Power of Attorney) to seniors & their families
- Health care including long term care
- Legal access to grandchildren
- Housing
- Sponsorships
- Permanent Residence & Citizenship Applications
- International marriage contracts

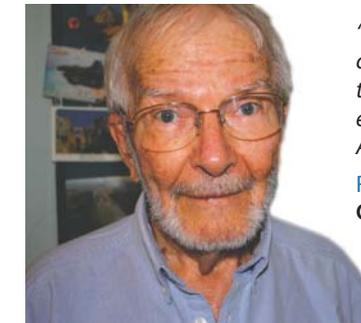
...through visits to the clinic and home appointments



New initiatives in 2014/2015

VIP Visitation Integration Project

... breaking isolation and creating community through friendly home & neighbourhood visits



"Building bridges between cultures is the challenge of the 21st century... and we seniors have a vital role to play in making those connections. We have the time, the talent and the experience of what it means to be outside of the mainstream. And we're putting that expertise to work at MCM!"

Robert Verrall
Chair, St. James United Grey Matters Think Tank

Public Legal Information & Education

...leading workshops in the community to raise awareness and provide information on legal issues relevant to seniors at:

- CLSCs
- Seniors' residences
- YMCA
- Shelters

"I am amazed by the resiliency and drive of the men and women I meet through the Seniors' Clinic. I learn something new from them every day."

Alexander Sol MacKenzie
Social Work Masters Student

