

Three New Projects !

Three new projects enabled us to expand our advocacy efforts, reach a larger population and make our services more accessible to those who need them most. Through our mobile clinic initiative, in partnership with **Ville de Montréal**, we were able to connect with individuals in key neighborhoods across the city. Our collaboration with **Justice Canada** allowed us to enhance services for English-speaking im-migrants and refugees, while funding from **Women and Gender Equality Canada** supported our efforts to raise awareness and advocate for the rights of women and 2SLGBTQIA+ im-migrants with precarious or no status.

Student Internships

In 2024, the dedication of our social work and law students - alongside their committed MCM supervisors - remained at the heart of our mission. Their collaborative efforts provided critical, compassionate support to migrants in precarious situations, offering not only assistance, but also holistic care that recognizes the complex realities faced by these individuals and their families.



Inspired by my internship at Just Solutions, I have now decided to pursue a career in humanitarian and refugee law. Merci JS!
Kendra Magne Fotso

Law	
Université de Montréal	4
McGill	1
Social Work	
McGill	3
Université de Montréal	1
Total	9

JS 20th Anniversary

In May, 2024, we proudly marked 20 years of the Just Solutions Legal Clinic - a defining chapter in MCM's century-long journey of creating a safe, welcoming community for all.



In 2024, Camp Cosmos featured a revitalized Athletics and Wellbeing Program, an exciting Music & Dance component supported by **St. James United Church** and the debut of the Indigenous Knowledge Pilot Project, supported by the **United Church Nakonha:Ka Region Rosemary Lambie Fund**.

Thanks to the Accessibility Program, five campers enjoyed tailored support, fostering a sense of inclusion. We hope to expand this program in the future as we had a waiting list in 2024. Meanwhile, our Youth Leadership Program mentored five young leaders, equipping them with skills for the future.

Camp Cosmos remains committed to creating a vibrant and inclusive space where every child can thrive. In 2025 we will be expanding our summer session from 6 to 7 weeks, and continuing our partnership with Selwyn House.



GreenFaith Circle

As part of the international multi-faith grassroots movement (greenfaith.org), our local Montreal GreenFaith circle, headed up by MCM board member Wendy Evans and Megan McQuirter, has continued to be active in recent months with online circle gatherings, participation in climate justice rallies with partner organisations, assisting with the organisation of the annual interfaith eco-action day, and leading book studies, including our 2024 winter study of 'Braiding Sweetgrass'. We also had a special vigil gathering in November on St James Square as part of the Canada wide For the Love of Creation 'Candles for COP29' initiative.



A United Church of Canada Community Ministry

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

1435 rue City Councillors
Montréal, Québec H3A 2E4
www.montrealcitymission.org
montrealcitymission
(514) 844 9128
(514) 844 0067

*disponible en français



Message from the Executive Director

"Resonance does not mean harmony or consonance but rather refers to a process of responding, moving, touching."
— Hartmut Rosa, Resonance: A Sociology of our Relationship to the World

In 2024, Montreal City Mission continued to respond to the world around us with attentiveness and care ... offering services where none were available, tapping into the talents of newcomers, and building bridges across lines of culture, language, and faith. Whether through legal support, intercultural programs, or youth initiatives, our work was grounded in a deep commitment to connection and mutual transformation. These encounters didn't always create harmony, but they sparked dialogue, understanding, and growth. In a world increasingly marked by division, MCM remains a place where resonance can take root ...where lives touch and move one another toward justice and belonging. The MCM team - that expanded exponentially in 2024! - works tirelessly in pursuit of these goals, fostering spaces of connection, creativity, and hope. It is a privilege and blessing to walk alongside them, as well as the many courageous individuals who make up our community of friends.

Rev. Paula Kline

Maa'n / Ensemble

Maa'n has always been about connection—bringing people together, fostering understanding, and ensuring that every newcomer finds a place where they feel welcomed and valued. Through interfaith circles, school partnerships, and shared moments of joy, we prove something simple yet radical: understanding is possible.

Anwar Alhjojo, Maa'n Coordinator

January

Muslim Awareness Week

MCM hosted a thought-provoking event with Dr. Aimen Moussaddy on coping mechanisms in face of grief and trauma.

April

Gathering at Table

Christian, Jews, Muslims and secular guests shared a meal together, each dish a delicious dialogue - building the Quebec we dream of - not by erasing differences, but by making them the foundation of something stronger.

Blue Metropolis Literary Festival

Three newcomer artists (Palestine, Soudan, Egypt) shared their paintings and stories at a public exhibit at Hotel Dix in downtown Montreal on the theme of Passages - the challenges and joys of transitioning to a new culture.

June

World Refugee Day

MCM marked WRD with a vibrant gathering of over 100 community members who delighted in the sounds and tastes of Nigeria. Our information booth drew steady crowds, with visitors eager to learn about MCM's programs and services supporting refugees and newcomers.

September

Apple Picking

A cherished annual tradition, our Apple Picking event brought together families, friends, and new arrivals to enjoy a day in nature. Beyond the harvest, the outing nurtured friendships and created a welcoming space for newcomers.

Peace Day

In close partnerships with the [Peace Network for Social Harmony](#), MCM hosted a compelling panel discussion exploring justice through dual lenses: legal rigor and social transformation.

December

Good Neighbour / Bon Voisin

In partnership with PLEDJ and the Université de Montréal, this event once again brought warmth to the colder months, uniting participants in a celebration of mutual aid and solidarity

Date	Event	Participants
January 28 th	Muslim Awareness Week	30
April 8 th	Iftar Gathering - GAT	100
April 26 th	Blue Met- Art exhibition	75
June 20 th	World Refugee Day	200
September 28 th	Apple Picking	300
September 29 th	Peace Day - Holistic Reconciliation	30
December 9 th	Good Neighbour-Bon Voisins Gathering	85



Strengthening Partnerships

2024 was a year of deepened collaborations for Maa'n. A partnership with a school in NDG allowed the program to address current challenges within Quebec's education system, making a lasting impact. Collaborations with Plan International Canada and local arts organizations brought diverse opportunities for participants, enabling newcomers to integrate into Quebec's cultural and social landscape.

Our heartfelt thanks to the United Church Nakonha:ka Regional Council, Heritage Canada and TD Bank for invaluable support of many Maa'n projects.

Key Initiatives in Action

Power Within: Through Plan International Canada, this initiative empowered young girls to build self-confidence and leadership skills.

Pollinators' Sewing Bee: In partnership with Théâtre Jean Duceppe, this project brought single newcomer mothers and Canadian seniors together to design costumes for theatrical productions (*Incendies* and *Kukum*), fostering cross-cultural and intergenerational connections.

For info on current projects & activities visit www.montrealcitymission.org/programs/maa'n

Legal Clinics

2024 marked the clinic's 20th anniversary, an incredible milestone made possible by our team's unwavering dedication and our partners' invaluable contributions. This year presented both opportunities and challenges in our ongoing mission to improve access to justice for im-migrants and refugees. As our clinic grew, so did our team and the scope of our work.

We also witnessed a growing precarity among the communities we serve, with more international students and im-migrants without status seeking legal information. An increasing number of individuals — particularly elderly im-migrants — experienced or were at risk of homelessness, reflecting an alarming trend compared to previous years. Now more than ever, we remain steadfast in our commitment to raising awareness about the realities faced by im-migrants with precarious status or no status and ensuring justice for all, regardless of their immigration status.

Anthony Rouget, Clinic Coordinator

4,831
interventions

Workshops and Mobile Clinics

Workshops for Im-migrants and Refugees	3
Workshops for Professionals	3
Mobile Clinics	4

In 2024, the Just Solutions Legal Clinic team was invited to and participated in 13 external events, engaging with diverse audiences ranging from 4 to 400 attendees. These events covered topics such as refugee rights and recourse options, challenges in humanitarian immigration, access to justice for marginalized communities, and migrant regularization efforts. Through these engagements, our team contributed expertise, strengthened partnerships, and expanded access to legal information for individuals and professionals across various sectors

Award Received

Just Solutions was the recipient of the 2024 **Francisco Rico-Martinez Award** from the Canadian Council for Refugees, in recognition of its **Danaïdes Project** aimed at documenting and raising public awareness about the challenges faced by im-migrants without immigration status or with precarious status.

Research Launched

The research project on access to justice for this population was launched in partnership with several universities, and led to the creation of a working group of **12 co-researchers**, as well as the approval of the ethics protocol.

Invaluable Partners

The work of the clinics would not have been possible in 2024 without the assistance of student interns and volunteers, our major funders, as well as the support of community colleagues in Montreal, Sherbrooke and Quebec City.



Rêver à l'essentiel

Our awareness campaign "*Rêver à l'essentiel*" launched in Sherbrooke in the fall sheds light on the profound impacts an immigration status can have on a person's life, dreams and aspirations. More than **76,000** people viewed the campaign's video on **Youtube**, while a shorter version of the video was seen by **16,000** moviegoers at the **Maison du Cinéma** in Sherbrooke. Additionally, the campaign was featured in Sherbrooke's local newspaper *La Tribune*. None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contribution of the Steering Committee and local organizations in Sherbrooke and Montreal.



Just Solutions

Top areas of intervention

Refugee Claim	19 %
Humanitarian Claim	16 %
Family Reunification	13 %
Work Permit	8 %

Vulnerability Factors

Financial Precarity	52 %
Serious Physical or Mental Health Issues	41 %
Family or Gender-based Violence	23 %
None	18 %
Total Cases	273
Total Interventions	4063

Roger Snelling

Top areas of intervention

Humanitarian Claim	33 %
Access to Healthcare	15 %
Family reunification	13 %
Work Permit	10 %

Vulnerability Factors

Serious Physical or Mental Health Issues	67 %
Financial Precarity	59 %
Homelessness or Risk of Homelessness	15 %
Family or Gender-based Violence	13 %
Total Cases	28
Total Interventions	768

Visit our new website with detailed information on immigration law, workshops and advocacy and awareness activities:

www.solutionsjustes.org