



CONCORDIA: AN ECONOMIC FORCE CONNECTED TO ITS COMMUNITY

STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concordia University is a major contributor to the economy as well as to the cultural and social life of Montreal and Quebec. Annually, it generates some \$1.3 billion in quantifiable impacts in its community, or three times its annual operating budget. Few institutions, whether public or private, can claim such a leverage effect.

These economic impacts are reflected in three areas, as illustrated in Table 1. First, almost 90,000 Concordia graduates work in Quebec. Their university education contributes to an increase in productivity of \$623 million. Furthermore, research conducted and disseminated by the university brings \$177 million into the Quebec economy. In addition, spending by Concordia and its out-of-province students and visitors generates \$464 million in value added, which translates into the creation of more than 7,000 jobs.

TABLE 1: CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY’S QUANTIFIABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON QUEBEC

QUANTIFIABLE IMPACTS	\$ MILLION
Human capital development	623.1
Knowledge creation and dissemination	177.2
Added value created by spending by Concordia, its students and its out-of-province visitors	463.5
Total impact	1,263.9

However, Concordia’s impacts far exceed these quantifiable elements. Through its integration into the social, economic, cultural and community fabric of Montreal and Quebec, Concordia makes exceptional contributions to enhancing the quality of life and economic potential of Quebec society. The present report documents these contributions.

CONCORDIA VALUES DIVERSITY

Since its founding, Concordia has been characterized by its responsiveness to the changing needs of its community and, in particular, to the cosmopolitan nature of the city. With its four faculties and School of Extended Learning, it currently serves some 45,000 students of diverse origins and socio-economic backgrounds. Among Quebec universities, Concordia has the highest number of permanent residents from abroad and the second highest number of foreign students. More than 30% of its students speak a language other than English or French at home. As such, Concordia plays an important role in social integration. Within the province, it also attracts students from socio-economic groups traditionally underrepresented within university populations.

Furthermore, Concordia stands out for giving students the flexibility to study in the manner that best suits their needs. More than 27% of students in its degree programs study part-time, giving Concordia the highest level of part-time enrollment among Quebec universities. Concordia also has a significant number of independent students and students enrolled in continuing education programs, a significant channel for enriching the pool of human capital within the community.

Concordia now ranks fourth among Quebec universities in terms of number of students and first in terms of growth. Over the past 10 years, its student population has increased at a rate twice that of the Quebec average. By making university education accessible to a large number of people, Concordia helps to promote greater social mobility and reduce income disparities within the population, while increasing productivity in Quebec through human capital enrichment.

CONCORDIA'S INTEGRATION INTO THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FABRIC OF QUEBEC

Concordia contributes to positioning Montreal as a city of research, culture and creation by providing Quebec society with talented graduates and by fostering projects with wide international reach and impact. This contribution is expressed in particular through partnerships the university forges with businesses and the public, non-governmental and community organizations, both locally and abroad.

Concordia has chosen to closely integrate itself into the economic fabric of Montreal and Quebec. Partnering with the community, it has created curricula adapted to the reality and needs of businesses and organizations, enabling students to receive training to facilitate their integration into the labour market.

Concordia conducts high-calibre research that reflects the priorities of Quebec. Such is the case of its work in environmental genomics, which over the past year has attracted significant funding indicative of the excellence of the research produced. For its part, the Faculty of Fine Arts is internationally recognized as a preeminent centre for applied research in the media arts: it has helped to position Montreal as a leader in digital creativity, one of the priorities of the city's Montreal, Cultural Metropolis action plan.

Concordia attracts research funding from outside Quebec. More than 80% of funding for research conducted by the university comes from sources outside the province, amounting to \$27.7 million in 2010. This contribution has more than doubled over the past decade.

EXPANSION IN CLOSE AND RECIPROCAL COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

Concordia University is a truly urban university. Its main campus in downtown Montreal is closely integrated into the urban fabric: bike paths, boulevards and streets cross through the campus; shops and office buildings are interspersed among its various faculties; and green spaces are shared by both students and the employees of the many local offices and businesses.

Over the past decade, Concordia has invested close to \$600 million in the infrastructure of its two Montreal campuses. These investments have profoundly revitalized west-end downtown Montreal, making it one of the city's liveliest neighbourhoods. The daily presence of 45,000 students and 7,000 professors and employees has also brought renewal to local restaurants, shops and other businesses, both downtown and in the western part of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. The modernization of Concordia's facilities has enabled it to increase its capacity, further promote excellence in research and teaching, support the wellbeing of the community and enhance the city's profile. Concordia also contributes to the general welfare of the community by offering public access to facilities such as its sports and cultural centres.

Finally, it should be noted that Concordia is committed to leading in sustainability. It has undertaken to raise public awareness and promote innovation to address the issues involved. This initiative is a demonstration of its resolve to democratize access to knowledge and expertise, and to engage the community in dialogue through various events outside the traditional educational framework. Thanks to its many activities, Concordia organizes citizen participation and encourages its employees, professors and students to participate in the many social initiatives offered in its environment. Always dynamic, the university stands out as an engaged and thoroughly engaging institution.