

CONCORDIA

CHANCELLOR'S BUILDERS CIRCLE AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2020

A NEW WAY TO LEAD

Learn how Concordia forges ahead
in an unprecedented time.



IN THIS ISSUE

Discover how our community has come together in a time of need.

Read about Concordians at the top of their fields.

Find out who was at our latest events — in person and online.

Plus more !

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

I hope you continue to keep well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I tip my hat to our community for its quick response to this public health crisis. I have been part of Concordia for over five decades, yet I never cease to be impressed by our community's resilience in the face of adversity. I hope that the stories and highlights in this newsletter inspire you, too.

This year, we lost one of our loyal ambassadors and friends, L. Jacques Ménard, BComm 67, LLD 06, on February 4. A respected businessman and Concordia chancellor emeritus, Ménard championed our university — and I express my sincere condolences to his family.

I am proud to congratulate Graham Carr on his official appointment as Concordia president — his term began just last December. I am excited as well that Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, joined Andrew Molson and Lino Saputo Jr., BA 89, as co-chair of our Campaign for Concordia.



This June, we welcomed Helen Antoniou as chair of our Board of Governors, while bidding adieu to Norman Hébert Jr., BComm 77, who deftly led our board with panache for the past eight years of unprecedented momentum. Thank you, Norm, for your exemplary service.

We welcomed many new graduates into our network of 220,000 alumni this June. I always look forward to meeting grads at convocation and was pleased that our university pivoted festivities online through CU Celebrates (concordia.ca/graduation-convocation).

I hope you enjoy reading about the positive ways our community forges ahead. In this issue, you will read about our latest honorary degree recipients and Public Scholars. You will learn more about award-winning community members and discover how donors, like you, continue to support the Campaign for Concordia so we may lead as Canada's next-generation university.

I wish you all a happy and safe end of summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Wener". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Jonathan Wener, BComm 71
Concordia Chancellor

LEARN MORE ABOUT CONCORDIA

Our videos: concordia.ca/alumni/videos

Our podcasts: concordia.ca/alumni/podcasts

Our publications: concordia.ca/alumni/ourpublications

STAY CONNECTED: JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Share your #CUpride and #CUalumni stories via @ConcordiaAlumni



concordia.ca/campaign

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I'm especially proud to share in this edition of the Chancellor's Builders Newsletter, given the adversity we have collectively faced in recent months. Despite the challenges, Concordians have managed not only to respond, but also to achieve what would be considered most impressive regardless of circumstance.

Through swift mobilization we moved 2,000 classes online in under two weeks. Our university graduated over 6,200 students this session, more than in any previous year. Members of our community continue to earn top honours such as Sobey Art Awards and recently shared in two Radio Television Digital News Association prizes.

Exceptional research-funding results signal the heightened importance of Concordia's work on acute global challenges. Our momentum as a next-generation university is captured in the 2020 *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. We are among the world's top 100 universities in seven categories aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We're number one in Canada in the Quality Education category, and in two areas — Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Climate Action — we finished first in Quebec, top five in Canada and top 20 in the world.

As an anchor institution, we're deeply engaged in supporting the COVID-19 relief effort. One of our engineering labs is designated an essential facility to ensure that domestically produced masks meet appropriate safety standards for use by front-line personnel. We launched CU Cares to connect volunteers with areas of need, and CU at Home to deliver community programming. A big thank-you to all those who helped the COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief Fund surpass \$1 million.

Looking ahead to fall 2020, our courses will be delivered mostly online. We will do so while maintaining a rigorous standard of quality. Accomplishing this will require us all to be flexible, creative and fully committed to our students' success — strengths for which we are known.

Best wishes to you and those close to you, and let's all stay optimistic for a brighter future ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G'.

Graham Carr
President and Vice-Chancellor
Concordia University



1. Alumni across Montreal have volunteered to make wellness phone calls through CU Cares.
2. Led by the Milieux Institute, members of the Concordia community have sewn 2,500 masks for health-care workers.
3. Fashion brand Tristan has been making up to 5,000 masks each day for frontline workers.

A NEW WAY TO LEAD

When our world came to a halt this March due to the global spread of COVID-19, Concordians joined forces to find new ways of bringing our community together. Read on to find out how we're staying connected.

CU AT HOME

Concordia launched CU at Home, a virtual support network to help our community move from isolation to connection. The initiative includes online events, webinars, workshops and programming for children. Sessions have included:



- The Happiness Lab, a four-part series hosted by **Gillian Leithman**, BA 00, MSc 05, PhD 16, exploring the science of happiness through the lens of psychology, management and neuroscience.



- U.S. Politics and COVID-19, a webinar hosted by **Graham Dodds**, associate professor in Concordia's Department of Political Science, examining the political impact of the COVID-19 crisis in the United States.



- Sustainability in a COVID-19 World, a conversation with **Matthew Leddy**, BA 18, from the Zero Waste Concordia program, on the environmental impact of the pandemic — including some positive takeaways from the crisis.

Learn more at concordia.ca/CUatHome.

CU CARES

In collaboration with Concordia's LIVE Centre, we also launched CU Cares — a network of volunteers looking to lend their support to community organizations in need. More than 400 people have volunteered in a variety of capacities, including placing check-in calls to seniors, delivering groceries and sewing face masks.

Discover more at concordia.ca/CUcares.

THE CONCORDIA COMMUNITY VERSUS COVID-19

In response to the public health crisis, Concordia launched a new series — The Concordia community vs. COVID-19 — to showcase stories of our students, staff, faculty and alumni and how they are joining together with their neighbours to bring about social good:

- **Lili Fortin**, BComm 04, president of Montreal-based fashion brand Tristan, pivoted from clothes to protective equipment. She shifted production to make face shields for front-line workers — up to 5,000 a day.



- **Wan Yi Leung**, an international student from Hong Kong enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts concentration in Photography, created a thesis project entitled "Dancing with seniors on Skype during COVID-19." Her goals were to generate something meaningful and relevant to the times and to provide companionship for isolated seniors.



- From Montreal's Crescent Street to St. Joseph's Oratory, artist and actor **Matthew Gagnon**, BA 07, documented a city under confinement through his miniature paintings. Throughout March, April and May, Gagnon produced a series of artworks, sold each one for \$50 and donated a portion of the proceeds to the Moisson Montréal food bank.

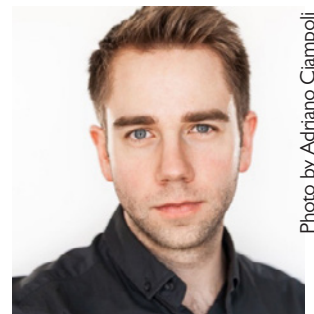


Photo by Adriano Ciampoli

Read more inspiring stories at concordia.ca/communityvsocovid.

NEW FACES AT CONCORDIA

FACULTY AND SCHOOL DEANS

This spring, Concordia appointed two new faculty deans, effective August 1: **Pascale Sicotte**¹, an internationally renowned primatologist, succeeds André Roy in the Faculty of Arts and Science; and **Annie Gérin**², a curator, visionary scholar and professor of art history, succeeds Rebecca Duclos in the Faculty of Fine Arts.



Concordia's Board of Governors appointed **Mourad Debbabi**³ as interim dean of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science (GCS). He is currently the associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies at the GCS and a professor at the Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering. Debbabi holds the NSERC/Hydro-Québec Thales Senior Industrial Research Chair in Smart Grid Security. His appointment follows the departure of Amir Asif, former GCS dean, for a new position at York University.



PUBLIC SCHOLARS

Concordia's newest Public Scholars⁴ will showcase their PhD research at Concordia and beyond. Some of the specialties of the latest cohort include developing a bioprinter that may one day lead to printed organs and exploring how extremist groups manipulate virtual communities.

Read more at concordia.ca/news.



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Concordia awarded six honorary doctorates in June. The recipients include a STEM outreach champion, a preserver of Indigenous languages and culture, and a BBC journalist. This year's recipients were honoured in CU Celebrate, a virtual celebration for more than 6,200 grads who now join our network of 220,000 alumni around the world.



Julia Higgins, DSc 20
Eminent British scientist

"You should feel that the world has an enormous need for the skills and the knowledge you have collected."



Jennifer Flanagan, DSc 20
Co-founder, president and CEO of Actua

"You will have tremendous opportunity to better our world and I have faith that you will do that with the most brilliant of engineering minds."



Lyse Doucet, LLD 20
BBC foreign correspondent, host and documentarian

"You have to be armed with the resilience and the resolve to be active. Never mind that the world is in the state it's in. Go out and do your part."



Vikas Swarup, LLD 20
Government of India diplomat and bestselling author

"This is the perfect time to rethink our assumptions and understand what it will take to build a new world — a better world."



Fobbie Tatti, LLD 20
Indigenous linguist and media host

Awarded for preserving and promoting Indigenous languages and culture.



David Fung, DSc 20
Sustainable technology integrator and serial entrepreneur

"This is your world, so go forward with confidence and make it more sustainable and equitable for everyone around you."



Margie Gillis, DFA 20

Modern dancer, choreographer, teacher
"Breathe in deeply and create action that supports the world you want to see manifested in your lifetime."

Do you know someone extraordinary?

Nominate them for an honorary degree. Visit concordia.ca/nominate for instructions.

HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITY



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Two Concordians, **Lino A. Saputo Jr.**¹, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia, and **Amanda Rushton**², MBA 20, were recognized for their exceptional leadership at Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year awards ceremony. Saputo was named the 2019 Canada Outstanding CEO of the Year, while Rushton was awarded a Futures Fund Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership, which includes a \$7,500 grant and a mentorship opportunity.

Norman Hébert Jr.³, BComm 77 — president and CEO of Groupe Park Avenue Inc. and a member of the Order of Canada — caps eight strong years at the helm of Concordia's Board of Governors.

Helen Antoniou took on the new role of board chair as of June 2020. Hébert is pictured with his spouse, **Diane Dunlop-Hébert**, BComm 82 — both long-time supporters of the university.



Four Concordia students — **Lynna Berdouk**⁴, **Karina Bosca**⁵, **Philippe Boucher**⁶ and **Marguerite Rolland**⁷ — were awarded Quebec’s Lieutenant Governor’s Youth Medal. The prestigious prize recognizes the involvement and determination of young Quebecers who positively influence their community.

Mara Eagle⁸, MFA student in Concordia’s Department of Studio Arts, and **Heidi Barkun** of Université du Québec à Montréal, are this year’s winners of the 11th annual Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowships in Contemporary Art. Valued at more than \$60,000 each over two years, the fellowships provide laureates with the recognition and support they need to refine their work and further their creative research as they transition out of academia and into the professional community.



Patti Sontag, BA 00, director of the IJ

The **Institute for Investigative Journalism (IJ)**⁹ earned national recognition for its “Tainted Water” project. Among its awards and nominations, the IJ was awarded the Dan McArthur Award for Investigative Journalism from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA), the Data Journalism Award from the Canadian Association of Journalists, and the Grand-Prix Judith-Jasmin, the highest honour in Quebec journalism. Thought to be the largest student-professional journalism collaboration in world history, the IJ-led investigation into the quality of Canada’s drinking water forced important policy changes across the country.

CONCORDIA



10



Photo by Simone Sapia

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13



14

“From Shore to Sky: A Reconciliation Story,” a Concordia digital journalism project, won the RTDNA’s Digital Media Award (Large Market). The project was led by assistant professor **Aphrodite Salas**¹⁰, MA 99, alongside five journalism students, in collaboration with CTV Montreal.

Brotherhood, a short film by **Meryam Joobeur**¹¹, BFA 13, was nominated for an Oscar at the 92nd Academy Awards and has won more than 60 awards in 48 countries, including Best Canadian Short at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival.

Tony Loffreda¹², BComm 85, former member of Concordia’s Board of Governors, was appointed to the Senate of Canada representing the province of Quebec.

Concordians **Gina Cody**¹³, MEng 81, PhD 89, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia, and **Caro Loutfi**¹⁴, BFA 14, executive director of Apathy is Boring, were both named one of Canada’s Top 25 Women of Influence in 2020.



Three Concordians are among new appointees to the Order of Canada: **Caroline Ouellette¹⁵**, LLD 19, named companion of the Order, and **Lynn Zimmer¹⁶**, BA 69, and **Hana Gartner¹⁷**, BA 70, named members of the Order.

Humanitarian and medical doctor **Samantha Nutt¹⁸**, founder of War Child Canada and War Child USA, was selected as the 22nd recipient of the Loyola Medal — Concordia’s highest non-academic award. Past honourees include Clara Hughes, Roberta Bondar and Roméo Dallaire, LLD 13.

Discover more stories at concordia.ca/alumninews.



BEST IN CLASS

The 2020 *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings named Concordia among the top 100 universities around the world in seven categories aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In two areas — Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Climate Action — we ranked first in Quebec, top five in Canada and top 20 in the world. Concordia also claimed top spot in Canada in the Quality Education category.

Fifteen Concordia disciplines are among the global best, according to the QS World Rankings by Subject 2020. Concordia additionally made the world’s top 100 in Art and Design, tying for second among Canadian universities.

CEO Magazine’s 2020 Global MBA Rankings named the John Molson EMBA among the top in the world. The Concordia program was ranked 32nd internationally and third in Canada.

Three faculty research centres have joined the ranks of Concordia’s university-recognized research units and infrastructure platforms: the Indigenous Futures Research Centre, the Security Research Centre, and the Thermal Spray and Surface Engineering Research Centre.



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WHO WAS THERE?

George F. Lengvari Jr.¹, BA 63, was the guest of honour at the second annual George Lengvari Cup — a hotly contested match between Concordia’s and McGill’s men’s basketball teams. A graduate, former star athlete and proud supporter of the sport at both schools, Lengvari presided over the ceremonial tip-off and presented the trophy to the winning team (McGill won a narrow 58-54 victory).

We celebrated recipients of Concordia’s Top 50 Under 50 Shaping Business award with receptions in Montreal and Toronto. Pictured at the Montreal event, from left to right, are recipients² **Kathleen Ffrench**, BA 01; **Lisa Hebert-Losier**, BSc 05; **Annamaria Testani**, BComm 93, EMBA 00; **Carolyn Vogelesang**, BComm 96, MBA 98; **Yan Morin**, BSc 03; and **Wayne Burke**, BA 10.



Pictured at the Top 50 celebration in Toronto are recipients³, from left: **Jonathan Sargent**, BComm 08, **Daniel Schlaepfer**, MBA 08, and **Michael Pelosi**, BComm 08.

The 50 Under 50 multi-platform initiative was launched to showcase trailblazing Concordia graduates. In June 2020, it earned a Bronze Circle of Excellence Award from CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education), a global non-profit association dedicated to educational advancement.

Each year, its prestigious Circle of Excellence awards recognize higher education's best in communications, development, marketing and advancement services around the world.





Concordia Alumni Women and Leadership hosted two events over winter semester:

Courage and Conviction: Haiti 10 Years Later⁴ explored the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and the development efforts in the following decade through the eyes of development workers. Pictured from left are **Martine St-Victor**, trustee of the KANPE Foundation; event emcee **Madeleine Féquière**, BA 85; **Morgan Wienberg**, co-founder of Little Footprints Big Steps; and **Isabelle Thibault**, executive director of the KANPE Foundation.

MOMENTS IN TIME

Famed jazz musicians⁶ **Oscar Peterson**, LLD 79, and **Johnny Holmes** practice together in Holmes' apartment in 1944. In honour of Peterson — eight-time Grammy Award-winning Montrealer and recipient of the 1997 Loyola Medal — the university renamed the Concordia Concert Hall on Loyola Campus the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall in 1999.

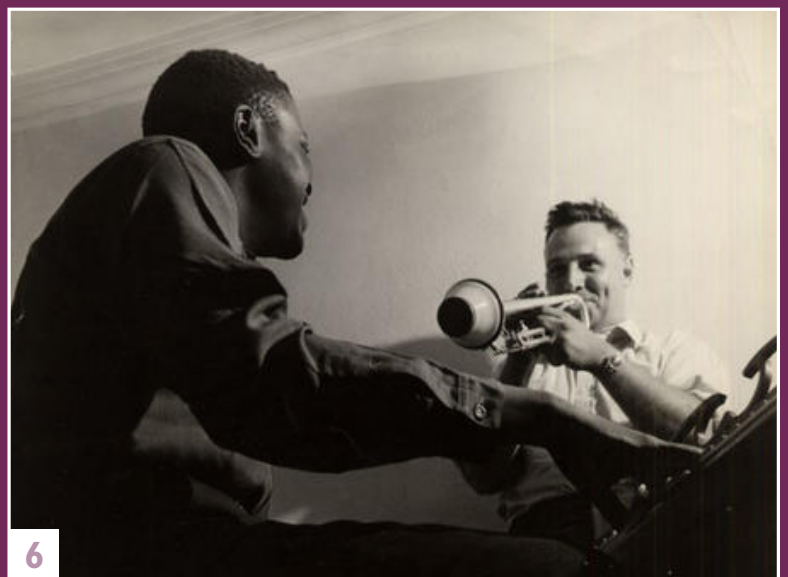


Photo courtesy of the Concordia University Records Management and Archives



Leadership Lessons from Women in Politics⁵ featured a panel discussion by leading women in their fields. Pictured from left: **Eva Nassif**, BA 05, MA 09, former Member of Parliament for the riding of Vimy; **Sue Montgomery**, mayor of Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce; moderator **Amanda Kline**, BA 11, CTV Montreal News reporter; and **Kimberley Manning**, principal of Concordia’s Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

Find out about upcoming online events at concordia.ca/alumnievents.

In 2004, Concordia hosted the Pearls of Wisdom Ball⁷ — a gala fundraiser in support of student bursaries — as a celebration of the university’s 30th anniversary. The successful event raised \$1 million in support of students.

Pictured front row: Mary Kay O’Neil-Lowy, Carolyn Renaud and Lillian Vineberg, BFA 83.

Back row: Peter Kruyt, BComm 78; Frederick Lowy, LLD 08; Claire Mullins-Kruyt, BAdmin 87; Charles Cavell, Richard Renaud, BComm 69, LLD 09; Suzan Cavell; the late Stephen Vineberg



Photo courtesy of the Concordia University Records Management and Archives

NEXT-GEN. NOW: SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS, TODAY

Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we have raised \$188 million towards the **Campaign for Concordia**, making it our university's most successful campaign to date. Learn about some of the latest gifts that help make Concordia an exceptional place.

The **Canadian Irish Studies Foundation** pledged \$4 million in support of Concordia's School of Irish Studies. The new gift will help advance research and support student scholarships.

Peter Pomponio¹, BComm 90, owner and president of Assante Dorval, gave \$100,000 to support undergraduate scholarships for finance students at the John Molson School of Business.





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The tragic crash of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 on January 8 took the lives of 176 passengers, including two Concordia alumni² — **Siavash Ghavouri-Azar**, MAsc 19 and **Sara Mamani**, MAsc 18. The university has since established the Memorial Scholarship Fund for Iranian Students to help encourage the next generation of international students. Thanks to a generous gift of \$50,000 from **Gina Cody**, co-chair of the Campaign for Concordia, the fund has raised more than \$85,000.

As soon as Concordia's **COVID-19 Emergency Student Relief Fund** was created this spring, more than 500 donors — alumni, staff, faculty, parents, students and friends — rallied to show their support. Our community responded with a \$164,000 from the Graduate Students' Association, a \$100,000 anonymous gift, plus \$50,000 from the Concordia University Alumni Association. The fund now stands at more than \$1 million, with nearly 1,400 students receiving support to date.



SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY

\$10 MILLION FOR SOCIAL GOOD

A visionary gift of \$10 million from the Mirella & Lino Saputo Foundation and the Amelia & Lino Saputo Jr. Foundation has allowed the creation of a first-of-its-kind multi-stakeholder collaboration centre at Concordia.

The new SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation, celebrated in November 2019, allows Concordia and its partners to drive and support community-based social transformation projects in Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

The gift — among the largest in the university's history — supports the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now.

SHIFT unites academic knowledge, community-held expertise and entrepreneurial students.

Together, they will develop sustainable and transformative solutions to complex societal challenges such as environmental degradation, political polarization, wealth inequality and a rapidly changing labour market.



From left to right: Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13; Concordia President Graham Carr; Lino Saputo; Mirella Saputo; Amelia Saputo, BA 90; Lino Saputo Jr.; Andrea Clarke, BSc 09, MSc 12, MBA 17; Nadia Bhuiyan, BEng 95; Cathy Wong, speaker, Montreal City Council, and city councillor, District Peter-McGill; Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president, Advancement



“Our family takes great pride in supporting this transformative project, since advancing social innovation is a family priority,” said Mirella Saputo, president of the Mirella & Lino Saputo Foundation.

Lino A. Saputo Jr., co-chair for the Campaign for Concordia, and chair of the board and chief executive officer of Montreal-based Saputo Inc., said this major gift is a pragmatic investment for his family.

“The SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation will support tomorrow’s social entrepreneurs to solve critical issues — from the ground up — in partnership with community groups,” he said. “Marrying academia and entrepreneurship with grassroots social innovation at Concordia will go a long way to improving society.”

The new centre grants resources and accompaniment to projects that link Concordians with community members and groups. Project teams will benefit from hands-on support for grant writing, project management, evaluation and strategic guidance.

“The SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation will allow Concordia to build on its long-standing reputation as a trusted, community-engaged and socially progressive university,” said Concordia President Graham Carr. “The centre, its staff and our students will support under-represented and overstretched front-line organizations and communities.”

Since celebrating the Saputo family’s gift in fall 2019, SHIFT has awarded \$40,000 to seven projects with community impact.

‘SHIFT IS A RESPONSE TO PROFOUND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES’

CONCORDIA LEADERS REFLECT ON THE IMPACT OF THE SAPUTO FAMILY’S GIFT

S H I F T
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GRAHAM CARR
Concordia President

“We understand that often the most effective solutions to major societal challenges begin at the local level. SHIFT will further strengthen Concordia’s role as a trusted, neutral power and relationship broker that collaborates with communities rather than mandating to them.”



NADIA BHUIYAN, BEng 95
Vice-provost, Partnerships and Experiential Learning

“SHIFT is a response to the profound societal challenges we are facing, such as accelerating environmental degradation, political polarization, wealth inequality and the rapid changes to the labour market due to technology. As a trusted Canadian institution with significant resources, we saw an opportunity to mobilize thinking and action around community-driven social transformation.”



PAUL CHESSER, BA 94, GrDip 97
Vice-president, Advancement

“We are grateful to our community’s business leaders for stepping up in support of higher education. This \$10-million gift to the SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation brings us more towards our Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen. Now goal. This major donation is a testimony to the trust we have with the community and with key institutions.”



ANDREA CLARKE, BSc 09, MSc 12, MBA 17
Senior director, Office of Community Engagement

“Community work, like research, requires curiosity, commitment and the capital to deliver on its full potential. It is clear to me that the SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation presents a unique opportunity for Concordia and the community sector to share their expertise, to co-develop approaches to partnership and to experiment boldly.”



JASON LEWIS
Concordia University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary

“SHIFT can help us address issues that are of concern to the Indigenous community, both locally and nationally, by making it possible to actually put the resources that Concordia has to direct use in working with those communities. SHIFT is an opportunity to do it right.”



KIMBERLEY MANNING
Principal, Simone de Beauvoir Institute

“Concordia was founded on the idea of access; access for all kinds of people to be able to receive and complete higher education. Thanks to the gift from the Saputo family, we’re now going to be able to take that vision to a much deeper level. SHIFT, at its heart, is a project of equity and inclusion.”



SARA BAPTISTE-BROWN, BComm 08

Member, SHIFT

Co-op program coordinator, Institute for Co-Operative Education

“Concordia is a great home for SHIFT because it brings together people and organizations. It allows groups that wouldn’t normally talk to each other to come together and to work collectively towards a positive impact on society. This is an opportunity to do good things for the right reasons.”



JASON ENS

Executive director, Academic Policy, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives

“The SHIFT Centre will be a place for organizing collective action with other key stakeholders, with government, with non-profits, with community organizations, with citizens, with companies — with people who really care about making a difference.”



MARGUERITE MENDELL, BA 72

Director, Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy

“SHIFT is on a continuum of Concordia’s history of always being willing to embark on innovation, to stay close to society and to stay close to community. To ask the questions that matter to the people around us and to find ways to answer those questions. That is the Concordia tradition.”



MARK UNDERWOOD, BA 18

CEO, Sustainability Action Fund

“SHIFT will offer community groups, NGOs and individuals the resources to ensure that their projects and initiatives are effective and they’re maintained. It will also allow students to get outside of the classroom and put learning into action for a more enriched experience.”