

WELCOME

Over the past year, the CTL team has worked alongside faculty, staff, and students to explore new ideas, tackle emerging challenges, and build a stronger, more connected teaching and learning community. This year saw the expansion of our Generative Artificial Intelligence initiatives, the continued growth of our Contemplative Pedagogies project, and the launch of new programs to support evidence-informed teaching and inclusive learning environments. Whether through workshops, faculty interest groups, curriculum collaborations, or strategic projects, the CTL has remained committed to advancing innovative, accessible, equitable, and collaborative education. I am continually inspired by the creativity, care, and dedication of our community. This report highlights some of our collective achievements over the past year, but more importantly, it reflects the relationships and collaborations that make our work possible. As we look ahead, I am excited to continue partnering with you to imagine, create, and transform teaching and learning at Concordia.



*John Paul Foxe,
Senior Director of the
Centre for Teaching
and Learning*

To contact the CTL, please email us at teaching@concordia.ca



OUR VISION

The CTL strives to inspire and empower educators to transform learning, fostering innovative, accessible, equitable, and collaborative education.

Strategic Planning

Over the past year, the CTL has put its new strategic plan into action, guided by our vision, mission, and strategic goals. Our values continue to shape our priorities and initiatives as we promote teaching excellence across Concordia.

OUR MISSION

The CTL advances innovative and impactful approaches to teaching and learning for the Concordia community. Guided by principles of collaboration, learner-centred education, evidence-based practices, culturally diverse ways of knowing and doing, and Indigenous Decolonization, we question, redefine, and transform learning.

The impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) on higher education was a key focus at the CTL this year, shaping several major initiatives including Winterfest: Teaching and Learning Festival, our ongoing faculty interest group (FIG), and the development of university-wide resources

Winterfest 2025: Generative Artificial Intelligence in teaching and learning

Winterfest 2025 highlighted the opportunities and challenges associated with GenAI in teaching and learning, along with the innovative ways Concordia faculty and staff are integrating GenAI into education, from curriculum design to practical applications such as accessibility and personalized learning.

Guidelines for Teaching with Generative Artificial Intelligence

Based on work from the CTL and other units at Concordia University, the CTL developed [guidelines for teaching with GenAI](#). Recognizing that GenAI is a rapidly evolving technology, these guidelines are intended to remain flexible, as we continue to research this topic and gain a better understanding of its role in university pedagogy.

Contemplative pedagogy initiative

Introduced in 2022, the goal of this initiative is to increase faculty well-being by introducing them to contemplative practices and supporting them to reflect on the impact and support practices in the classroom.

In December 2024, the CTL received a second Entente Canada-Québec pour l'enseignement dans la langue de la minorité et des langues seconds (ECQ) grant totaling \$150,000 to support the next phase of the Contemplative Pedagogies Initiative. This phase will include a microgrants program, a Contemplative Practices Summit in Fall 2025, and additional workshops throughout the upcoming year — stay tuned!

GenAI Quickstart: Foundations for Faculty

In collaboration with the Library, eConcordia and McGill University, the CTL contributed to the development of the [GenAI Quickstart: Foundations for Faculty](#). This includes nine tailored, short modules that address the concrete needs expressed by our communities. The modules can be completed in any order at any pace and revisited as needed. They are intended as a starting point for faculty. Similar modules are being developed for students and scheduled for release in September.

This project was funded by Quebec's Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, through the Canada-Québec Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction.

Generative Artificial Intelligence in the classroom Faculty Interest Group

This faculty interest group meets monthly to discuss the role of GenAI in the university classroom.

Contemplative Pedagogies Faculty Interest Group

This faculty interest group supports faculty in integrating contemplative practices in the classroom to promote well-being, compassion, and student learning. Members meet regularly for discussion, guided practice, peer feedback, and collaborative resource development to support their practice.

The CTL hosts a range of learning activities for the teaching community throughout the year, including workshops, faculty interest groups, reading circles, and drop-in consultations. Here are a few we'd like to highlight:

Instructional Skills Workshop

In May, the CTL hosted its first [Instructional Skills Workshop \(ISW\)](#) for Concordia faculty with participants from across all faculties. The CTL will continue to offer the ISW in the coming year, stay tuned for upcoming dates.

The ISW is a three-day intensive workshop that helps educators enhance their teaching through experiential learning and peer feedback. Participants deliver mini-lessons, reflect on their practices, and explore core teaching strategies, while fostering a supportive and collaborative learning environment.



"I had a great experience and the space to reflect on my teaching came at a good point in time - to question, reinforce, confirm the things that I have been doing in the classroom. I think this is a great platform, also for more experienced instructors to review and discuss.

- Gregor Kos, Full-Time Faculty, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Teaching Award Dossier Development Program

This year we offered a new multi-session program intended for faculty members seeking to develop a compelling teaching dossier for the purpose of applying for a teaching award. CTL resources to support your teaching dossier are [available on our website](#).

Teaching assistants and graduate student development

The CTL collaborates with GradProSkills to offer a [variety of workshops and resources for TAs and graduate students](#).

Teaching and learning guide for TAs

The CTL has developed a [comprehensive and resource](#) to guide TAs in their role as a teaching assistant.

Graduate seminar in university teaching

This intensive seminar on university teaching prepares graduate students for an academic teaching career.

"It was an enriching experience that introduced me to innovative and evidence-based teaching practices, as well as new ways to integrate technology in the classroom. More importantly, we discussed the role of educators amidst the rapid and wild proliferation of generative AI tools. It was very refreshing to interact with academics from diverse fields. This reminded me that in teaching, we learn best together."

— Nada Abdel Khalek, PhD.

Dealing with challenging moments in the classroom

[This series of micro-lectures](#) is designed to help faculty feel more equipped to handle unexpected situations that may arise in the classroom by providing strategies to promote a safe campus climate. Viewers will learn practical techniques to enhance classroom management skills and address common scenarios such as disruptive behaviour and teaching difficult content.

This series was recorded in Concordia's new Lightboard studio. To learn more, [visit our webpage](#).

Decolonization and Strategic Learning Initiatives

History, Resiliency, and Continuance of Rotinonhsión:ni Confederacy

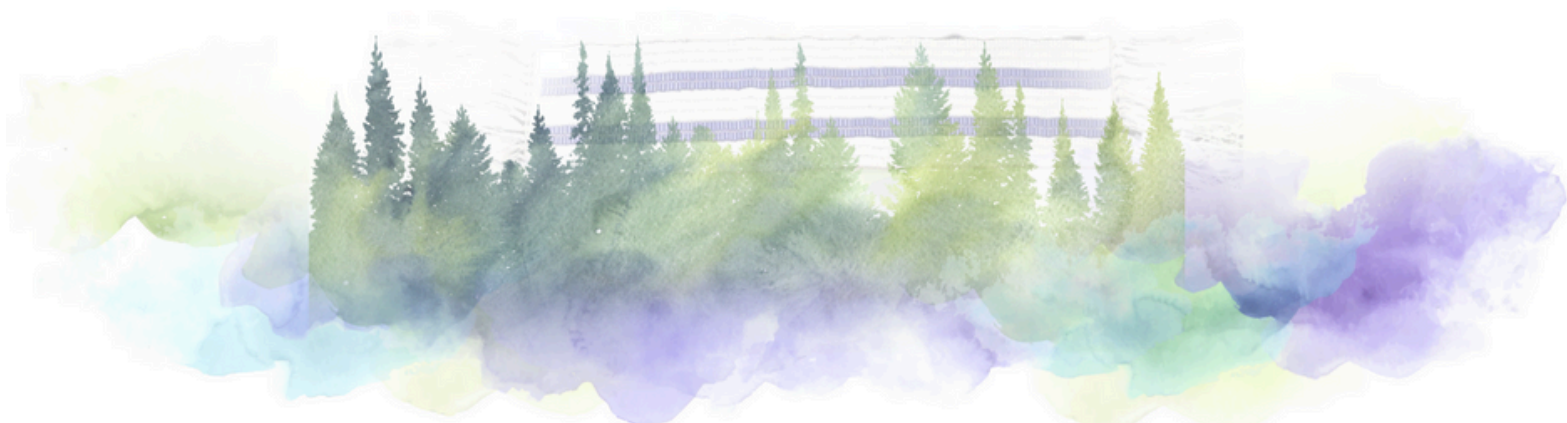
The director of the Office of Decolonization and Indigenization of Curriculum and Pedagogy (ODICP), Donna Kahérakwas Goodleaf co-developed self-paced modules titled, [History of resiliency and continuance of the Rotinonhsión:ni \(Haudenosaunee\) Confederacy](#), with Kanien'kehá:ka educator Kanentokon Hemlock. Together they worked closely with eConcordia to produce these modules, with additional contributions from CTL and IITS teams. Faculty and staff are invited to access the modules on Moodle and reach out to the ODICP to discuss potential integration into courses.

Five-Year Strategic Implementation Plan

The ODICP is continuing to socialize the Five-Year Strategic Implementation Plan on decolonizing and Indigenizing curriculum and pedagogy to faculty councils and departmental units across the university.

[Building Cultural Safety: Companion Resource Guide](#)

This guide aims to build upon the content of the Building Cultural Safety workshop from [Píkiskwêâtân: The Indigenous Learning Series](#), facilitated by the [Indigenous Directions Leadership Council](#).



Temporary Pause of Concordia OnLine Exam (COLE) Platform

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In the new academic year, the COLE online exam platform was temporarily paused to allow for system maintenance and feature enhancements. These upgrades are expected to take about a year and are part of the province-wide initiative known as le Centre d'Éxcellence environnement numérique d'apprentissage (CENA). They are being developed in collaboration with other universities and CEGEPs and will include transitioning COLE to a more secure, reliable cloud-based platform.

During this period, the CTL will support faculty in implementing alternative assessment strategies and looks forward to the improved version of COLE upon its return.

Across the Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Winter 2025 terms, a total of 243 exams were delivered through COLE, supporting 108 faculty members and 28,243 students.

Stay informed about the latest news and events at the CTL

- This year, we launched the CTL Newsletter to help keep the Concordia community informed about what's happening at the CTL. To receive the latest updates, [subscribe to the CTL Newsletter](#).
- Check out our [teaching and learning blog](#) to explore the ongoing initiatives at the CTL.
- This fall, the CTL is offering a wide variety of programming designed to promote teaching excellence across the Concordia community.
- [Concordia's Alicia Cundell wins a national award for excellence and innovation in instructional design.](#)
- [Concordia's Carole Brazeau is awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal.](#)
- The CTL received a second ECQ grant of \$150,000 to launch the next phase of the Contemplative Pedagogies Project.
- [Concordia joins two-year collaborative research project, Making AI Generative for Higher Education](#)

Register for our fall programming