

To support potential applicants to the SHIFT Gateway Program, we are sharing examples of successful applications from our last round of funding. Please note that because the application form has been updated, the responses have been edited slightly to fit the new questions.

The members of our selection jury review all the answers provided by each eligible applicant. As they read, they are looking for evidence of how the described project aligns with SHIFT's selection criteria. Below we've added comments to draw your attention to the parts of the text that were most compelling for the jury and to highlight the most notable links with the criteria.

## B) Contact Information

Tell us how we can reach you

### 4. Project Name

Please choose a brief name (5 words or less) to help us refer to your project.

Gathering Vision

### 5. Primary Contact Person

Full name of the person we should communicate with about this project

XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

### 6. Email Address

[example@domain.com](mailto:example@domain.com) (mailto:example@domain.com)

xxxxx@xxxxx.com

### 7. Phone Number

Please provide a phone number where we can reach you or leave a message between 9 am and 5 pm

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8. Name of the organization or informal group on whose behalf you are applying  
(if relevant)

N/A

9. Your role or position within the organization or informal group  
(if applicable)

N/A

10. Website or social media page for your project  
(if relevant)

N/A

11. Who else is on your project team? List the individuals who are actively involved in your team including their name, their connection to Concordia (if applicable), their organizational affiliation (if applicable) and their role/level of involvement in this project.

Visit SHIFT's list of key terms to consult our definition of a project team:

This project will be independent from any organization formally, but it will be closely associated with two projects I currently work with: - Indigenizing Cohabitation in Plateau-MiltonParc Working Group with the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK [co-founder]. - Indigenous Support Worker Project (ISWP) of Plateau-MiltonParc with Exeko [coordinator and street worker]. I am currently developing this project independently, but plan to add additional project members in the coming months.

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## C) Project description and potential for social transformation

**Definition:** Social transformation is an intentional process of systemic change to address not only the symptoms but the root causes of inequity, injustice and unsustainability. A project that has a transformative social impact is one that brings about change at the level of a whole system - impacting social norms and beliefs, resource consumption patterns, rules and practices, technologies and infrastructures, and/or the distribution of power.

12. What social issue are you addressing with your project? (Recommended length: 1 - 25 words)

e.g. access to quality mental health care; discriminatory immigration policies; social isolation of seniors; gender-based violence; racism in academia; food security; affordable housing; youth empowerment; reconciliation and decolonization; climate change; etc.

Reconciliation as Decolonization: Locally, Indigenous people experiencing homelessness are at risk of displacement from the Plateau-MiltonParc neighbourhood. On the macro level, the Indigenous Street Community endures ongoing colonial violence: socio-economic disparity, intergenerational trauma, and displacement from traditional territories.

**Clarity of Vision and Purpose:** Identifies the social issue they are hoping to tackle.

13. Is the social issue you are addressing related to injustice, inequity or unsustainability? (pick all that apply)

Please note that preference is generally given to projects that address at least 2 of 3

- Injustice
- Inequity
- Unsustainability

14. What system(s) are you hoping to transform with your project? (Recommended length: 1 - 25 words)

Systems exist at many different scales, such as at the level of an institution, a neighbourhood, a city, an industry or a society. Some examples of systems you might be hoping to transform with your project include: Concordia University; patient care at hospital X; fossil fuel industry; adapted transportation in Montreal; waste management in NDG; artificial intelligence sector; etc.

Local systems of community decision making in Plateau-MiltonParc.

**Clarity of Vision and Purpose:** Specifies which system they are hoping to transform.

15. What is your project or idea? What will the impact be? (Recommended length: 200 - 300 words)

Describe what you are planning to do and what will be different in the short or medium-term because it exists

**Clarity of Vision and Purpose:** Outlines the inequity and injustice that exists and how this project will work towards addressing these issues. Includes distinct responses to the two sub-questions.

**The problem:** Organizations make decisions on behalf of the Indigenous Street Community but the Indigenous Street Community is systemically and structurally excluded from that process. Gathering Vision will facilitate focused conversations with members of the ISC about identity, belonging, and self-advocacy. The synthesis of these conversations will contribute to a living document that informs a longer-term change-making process: Indigenizing Cohabitation in Plateau-MiltonParc. Goal: Identify the supports and barriers needed for the ISC in Plateau-MiltonParc to participate in neighbourhood decision making and increase their capacity for self-advocacy. Actions: 1) An Indigenous team, using Indigenous methods (respect, reciprocity, relationality) will facilitate one-on-one conversations with 35 people from the ISC. Interviews will comply with Covid19 safe protocols established for front line intervention workers. Conversations will be recorded by an in-person scribe with pen and paper. 2) We will also facilitate two focus groups: one with Indigenous serving front line workers and the other with community stakeholders from the Plateau Cohabitation committee. We will use Covid19 safe recommendations either in person or online. 3) Synthesize the conversations into an accessible document: a combination of a visually rich paper book and an online interactive multimedia. 4) The document, as an imprint of living stories, will be made accessible as a tool and a catalyst for further steps towards Indigenizing cohabitation. **Immediate Impact:** Gathering Vision will provide an opportunity for Indigenous people experiencing homelessness to focus on their thoughts and feelings of identity and belonging in an affirming conversation. This conversation will expand on their own ideas of what direct participation means and begin their exploration of possibilities of self-advocacy and community empowerment. **Longer-Term Impact:** Gathering Vision will provide advocates with the direction needed to support and resource the Indigenous Street Community's capacity for self-advocacy and act as co-partners in increasing community empowerment.

**Real World Impact:** Explains how this project will tangibly benefit the community most impacted by the social issue (Indigenous Street Community).

16. In what ways will your project impact the **root causes** of the social issue you are tackling in the longer term? Explain the potential you see for your project to contribute to a system-level solution that will reduce injustice, inequity or unsustainability in the future. (Recommended length: 100 - 200 words)

Look beyond the symptoms you are trying to address and think about how you hope your project will transform the system and the social issue you have identified above.

Other localities in Canada have adopted strong harm reduction practices in public health and have prioritized involvement and inclusion of community members. Direct and meaningful participation is a gold standard community practice when working with marginalized communities, especially in the context of homelessness response and substance use. Since

**Potential for Social Transformation:** Identifies root causes that underlie the social issue being addressed.

moving to Montreal, I have found that there are no existing mechanisms for meaningful engagement of Indigenous Street Community (ISC) members in the organizations that make decisions on their behalf --including government and social services. This exclusion applies to community social service groups, municipal government, public health authority, and provincial policy. Transform the system: Within the diverse neighbourhood of Plateau-MiltonParc, the Indigenous Street Community has an internal system of overcoming adversity while struggling with cycles of addictions, poverty, and exclusion. These cycles occur within an external system of neighbours, social services, and municipal government. All of this occurs in a macro-system conflict between Indigeneity and Provincial and Federal colonial governments. Make an impact: Gathering Vision will contribute to the transformation of this all-encompassing system. As a local initiative, this project has system-level implications. Direct participation and self-advocacy are Indigenous values that are undermined by paternalistic government policy. Meaningful inclusion of People With Lived Experience (PWLE) of Homelessness cannot occur without significant changes to civic and social service organizational structures. The structural changes organizations will have to make will challenge policy structures up the service hierarchy, because funding models will require adaptation and governmental policy priorities changes. Macro Goal: From the ground up, to spark provincial policymakers to support and fund structural changes in service provision that meaningfully includes PWLE of homelessness at all levels in decisions that impact their lives.

**Potential for Social Transformation:** Brings focus to the underlying systems that are perpetuating the challenges experienced by the ISC.

**Potential for Social Transformation:** Summarizes the long-term goal of this work. The envisioned long-term impact will not necessarily flow directly from the actions of this project, but it is possible to understand how this project is one of many steps that will push this type of systemic change forward.

17. How is your team connected to the communities or people that this project will impact and/or to the people who have the authority to make impactful decisions on this topic? (Recommended length: 100 - 200 words)

**Community Connection:** Describes existing meaningful relationships with the community that this project is seeking to benefit (Indigenous Street Community) as well as important partners.

Gathering Vision is part of a growing shift in the Urban Indigenous community of Montreal to confront structural exclusion and exploitative consultation processes. As both a street worker and a project coordinator, I am in a unique position to facilitate some steps towards change in this larger, longer-term effort. As an Indigenous Travailler des Rues in Plateau-MiltonParc, I have a strong connection with the Indigenous Street Community and my frontline support worker colleagues. As coordinator of IWSP, I work closely with the directors and management of Indigenous serving organizations. ISWP is a member of the Montreal Indigenous Community Network, Montreal Indigenous Health Advisory Council, and the Cohabitation Committee of the Arrondissement Plateau. I have worked with the Indigenous Street Community in Plateau-MiltonParc since Sept of 2019. I am confident in my connections and my ability to work with the community within an Indigenous circle or respect, reciprocity, and relationality. I completed my BSW in Indigenous trauma informed social work. I am Anishnaabe.

**Community Connection:** Identifies relevant lived experience and expertise.

18. How is your project connected to Concordia or how would you like it to be in the future? (Recommended length: 50 - 100 words)

Emphasize connections to Concordia's core operations (teaching, learning, research, or campus/student life) as opposed to connections to individuals

I hope to add team members in collaboration with Concordia's Office of Community Engagement's Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator. Ideally, I will connect with a community of people at Concordia who are interested in harm reduction practices and decolonizing approaches to homelessness response. I'm interested in hiring Concordia students to work on this project with me as co-facilitators and to receiving support from a faculty member if possible.

**Concordia Connection:** Demonstrates a familiarity with Concordia and an interest in involving relevant people from Concordia in the work.

19. What different perspectives on the issue or system you are seeking to transform are currently held by members of your project team? Besides the current members of your team, are there additional stakeholders or partners who you would like to see involved in your project in the future? (Recommended length: 50 - 100 words)

Through my job with indigenous Support Worker Project (ISWP) I am able to access: - Connections to the street community, frontline workers, management, and city staff. - Office equipment and communications. - Administrative support from Exeko. - Use of the Wapikoni Community Trailer as office space. - Connection to Head & Hands for Covid19 supplies. [Exeko in a Montreal community organization the uses cultural and artistic creativity to promote social transformation and emancipation for people at risk of exclusion]. [Wapikoni is a non-profit organization that transports mobile film making programs to rural Indigenous communities to support mental health]. [Head & Hands supports youth in Cote des Neiges and is the central distributor of Covid19 supplies to community organizations]. Over the course of this project, I plan to deepen my existing relationships with members of the ISC, community organizers and politicians from the Plateau-MiltonParc neighbourhood to ensure the success of this project.

**Multi-disciplinary & multi-stakeholder engagement:** Demonstrates existing connections with different relevant stakeholders, an interest in strengthening these connections and awareness of the importance of multiple stakeholders to the success of this type of work

20. Why are you excited to join the SHIFT Learning Community? What do you hope to learn from the 6-part event series? (Recommended length: 50 - 100 words)

I am grateful for the opportunity to apply for this funding to support the community I already work with and to connect with a new community at Concordia. I am particularly interested in connecting with and learning from people who work within a harm reduction framework and who follow the concept of "Nothing About Us Without Us," which has been a rallying cry and critique of exclusionary service practice for decades, yet has somehow bypassed Montreal's response to Indigenous homelessness.

21. How will you use the \$5,000 you are requesting from SHIFT? Please submit a budget for your project which shows how you intend to spend the money you are requesting from SHIFT. Email your budget file to [shift@concordia.ca](mailto:shift@concordia.ca) (<mailto:shift@concordia.ca>)

OPTIONAL: If there is anything important you would like us to know about how you will use SHIFT funding that is not immediately obvious from looking at your budget, please note it below (e.g. The animators we are planning to hire are all Concordia students; We are paying for LSQ interpreters to make our event accessible to members of the Deaf community, etc.)

I have organized several community input sessions with communities experiencing homelessness, mental health crisis, and drug use. I am talented at creative and innovative ways to meet the participation needs of participants --including mobility, neurodiversity, and communication accessibility. Each person has unique ways of learning new environments and expressing their thoughts and feelings. A foundational 'resource' in my work is my ability to connect with a person and quickly build the trust and rapport needed for meaningful and genuine communication.