



**PRESIDENT'S  
REPORT 2025**

REDEFINING  
THE  
POSSIBILITIES





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



## REDEFINING THE POSSIBILITIES

In 1974, when Loyola College and Sir George Williams University merged to create Concordia, who could've imagined where we'd be today?

Despite our modest beginnings, Concordia is now widely considered one of the world's best young universities. For example, the 2024 *Times Higher Education* Young University Rankings placed Concordia 80th among universities under 50 years old worldwide and, for the first time, best in North America.

Throughout our history, Concordia has excelled by prioritizing accessibility, diversity and excellence, as well as by fostering creativity and innovation. Those values have helped make Concordia what it is: woven into the fabric of Montreal and Quebec; a magnet for international talent; and a global leader in research and the arts.

Our 262,000 alumni are shaping businesses, non-profits and creative industries around the world, contributing in countless ways to their professional fields and local communities.

The university does its part, too.

We consciously push knowledge in new directions that maximize value for society with groundbreaking initiatives like Volt-Age, a \$200-million research and training consortium on electrification.

We also make bold choices operationally, such as our commitment to decarbonize the physical infrastructure of our two campuses by 2040.

All told, Concordia adds nearly \$2 billion annually to the Quebec economy through our purchasing power and by increasing human capital and productivity.

At this landmark moment in our history, it's important to reflect not just on how far Concordia has come but on how far we can go.

In this report, you'll discover or rediscover a university bursting with creative energy, social dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit, one eager to evolve, experiment and collaborate in the name of redefining what's possible now and over the next 50 years.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Graham Carr".

**GRAHAM CARR**

PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

# NEXT GEN NOW



# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

AS A NEXT-GENERATION UNIVERSITY, WE REIMAGINE THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. CONCORDIA'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CROSS-FUNCTIONAL RESEARCH BENEFITS OUR 50,000 STUDENTS. CONCORDIA IS THE TOP-RANKED UNIVERSITY IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER 50, LOCATED IN VIBRANT MONTREAL ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE KANIEN'KEHÁ:KA NATION.

WE STRIVE TO BE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD.

## LEARNING

Transforming traditional education with innovative ideas

## DISCOVERY

Performing innovative and dynamic knowledge-creation across disciplines

## ENGAGEMENT

Bringing our insight, understanding, expertise and commitment to the public

## INNOVATION

Adopting novel approaches, judicious risk-taking and purposeful experimentation

## SPACES

Using buildings to their fullest potential to foster multidisciplinary collaboration

# NEXT-GEN DISCOVERY & INNOVATION

INSPIRING BOLD IDEAS

## CONCORDIA BECOMES ERICSSON'S FIRST TIER 1 UNIVERSITY PARTNER IN NORTH AMERICA

### **The partnership marks a new phase in an ongoing collaboration**

Ericsson has named Concordia its first Tier 1 university partner in North America — the highest level an academic institution can achieve with the company. Based in Concordia's Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, the partnership will include joint research, patent development and customized training programs in cybersecurity, applied artificial intelligence, cloud computing, 5G and more.

"Our collaboration with Ericsson highlights our commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships that drive both educational and technological progress," says Concordia President Graham Carr. "We are excited and eager to continue working together to push the boundaries of what is possible in this era of cloud computing."

Concordia and Ericsson have long collaborated on research and development tackling key challenges in communications and technology, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity and applied AI.

"Expanding our partnership with Concordia will drive innovation in Canada's information and communication technology space," says Jeanette Irekvis, president of Ericsson Canada. "Our long-standing relationship has resulted in numerous successes, providing Ericsson with top talent and paving the way for an incredible foundation of innovation in the latest technologies."



## **Concordia names Tim Evans vice-president of Research, Innovation and Impact ▼**

Concordia has appointed Tim Evans as its new vice-president of Research, Innovation and Impact. The world-renowned scientist, educator, entrepreneur, and research and policy leader in the field of global health began his five-year term on January 6, 2025.

Throughout his career, Evans has pioneered global partnerships to address health inequities in childhood vaccination, disease surveillance, maternal and child health, the primary-care workforce, pandemic financing and access to life-saving drugs for HIV. He has championed the need for continued investments in expanding global knowledge in universal health equity, health-systems research, social determinants of health and health entrepreneurship.

Evans previously served at McGill University as inaugural director of the McGill School of Population and Global Health; associate dean of Population and Global Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences; and as associate vice-president of Global Policy and Innovation. In 2020, the Government of Canada appointed him executive director of its COVID-19 Immunity Task Force.

“Today’s most-pressing issues — climate change, disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence, preparing for the next pandemic — are international and interdisciplinary in scope and demand unprecedented ingenuity,” says Evans. “Universities have a critical role to play in forging new knowledge frontiers and training the next generation of leaders to bridge the ingenuity gap.”





## Top research ranking in Canada and growth in Quebec

Concordia has secured its highest-ever ranking in the 2024 *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities*, placing first in the province of Quebec and fifth nationwide. The university's sponsored research income reached \$129.1 million, reflecting a 47.6 per cent year-over-year increase, and nearly triple its 2014 recorded total of \$43.9 million.

President Graham Carr attributes the success to the "excellence, creativity and determination of our researchers." With a strategic focus on interdisciplinary collaborations and continued support for emerging fields, Concordia's progress reflects its commitment to impactful, real-world innovation.

## The future of 3D printing ▲

Concordia researchers have developed holographic direct sound printing (HDSP), a 3D-printing technique that uses acoustic holograms to create complex objects up to 20 times faster — and with less energy — than previous methods.

Led by Muthukumaran Packirisamy, professor in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, the technology uses microscopic bubbles to create extremely high heat and pressure to harden resin into elaborate patterns. Potential applications include the creation of complex tissue structures, localized drug and cell delivery systems, and advanced tissue engineering.

## Using AI to predict the future cost of rent ▼

Concordia and private equity firm Equiton have leveraged AI to forecast rental costs across Canada. Led by Erkan Yönder, associate professor of finance and real estate at the John Molson School of Business, the study predicts that the monthly cost of a two-bedroom rental will reach \$4,325 in Montreal, \$5,600 in Toronto and \$7,750 in Vancouver by 2032.

The study analyzed data from 427 census subdivisions, incorporating information from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Statistics Canada, and federal immigration and population projections. The AI model provides insights into rental price determinants for specific demographics, underscoring the need to address Canada's housing supply shortage.





## Mothers' language choices double the impact in bilingual families ►

A Concordia study of 300 bilingual Montreal households challenges the traditional one-parent-one-language (OPOL) approach, showing that most parents use both languages with their children.

Andrea Sander-Montant, a PhD student at the Concordia Infant Research Lab, additionally found that mothers' language choices have twice the impact on children's language exposure compared to fathers.

The study identified four main strategies: OPOL, both parents using both languages, and two mixed approaches. "There was little association between the strategies used and how much the children were hearing of either language," explains Krista Byers-Heinlein, supervising author and professor in the Department of Psychology.

The findings can have real-world impact for policymakers, health-care workers and professionals who closely work with and give advice to bilingual families.

## Canada Foundation for Innovation invests more than \$5.5M in Concordia

Two Concordia research projects have secured more than \$5.5 million in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

Christian Moreau and Pantcho Stoyanov, professors at the Gina Cody School, received \$3.5 million to develop cutting-edge coatings to enable materials to better withstand extreme environmental conditions in the transportation, aerospace, manufacturing and energy sectors.

Biology professor Vincent Martin secured \$2 million to upgrade equipment and resources in Concordia's Genome Foundry and Bioprocessing Centre. The funds will be used to acquire robotics for genome engineering and phenotyping, and small- and large-scale fermentation equipment.



## Uncertainty plays key role in work injury and mental health

A meta-analysis co-authored by Steve Granger, assistant professor of Management at the John Molson School of Business, and Nick Turner of the University of Calgary, explores the link between workplace injuries and mental health. The study reveals that work-related injuries are more likely to precede mental-health challenges than the reverse.

The researchers highlight how job uncertainty can exacerbate mental health post-injury. They advocate for rehabilitation programs that address physical and psychological recovery, emphasizing that dignity, fair treatment and adequate post-injury support are critical to reintegration into the workforce.

## What influences young people to swap clothes on a large scale?

Young people are reshaping fashion consumption, according to a study by Farah Armouch as part her John Molson School master's thesis.

The study examines motivations behind clothing-swapping among 18- to 35-year-olds across cultures, identifying economic, environmental, hedonic and activist motives. Armouch found that clothing swaps extend garment lifestyles, foster community building and offer economic advantages. She also observed cultural influences on sustainable fashion and suggests tailoring swap initiatives to specific cultural contexts for greater impact.



# NEXT-GEN ENGAGEMENT

## STRENGTHENING OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

### CONCORDIA OFFERS TUITION WAIVERS TO FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT STUDENTS FROM ACROSS QUEBEC

#### **The initiative sets a new standard for educational accessibility**

First Nations and Inuit students whose communities are situated in Quebec can now benefit from a Concordia tuition waiver for most undergraduate and graduate programs, covering full- or part-time studies.

While Indigenous students from communities across Canada are enrolled at Concordia, the majority are from communities within Quebec. The initiative includes all 11 Nations — 10 First Nations, as well as the Inuit — across Quebec.

“Indigenous students can now access services such as the Otsenhákta Student Centre and the Kaié:ri Nikawerá:ke Indigenous Bridging Program, which reflect the deep and ongoing work that stems from the Indigenous Directions Action Plan,” says Manon Tremblay, senior director of Indigenous Directions.



“These services contribute to an enhanced cultural climate for Indigenous students and can help support them throughout their learning journey.”

Tuition fees will be waived for remaining credits of the program, rather than being limited to a fixed number of years. This flexible approach, coupled with the inclusion of part-time studies, certificate programs and independent studies, broadens the opportunity for a greater number of First Nations and Inuit people in Quebec to access higher education. The creation of the program is one of the steps outlined in Concordia’s Indigenous Directions Action Plan, which provides concrete actions to decolonize and indigenize the university.

## Inspiring the next generation of Black scientists ►

Growing up in the Bahamas, Nicola S. Smith developed a love for science, despite a lack of role models. The marine biologist now aims to inspire the next generation of Black scientists at Concordia and beyond. “It’s time to recognize, appreciate and tear down the barriers and obstacles that Black people had to overcome and are still fighting to overcome to be treated fairly, and with dignity,” she says.

Smith recently joined the Department of Biology as an associate professor, where she studies the impacts of climate change on marine systems and invasions.

## New mural celebrates artist Gabor Szilasi ▼

A new mural unveiled on Sir George Williams Campus honours Gabor Szilasi, world-renowned photographer and professor emeritus in Concordia’s Department of Studio Arts.

Painted by Rafael Sottolichio and produced by MU, a Montreal non-profit organization, the mural features a reproduction of Szilasi’s 1971 photo “Tempête de neige, février,” along with his self-portrait. The project is part of the City of Montreal’s Programme d’art mural and MU’s *Tribute to Montreal’s Great Artists* series.



OLIVIER BOUSQUET (MU)



## 12 community leaders join President’s Advisory Group

Concordia has appointed 12 accomplished individuals to its new President’s Advisory Group. The leaders will support President Graham Carr and his senior team on key issues, offering expertise to help the university navigate current and future challenges. The team includes:

- **Morton S. Minc**, (chair), Concordia jurist-in-residence
- **Nahlah Ayed**, award-winning journalist and host of *Ideas* on CBC Radio
- **Yolande James**, managing director and head of Strategic Communications and Global Government Affairs, PSP Investments
- **Vickie Joseph**, entrepreneur, founder and CEO, V Kosmetik International, and chair of the board of directors, Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal
- **Naveed Irshad**, president and CEO, Manulife Canada
- **Larry Markowitz**, senior director, Financial Communications, NATIONAL Public Relations
- **Brigitte Monneau**, executive director, SYNTHÈSE – Pôle Image Québec
- **Sabaa Quao**, president, PlusCo Venture Studio, and co-founder, Wealthie Works Daily
- **Paule Robitaille**, immigration lawyer and journalist
- **Allan Rock**, president emeritus, University of Ottawa, former federal cabinet minister, and former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations
- **Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer**, former Grand Chief of Kahnawake, CEO and president at Sky-Deer Consulting
- **Thupten Jinpa**, founder, Compassion Institute, principal English translator for the Dalai Lama, and chair, Mind and Life Institute





### Former Stingers represent Team Canada at Summer Olympics ▲

Concordia alumni had a strong presence at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, with three former Stingers competing for Team Canada in their respective sports. Tammara Thibault participated in women's boxing (75 kg), Linda Morais in women's freestyle wrestling (68 kg), and Alex Moore in men's freestyle wrestling (86 kg).

### New scholarships support Black PhD students at Concordia

Concordia's School of Graduate Studies has introduced two new scholarships to support Black PhD students: the Black Student Excellence Doctoral Entrance Awards, and the Indigenous and Black Engineering/Technology (IBET) Momentum Fellowship.

The initiatives align with Concordia's commitment to increase the recruitment and success of Black scholars, and are part of ongoing efforts stemming from the final report of the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism.



### Co-op students build, learn and connect in the Cree Nation of Chisasibi ►

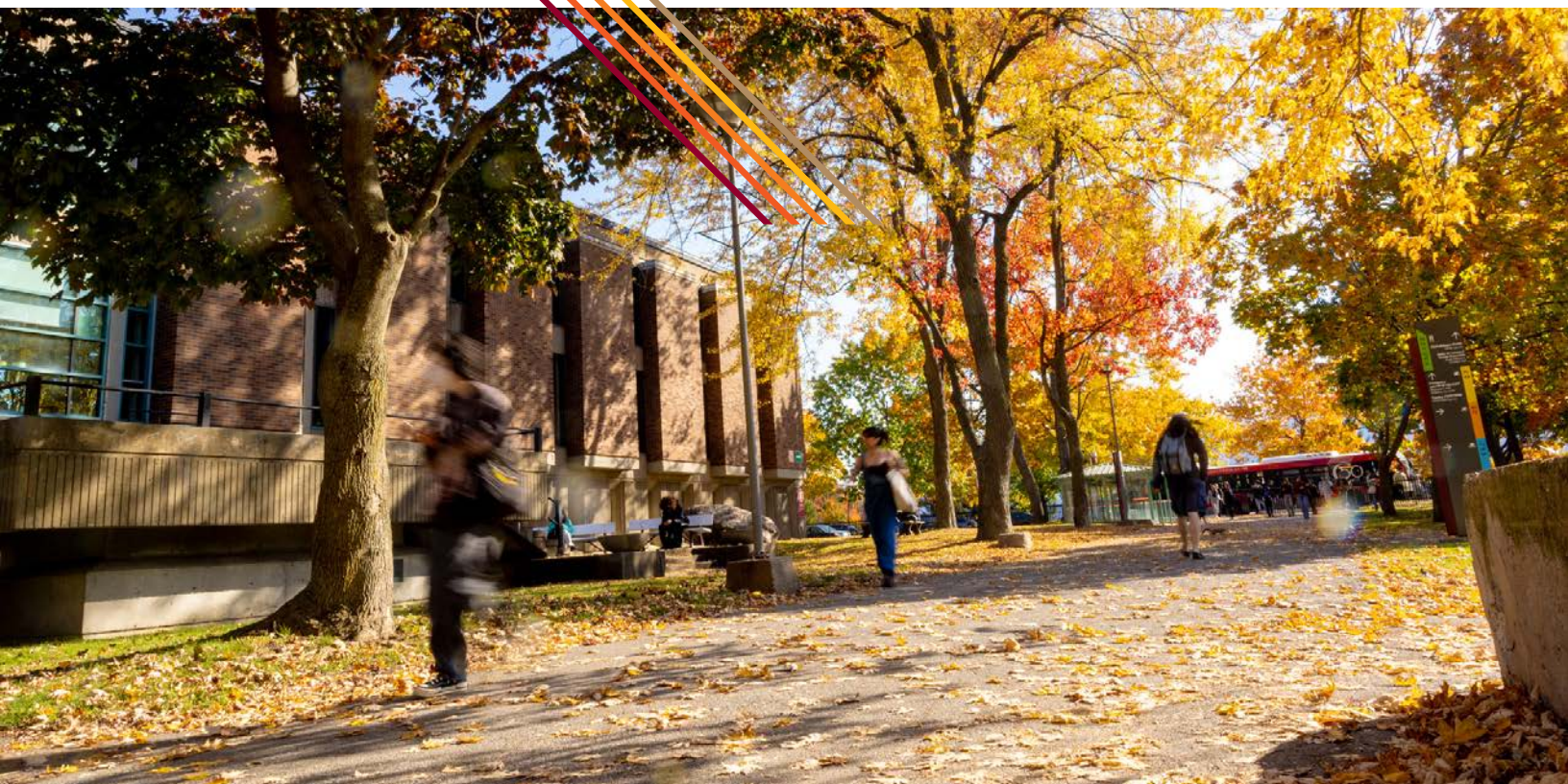
Muhammad Ahsan (pictured centre) and Malik Arsalan were the first two Concordia students to intern on the Cree territory in one of Canada's most northern regions.

The new partnership between the university's Institute for Co-operative Education and the Cree Nation of Chisasibi allowed the graduate engineering students to contribute to projects related to infrastructure, housing and engineering. The hands-on experience additionally offered an immersive journey into Cree territory and culture.



### Concordia releases its shared vision for Loyola Campus ▼

Concordia's new vision for Loyola Campus focuses on sustainable development over the next 15 years. The plan includes five development zones, such as new academic and research buildings, expanded community spaces and indoor sports facilities. The development is part of Concordia's larger Campus Master Plan, a framework to achieve development projects that will shape the campus of the future.







# NEXT-GEN

# SUSTAINABILITY

## TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE



### **Concordia's Volt-Age co-organizes Conference on Advanced Lithium Batteries for Automobile Applications**

The 15th International Conference on Advanced Lithium Batteries for Automobile Applications (ABAA) — co-organized by Concordia's Volt-Age electrification research program in October 2024 — hosted top policymakers from across the United States, China, Europe, Japan and Korea.

The conference included talks by Nobel laureates Steven Chu and Stanley Whittingham, as well as François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's then-Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

Discussions focused on lithium battery technology, including breakthroughs in battery design, efficiency and sustainability, particularly for electric vehicles (EV). The goal was to bridge knowledge gaps between industry and academia related to EV batteries and their practical applications.



### PhD student turns Montreal balconies into biodiversity hotspots ▼

Nicole Yu, a biology PhD student who researches urban biodiversity, is encouraging residents to create green spaces that attract pollinators like monarch butterflies. The Balcony Garden Project, led by Yu in collaboration with Associate Professor Carly Ziter, aims to merge urban living with biodiversity conservation. The project is focused on a pilot study to gauge the capacity of urban balcony gardens to support these organisms.



### Concordia helps fuel innovation at Quebec's Espace Aéro

The Government of Quebec has announced the launch of Espace Aéro, a new aerospace innovation zone with hubs in Montreal (Saint-Laurent borough), Mirabel and Longueuil. The Collaborative Innovation Centre in Aerospace and Mobility, set to open in 2027, will be the Montreal hub's flagship project with a \$224,000 investment from the province. Concordia will contribute its expertise in engineering and sustainable development through advanced research, industry collaborations and specialized educational programs.





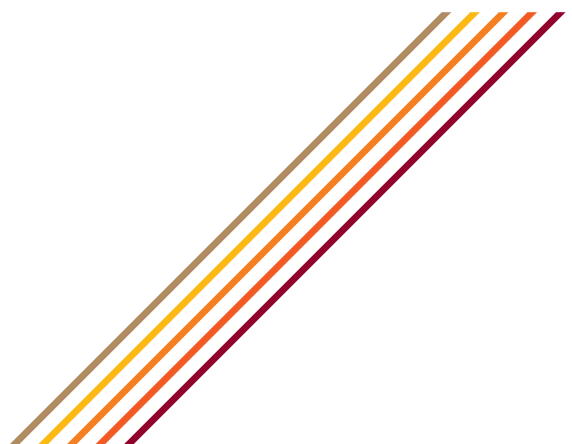
### **New trees on Loyola Campus enhance urban green spaces ▲**

More than 1,400 trees were planted on Loyola Campus as part of a partnership with Soverdi, a Montreal-based non-profit organization focused on urban green spaces. Supported by more than \$500,000 in materials and services, the project aims to enhance campus biodiversity, advances the university's sustainability goals and creates new spaces for students to study and relax.

### **Concordia leads new Climate Data Hub for Greater Montreal**

Concordia has spearheaded the Climate Data Hub for Greater Montreal, an initiative aiming to centralize emissions-related data from various stakeholders, including government offices, private companies and academic researchers. The hub will help enhance data-driven decision-making and transparency in tracking greenhouse gas emissions across the region.

Led by Jean-Noé Landry, former Obama Scholar and executive director of Open North, the hub is part of Concordia's Next-Generation Cities Institute under its UNIVER/CITY 2030 initiative. Key partners include the City of Montreal, Hydro-Québec and Énergir.







### Algae offer real potential as a renewable electricity source ▲

Researchers at Concordia's Optical-Bio Microsystems Lab have developed a micro photosynthetic power cell that can harness electricity from algae during photosynthesis.

The process can additionally absorb carbon dioxide, making it a negative carbon-emission technology. Configured correctly, the cells can provide a sustainable energy source for low- to ultra-low power devices such as Internet of Things sensors.

### Climate change podcast earns a Trebek Initiative Grant ▼

A collaboration between journalist Amy Romers (pictured centre) and assistant professors Nicola S. Smith and Florian Grond has earned a Trebek Initiative Grant to produce the podcast *Beyond Ecological Grief*.

The project will combine scientific expertise with personal narratives to explore the emotional responses to climate change, aiming to provide listeners with a space for collective grieving and empowerment to foster a more hopeful future. The Trebek Initiative, a partnership between the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the National Geographic Society, supports initiatives focused on preserving Canadian and Indigenous land, wildlife, water, culture and history.







### **Cranberries give runners a natural edge ►**

A Concordia study published in *Physical Activity and Nutrition* indicates that cranberries can serve as a natural performance enhancer for athletes.

Researchers Andreas Bergdahl, associate professor in the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Applied Physiology, and PhD candidate Francis Parenteau found that daily cranberry extract consumption improved speed, blood lactate and oxygen levels in trained runners.

Over 28 days, 14 high-level distance runners ingested a cranberry supplement, which led to a noticeable improvement in both performance and muscle fatigue following 1,500-metre time trials. Reoxygenation rates were also faster, and running speeds improved by 1.5 per cent.



Cranberries are highly rich in polyphenols, a natural compound with antioxidant properties. These characteristics help protect the body from the harmful effects of free radical molecules produced by strenuous exercise.

“The beauty of this is that it is all natural,” says Bergdahl. “It is an ergogenic aid, meaning that it is performance-enhancing, but it is not an anabolic steroid. Athletes can get this important boost in their performance just by consuming more cranberries.”



### **Cognitive decline may be detected using network analysis ►**

Department of Psychology professor Natalie Phillips and PhD student Nicholas Grunden are using network analysis to detect subtle changes in individuals with subjective cognitive decline (SCD). The approach models cognitive performance as interconnected nodes, representing various cognitive abilities and participant characteristics.

By analyzing data from two large Canadian datasets, the researchers found that performance on executive function and processing speed tests — both known to decline with age — showed marked decreases from cognitively normal individuals to those with SCD and mild cognitive impairment. “We found that interesting, because it uncovered something that speaks to individuals’ subjective concerns that are invisible in normal statistical analyses,” Grunden says.

### **Vaping additives harm a vital membrane in the lungs**

Research by Christine DeWolf, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry professor, and master’s student Panagiota Taktikakis, reveals that the e-cigarette additive tocopherol — an organic compound better known as vitamin E — and its acetate can damage a vital membrane in the lungs. When these compounds are heated and inhaled, they embed in the pulmonary surfactant — a thin lipid-protein membrane essential for gas exchange and lung stability — potentially causing lung injury or difficulty with breathing.

### **Bilingualism may maintain protection against Alzheimer’s ►**

A study led by PhD candidate Kristina Coulter and psychology professor Natalie Phillips suggests that speaking more than one language may help protect against Alzheimer’s disease. The researchers used neuroimaging methods to examine brain resilience in regions of the brain linked to language and aging. They found that the hippocampus in bilingual individuals with Alzheimer’s was noticeably larger than those who were monolingual when matched for age, education, cognitive function and memory. Their research suggests that there could be some brain maintenance related to bilingualism.



### **Ultrasound-directed microbubbles could boost immune response against tumours**

Researchers in Concordia’s biology and physics departments are proposing a novel method to fight cancer tumours using ultrasound-guided microbubbles — a technology already widely used in medical imaging and drug delivery. They suggest that ultrasound can modify the behaviour of cancer-fighting T cells by increasing their cell permeability. The researchers examined how this can influence the release of cytokines and proteins that are required to grow additional immune and blood cells that are crucial for immune response.







# NEXT-GEN LEARNING

KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT LIMITS

## Preserving the Stingers' legacy for future generations ▼

Concordia's Records Management and Archives has launched a project to digitize and archive historical materials from the university's Stingers varsity teams dating back to the 1950s.

The initiative aims to document key moments in Concordia's athletic history, ensuring they remain accessible to future generations.

The historical records provided by the Department of Recreation and Athletics include everything from vintage uniform designs and team photographs

to video recordings capturing some of the teams' earliest games. Much of the existing footage and photography is scattered across various formats, including 16mm film, VHS tapes and audio reels, making preservation and accessibility a challenge.

Archiving such materials opens up potential for research, exhibitions and educational initiatives. It will also help offer insight into the evolution of varsity and intramural sports, document student engagement over the years and showcase the Stingers' role in shaping student culture.





### **Award-winning artists share songwriting expertise with music students ►**

Platinum-selling artist Ariane Moffatt and Polaris Prize-nominee Ada Lea joined Concordia's Department of Music to teach a songwriting course. The course was designed to encourage music students to explore and develop their skills through regular songwriting, as well as critical analysis of existing songs. "Songwriting is therapeutic for me, and it remains the best way I know to connect with others," says Moffatt. "It brings us closer to our true selves."



### **New graduate diploma to address Quebec's licensed teacher shortage**

A new Graduate Diploma in Teacher Certification developed by Concordia's Department of Education is set to address a shortage of licensed teachers in the province of Quebec. The program was created to meet the needs of Quebec's Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur through a customized program based on each participant's years of experience and current classroom challenges. While multiple Quebec universities have launched similar programs, Concordia is the only anglophone university to do so.

### **Alan Shepard Summer Residency tackles real-world challenges**

Concordia's Alan Shepard Summer Residency — a 12-week paid experience — brings together students, faculty and industry partners to tackle real-world challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration. Hosted by the university's District 3 Innovation Hub, the residency provides participants with an opportunity to work on projects addressing social, environmental and technological issues, giving them hands-on experience and mentorship.

"It is a journey of professional and personal transformation, where participants are nurtured to develop their ideas and skills in a rich, supportive environment, much like artists in a studio," says program lead Zaccary Dyck.

### **Behaviour Interactive Research Chair in Game Design**

Jonathan Lessard, associate professor and researcher in the Department of Design and Computation Arts, has been appointed Concordia's inaugural Behaviour Interactive Research Chair in Game Design. The role is made possible thanks to support from Behaviour Interactive, a key player in the global gaming industry. As chairholder, Lessard will supervise graduate and undergraduate students in their research as coders and game-makers. He will also support students from diverse backgrounds with an interest in game design.

### **New graduate student ambassador program**

The School of Graduate Studies has launched a graduate student ambassador program to connect prospective and new graduate students with experienced peers who can offer guidance and insights into student life. Ambassadors help build a supportive community by sharing their experiences, answering questions and fostering connections. The program enhances student engagement and provides valuable leadership opportunities for ambassadors, while easing the transition for incoming grad students.



# NEXT-GEN STUDENTS & FACULTY

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Four Concordia students were awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Medal. The distinction honours students whose involvement, dedication and leadership positively impact the community. The 2024 winners were **Hannah McGregor-Pelletier, Rudyard Pejo, Catherine Starr-Prénovost** and **Jessica Winton**.

**Simon Randy**, an undergraduate student in mechanical engineering, was recruited for an internship by aeronautics company SpaceX. Randy interned on the Starship Components Research and Development Manufacturing team, where they performed design reviews to assess manufacturing ability and to provide advice on faster or more cost-effective manufacturing. "Since high school, my one and only goal has been getting to work for this company," says Randy.

Three PhD researchers — **Francesco MacAllister-Caruso, Lauren Laframboise** and **Jiami Yang** — were each awarded Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships. The three-year awards, valued at \$50,000 annually, recognize PhD researchers from around the world for

their contributions to the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences or health. MacAllister-Caruso, Laframboise and Yang were selected for their work in political representation, history and sustainable design, respectively.

**Belen Blizzard**, an artist and women's studies student, is Concordia's first-ever 2SLGBTQIA+ student coordinator. Funded by the Equity Office, and situated within the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Blizzard has already begun offering support, services and organizing events for trans and queer students at the university. Part of their mandate includes mobilizing undergraduate students to organize a conference slated for 2025.

**Sustainable Studios** — a student-led group from Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts — earned a top environmental prize from Forces AVENIR. The initiative supports a circular economy by using recycled materials to reduce waste and is primarily focused on waste management in ceramics. Since its inception, Sustainable Studios has decreased water consumption by 80 per cent, saving more than 22,000 litres of water.



► Three Concordia students took home top prizes after competing in the university's annual Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT®) in March 2024. The event challenges students to distil complex research into a clear, jargon-free presentation that engages a non-specialist audience — all in under three minutes. **Emma Hsiaowen Chen, Angelika Gnanapragasam** and **Monali Patel** won the doctoral, master's and People's Choice competitions, respectively.



at Concordia, including through the Concordia Student Union, Library Services Fund Committee and John Molson Competition Committee.

PhD candidate **Scott DeJong** received a Fulbright Award for his groundbreaking work on combatting disinformation through educational games. His project aims to bridge the gap between how disinformation is encountered and how it is taught in the classroom. "Games can offer a unique space for tough conversations, helping players navigate these challenging topics through play," says DeJong.

Recent graduate **Harley Martin** was one of 20 Canadian students named a 2024 McCall MacBain Scholar. Founded in 2019, the highly competitive scholarship is awarded to individuals with the potential to make a positive impact in the world and who will be enrolling in master's or professional degrees at McGill University. Martin, who majored in history and was part of the Concordia Student Union executive team, began his graduate studies in public policy at McGill in the fall.

▼ The **Concordia Stingers women's hockey team** was crowned U Sports National Champions after a 3-1 win over the University of Toronto in March 2024. The title capped a perfect 25-0 regular season and a Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) championship win, with head coach Julie Chu named U Sports Fox40 Coach of the Year.

**Selma Herrero Lepers** won two prizes — the only contestant to do so — at the 2024 *Délie ta langue!* public-speaking competition. The political science and economics undergrad was awarded fourth prize by the jury and won the Prix du public for her speech on the French expression *Apprendre par coeur* (learning by heart). Concordia is the only English-language institution to take part in the competition. "This extraordinary experience allowed me to celebrate the richness of the French language and to participate in an event that enriched me enormously," says Herrero Lepers.

John Molson marketing student **Michael Lecchino** was one of 10 Canadian undergraduate students to win a 3M National Student Fellowship from the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Lecchino has held several leadership roles in the broader community and





## FACULTY HONOURS

► **Alice Ming Wai Jim**, professor of art history and Concordia University Research Chair in Critical Curatorial Studies and Decolonizing Art Institutions (Tier 1), was named member of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec. Jim is also founder and co-editor of the *Journal of Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*. The Ordre celebrates outstanding support of the advancement and excellence of arts and letters in Quebec and beyond. “I am honoured by this recognition of my work to deepen the understanding of the contributions by artists of colour. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has been part of my ongoing journey,” says Jim.



Concordia celebrated a record year at the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). **Ann English**, distinguished professor emerita in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, **David Howes**, professor of Sociology and Anthropology and **Muthukumaran Packirisamy**, professor of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering, were inducted as fellows. **Catherine Mulligan**, professor of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering won the Miroslaw Romanowski Medal for her work in sustainable environmental engineering, while **Steven High**, founding member of Concordia’s Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, was honoured with the J.B. Tyrrell Medal for his contributions to Canadian history. **Xia Li**, associate professor of Chemical and Materials Engineering, was inducted into the RSC’s College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, for her development of next-generation energy storage devices.

**Emad Shihab**, a software engineering professor at the Gina Cody School, received the 2024 Most Influential Paper Award at the International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution. His paper, “An Exploratory Study on Self-Admitted Technical Debt,” examines how developers knowingly introduce temporary shortcuts into their code — known as “technical debt” — that can later compromise software quality. Like financial debt, delaying repayment often comes at a higher cost. The award underscores the impact of Shihab’s research on improving software maintenance.

Four Faculty of Fine Arts instructors — **Jessica Bleuer**, **Michael Pinsonneault**, **Sandra Huber** and **Molly-Claire Gillet** — were awarded Distinguished Teaching Awards for their contributions to education. “What stands out about this year’s winners is their embodiment of the values that are core to our mission,” says



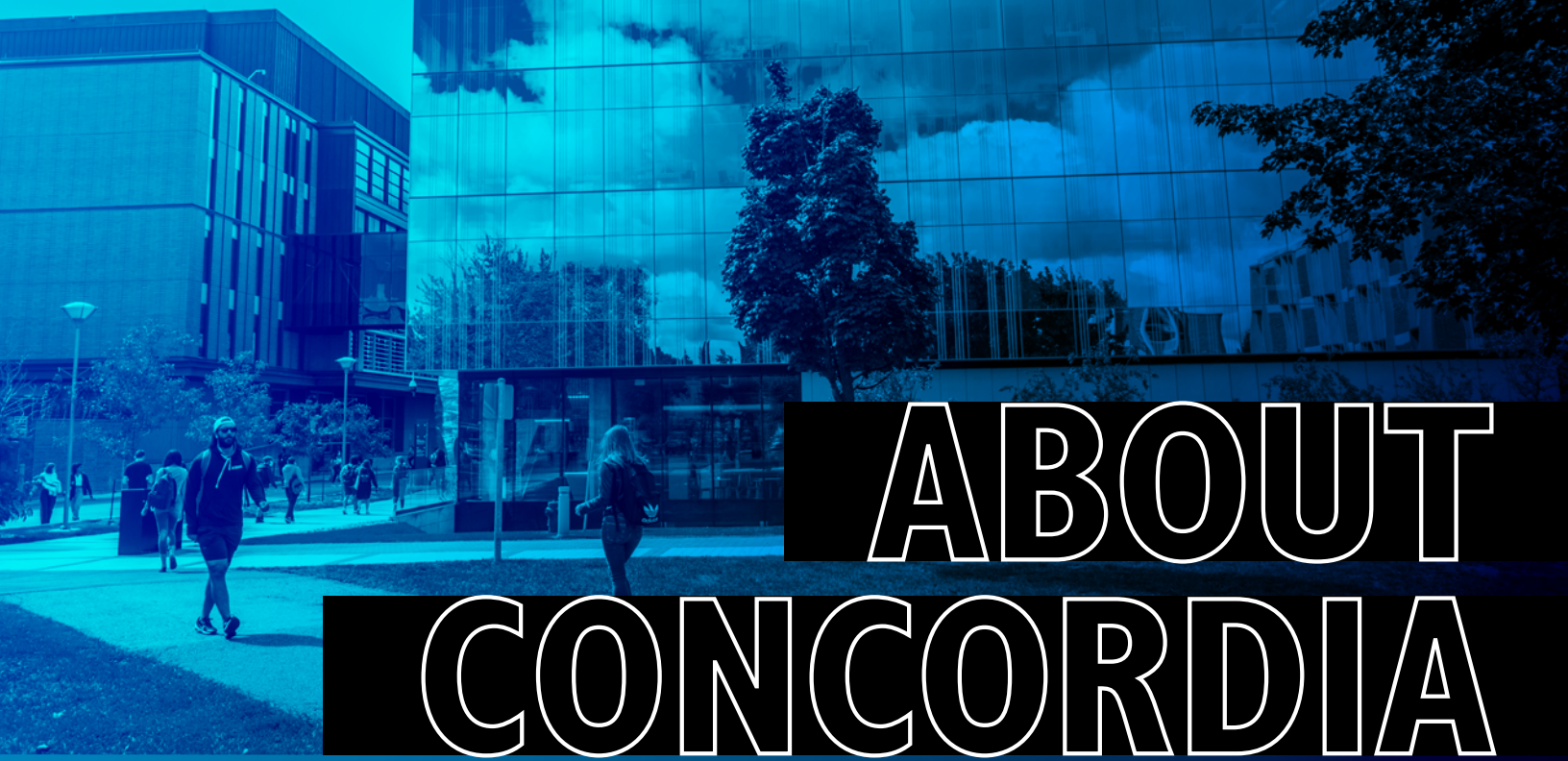
faculty dean Annie Gérin. “They are committed to addressing sustainability and fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments to support our students’ academic and personal growth.”

▼ Marketing professor **Jordan LeBel** was named a member of the Order of Excellence in Education by the province of Quebec. Honoured at the Quebec National Assembly in May 2024, LeBel was recognized for his innovative approaches to teaching and his commitment to incorporating the latest developments and trends into his courses. “This award really belongs to my students,” says LeBel. “They’re the ones who fuelled my curiosity and desire to deliver a quality educational experience.”



▲ **Rosemary Reilly**, chair and professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences, was awarded the 2024 3M National Teaching Fellowship. Awarded by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, the fellowship recognizes outstanding university and college teachers. Reilly employs non-traditional pedagogies and approaches, using performance, collective arts and other artistic tools to reach learning objectives and deepen active student learning.





**#1 in North America**  
university under 50 years

**75% of courses**  
have fewer than 60 students

**Best student city**  
in North America

**Top 100 in world**  
for sustainability

As a next-generation university, we reimagine the future of higher education. Concordia's innovative approach to experiential learning and cross-functional research benefits our 50,000 students. Concordia is the top-ranked university in North America under 50, located in vibrant Montreal on the traditional lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. We strive to be socially responsible and create a more equitable and sustainable world.

**[concordia.ca/about](https://concordia.ca/about)**

## PROMOTING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Concordia has joined the Decade of Action to achieve the United Nations' ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. The goals draw on our strengths in community health, global literacy, water security, environmental impact and sustainable infrastructure design.

## ESSENTIAL PLAYER IN MONTREAL

Concordia's commitment to supporting its city by advancing research-creation, innovation and culture will ensure Montreal's vitality in the years ahead.



## DIVERSE AND ENGAGED STUDENTS

In Montreal, one of North America's favourite student cities, the critical mass of youthful enthusiasm creates a palpable feeling that anything is possible.

**50,000**

students

**10,000+**

international students

**3,000+**

co-op students

**150**

countries represented

## FACULTY NETWORK

Professors and researchers join forces across disciplines, forging connections with the community to drive innovative knowledge and discovery.

**2,250+**

professors and librarians

**130+**

research chairs and professorships

**\$61.9 million**

sponsored research income



## BLACK PERSPECTIVES

Concordia is dedicated to addressing and challenging anti-Black systemic racism and being inclusive and accessible to Black students, staff and faculty and fostering relationships with Black communities. The work of the Black Perspectives Office is rooted in an anti-racist and anti-oppressive framework and informed by generations of Black students and community activism.

**1**

Task Force on  
Anti-Black Racism

**Dozens of**

courses focused on  
Black, Indigenous and  
People of Colour

**1968**

Concordia Caribbean  
Students' Union founded

**2,200+**

items in the Negro  
Community Centre fonds

## COMMITTED TO DECOLONIZATION AND INDIGENIZATION

Concordia acknowledges that it is situated on unceded Indigenous lands and recognizes the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as the custodians of the surrounding lands and waters. The university is committed to truth and reconciliation and engaging with ongoing Indigenous issues.

**1st**

First Peoples major  
in Quebec

**1**

Indigenous Directions  
Action Plan

**1992**

Aboriginal  
centre opens

**30**

Indigenous graduate  
scholarships

# THE FUTURE OF GIVING

## INSPIRING PHILANTHROPY

The **Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now** raised **\$32 million** over the last year thanks to 7,833 generous donors. As the largest in our university's history, the campaign had raised more than \$311 million by the end of 2024 to transform teaching, learning and research. Our Future of Giving report spotlights donors who contributed to our momentum. Learn more at [concordia.ca/campaign](https://concordia.ca/campaign).

### CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: CO-CHAIRS

**GINA CODY, MENG 81, PHD 89**

**BUSINESS LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST**

Gina Cody became co-chancellor of Concordia in April 2024. Her three-year term as chancellor commenced as the mandate of Jonathan Wener, BComm 71, concluded on December 31, 2024.

**ANDREW MOLSON**

**CHAIR, AVENIR GLOBAL, AND PHILANTHROPIST**

In addition to his role as chair of the board of Avenir Global, Andrew Molson serves on multiple boards of directors. These include Molson Coors Beverage Company, Groupe Deschênes, Dundee Corporation, Theratechnologies and CH Group. He is also the owner of evenko and the Montreal Canadiens.

**LINO A. SAPUTO, BA 89**

**EXECUTIVE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SAPUTO INC., AND PHILANTHROPIST**

Lino A. Saputo assumed the role of executive chair of the board of Saputo Inc. in August 2024. He previously served as the company's president and CEO.





## SCHOOL OF HEALTH RECEIVES \$5-MILLION LEGACY GIFT FROM CHRISTINE LENGVARI

Christine Lengvari, BSc 72, made a planned gift of \$5 million in support of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now — a major contribution that will benefit nutrition and wellness research at the university's School of Health.

The School of Health takes a multidisciplinary and hands-on approach to health-related research, education, student training and community engagement.

"Christine Lengvari is truly one of our Great Concordians," says President Graham Carr. "This incredibly generous gift, announced as we kicked off our 50th-anniversary celebrations, will drive advances in nutrition and wellness science and lead to healthier communities.

"By funding innovative research, this donation will foster new insights, enhance public-health strategies, and ultimately improve society at large."

Lengvari's latest gift comes seven years after the president and CEO of Lengvari Financial made an initial planned gift of \$1 million to Concordia.

"I'm thrilled to be able give back to my alma mater," Lengvari says. "I believe that targeted planned giving can be essential for creating positive change. Concordia's School of Health is enriching people's lives, and it's an honour to play a part in such vital work."

Lengvari's commitment to Concordia extends far beyond her financial support.



The Centraide of Montreal cabinet member has volunteered with Concordia's Women Who LEAD program, which empowers alumni to enhance leadership skills and make a positive impact on society.

Lengvari's service has included leadership mandates on alumni association committees, the Concordia University Inter-Generational Fund (formerly Concordia University Foundation) and the university's Board of Governors. She also served on the client committee of the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program for 22 years.

"We are deeply grateful to Christine Lengvari for her extraordinary generosity, which will spark groundbreaking research to address some of society's most pressing health-related issues," says Véronique Pepin, interim dean of Concordia's School of Health.

Adds Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement: "Concordia has been fortunate to benefit from Christine Lengvari's leadership and support over the last four decades. Her impactful generosity is an inspiration and a great example to us all." ■

*View testimonials from donors and other campaign-related videos at*  
**[concordia.ca/alumni/videos](https://concordia.ca/alumni/videos)**.

# SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

## MAJOR GIFTS TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA: NEXT-GEN NOW

Read on for a snapshot of recent gifts and learn more at [concordia.ca/campaign](https://concordia.ca/campaign).

### CORPORATE GIFTS

**Hydro-Québec** gave **\$750,000** to support chairs and professorships at the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.

**Knowledge One Inc.** funded capital projects at Concordia with a gift of **\$330,000**.

The **Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec** gave **\$225,000** to establish the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec Fund for Sustainability Ecosystem. The fund will advance sustainability initiatives and support ecosystem-building projects at Concordia.

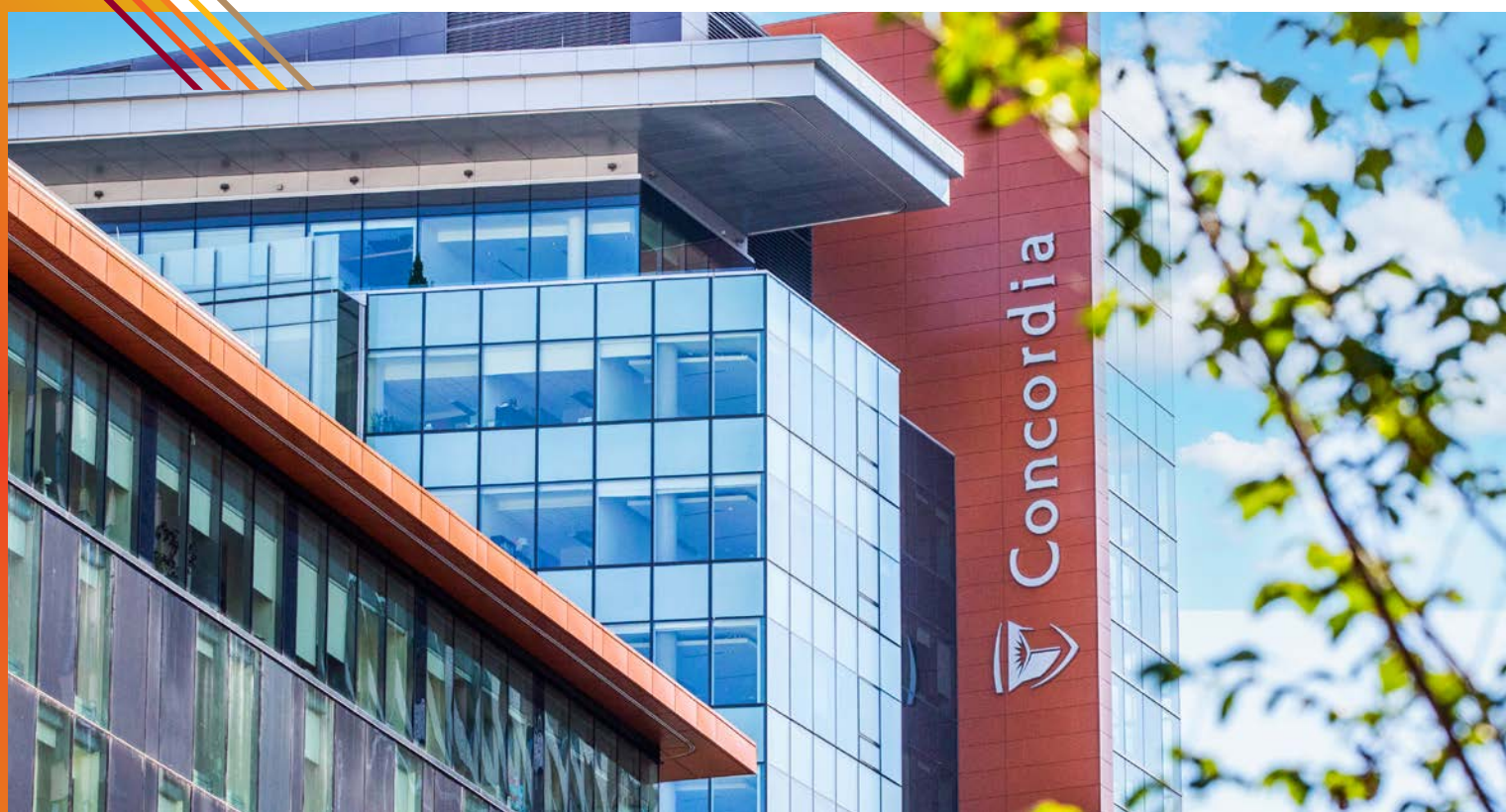
A gift of **\$150,000** from **Fiera Capital** established the Fiera Capital Scholarships for MBA-CFA Students at the John Molson School of Business's Goodman Institute of Investment Management.

A gift of **\$60,000** from **Quadbridge** supported three separate scholarship funds for female students enrolled in software engineering, business technology management and the John Molson School's MBA program.

**Emaral Investments** donated **\$50,000** to the Travel Fund for Graduate Students to help scholars disseminate their research and creative work.

**Equiton** donated **\$50,000** to support real-estate education at the John Molson School.

**Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec** contributed **\$30,000** towards the Barry F. Lorenzetti Centre for Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership. ■







## FOUNDATION GIFTS

### **Doggone Foundation raises its support of Faculty of Fine Arts to \$3 million**

Concordia's world-leading Faculty of Fine Arts celebrated a new \$540,000 gift from the Doggone Foundation on November 14, 2024. ▲

The contribution in support of the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now will establish the Elspeth McConnell Critical Curatorial Laboratory, named in honour of the foundation's late benefactor, a long-time art collector and cultural patron.

The Doggone Foundation's dedication to Concordia spans more than a decade. The latest donation builds on previous contributions, including a \$2-million commitment in 2021 to fund experiential learning opportunities for fine-arts students.

"We are honoured to have this new laboratory named in memory of Elspeth McConnell, whose passion for the arts and the development of young artists and scholars have left an enduring legacy," said Susan Avon, BFA 88, MA 94, director of the Doggone Foundation.

Annie Gérin, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, detailed how the Elspeth McConnell Critical Curatorial Laboratory would become a vital hub for curatorial studies, providing the state-of-the-art space and resources necessary for students to explore new perspectives, techniques and technologies in curatorial work.

"The timing of this gift is particularly significant as we prepare to launch in fall 2025 a new graduate certificate program in curatorial studies and practices, which will further expand our academic offerings and enrich the learning environment for students.

"This program will be the very first of its kind in the province of Quebec, and as an art historian and curator myself, I've been hoping and working for decades for this to happen." ■

A gift of **\$711,670** from the **Ajram Family Foundation** supported Concordia's mission.

**Fondation J. Armand Bombardier**

pledged **\$500,000** to support the Innovation Program at the Gina Cody School and empower student-led projects with commercial potential.

**McCall MacBain Foundation** donated **\$414,000** to support two initiatives at Concordia: \$50,000 for Homeroom, an initiative that helps new undergraduates build social networks, access campus services and resources, and develop academic and career skills; and \$364,000 for a cohort-based leadership-development program.

**Embark Student Foundation** donated **\$250,000** towards the Gina Cody School's Innovation Fund.

**Richard and Edith Strauss Foundation**

committed **\$150,000** to advance research on "Large Chromosomal Deletions in Cell Differentiation and Disease Manifestation" within the Faculty of Arts and Science.

**Genium360**, a non-profit organization that offers a network of services for engineers in Quebec, donated **\$150,000** to support undergraduates at the Gina Cody School.

**Luigi Liberatore Foundation** donated **\$125,000** as part of the \$621,000 raised for university-wide initiatives at the 2024 Concordia Golf Classic.

A gift of **\$100,000** from the **Naim S. Mahlab Foundation** equally supported the Naim Mahlab Fellowships Endowment and the Canada Scholars Awards for out-of-province students.

**Dr. Louis G. Johnson Foundation** provided \$75,000 to fund the purchase of an Andor Kymera spectrograph and camera to advance research capabilities within the Faculty of Arts and Science.

**Burroughs Wellcome Fund** donated **\$68,725** to support research that fell under the private foundation's Career Awards at the Scientific Interface. Established in 1999, the initiative helps researchers transition into postdoctoral work in the biological sciences.





## PERSONAL GIFTS

### Alumna honours father's legacy with new scholarship

Kathryn Xistris, BEng 85, has established the Dr. George D. Xistris Scholarship Endowment in Mechanical Engineering, honouring her father, who had a storied career as a professor in mechanical engineering at Concordia. ►

The alumna says it's the least she could do to show her gratitude. Her 40-year career has taken her from sales leadership at Digital Equipment Corporation to executive roles at Microsoft and now at Amazon, where she is a managing director based in Luxembourg.

Kathryn and her father, now in his late 80s, spent about a year developing the idea for the scholarship. In the process, she got to learn more about his career at Concordia, which began in the mid-1960s.

Dr. X, as he was known, most notably served as an associate professor and researcher from 1968 to 1995 and as assistant dean from 1973 to 1993. He was also instrumental in establishing the Faculty of Engineering — now the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science — by leading the first accreditation of the Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering program at Concordia (then Sir George Williams University) in 1969.

He loved teaching, and has been a lifelong learner, says Kathryn. "His whole life has been around education. He's an educator. He cultivated a love for learning in his children."

Kathryn hopes the scholarship in her father's name will help set engineering students up for success.

"It's a small effort, but I want it to give them that extra push. And I think it's a vote of confidence for them to believe that they are at the top and to go for those big career opportunities." ■



A significant gift of **\$6 million** from **Dominic D'Alessandro**, BSc 67, LLD 98, established the Dominic D'Alessandro Fellowship Fund. This new commitment brought his endowment fund to \$10 million in support of new prestige graduate awards in STEM and finance at Concordia.

A gift of **\$450,000** from **Sari Hornstein, Norbert Hornstein** and **Amy Weinberg** supported the Department of Creative Arts Therapies Outreach Program to foster a more inclusive arts scene in Montreal.

**Claudia Perello**, BComm 93, MBA 02, donated **\$108,750** to establish the Claudia Perello Endowment and Bursary for Women in Tech at the John Molson School.

**Robert G. Courteau**, BComm 81, LLD 11, and his wife, Flora, donated **\$100,000** to support experiential learning through case competitions at the John Molson School and ENGCOMM, the world's only student-led multidisciplinary case competition.

**Edward Rosenthal**, BA 74, DSc 23, contributed **\$78,283.70** to establish the Berthe Hadida "Betty" Rosenthal Student Award for undergraduate students at the John Molson School.

A gift of **\$75,000** from composer **Barry Truax** funded an award for Department of Music students enrolled in electroacoustic studies.

**Robert J. Briscoe**, BSc 67, MBA 73, LLD 18, contributed **\$75,000** to support the Robert Briscoe MBA International Case Competition Fund.

**Julien BriseBois**, EMBA 07, general manager of the National Hockey League's Tampa Bay Lightning, donated **\$75,000** to the Concordia Stingers women's hockey program.

**Tulsi N. Mirchandaney**, AMBA 00, gave **\$66,750** to provide financial assistance to Supply Chain Management undergraduate students through an endowment and in-course bursary.

**Peter Kruyt**, BComm 78, donated **\$50,000** to his alma mater, a portion of which will support the Chancellor's First Generation Endowment.

**James M. Stanford**, BSc 58, LLD 00, continued his support for Concordia with a donation of **\$50,000**.

**Leslie Raenden** contributed **\$45,000** to the Leslie Raenden Art Volt Fund. The Art Volt program supports fine-arts graduates with professional development resources.

**Sarah E. Ivory**, MFA 95, contributed **\$45,000** to the Sarah Ivory Art Volt Fund.

**Robert H. Beriault**, BComm 73, gave **\$35,583** to support Friends of Concordia Football.

**Brian Beattie**, BComm 76, MBA 81, donated **\$33,513** to support case competitions at the John Molson School.

**Richard Lapointe**, BComm 90, donated **\$33,000** to support case competitions at the John Molson School.

A gift of **\$26,963.60** from **Robert H. Beriault**, BComm 73, a former all-star football player at Loyola College, supported the Concordia Stingers football program.

A **\$25,000** donation from **Pietro D'Ulisse**, BEng 83, supported the Pietro D'Ulisse Scholarships for Women in Electrical Engineering.

A major gift from **Paris J. Arnopoulos**, BSc 56, BA 58, was made in support of the Department of Political Science.

A major gift from **David R. Gawley** supported the Marjorie McInnes Grant Cooper Bursary, established to encourage full-time undergraduate students in financial need.

**Sally Issenman** made a gift in support of the Lois Gold Issenman Painting and Drawing Scholarship and the Leslie Schalk Painting and Drawing Award at the Faculty of Fine Arts.





## PLANNED GIFTS AND GIFTS-IN-KIND

### Alumni couple's 7-figure bequest supports future business students

Constantine Constandis, BComm 79, and Anne Upton-Constandis, BComm 80, are dedicated to making an enduring impact on future generations. ►

Both chartered accountants and Concordia alumni, the couple announced a major planned gift to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now to benefit John Molson School of Business students. They are designating 25 per cent of their estate — a multi-million-dollar commitment — to establish an endowed scholarship for MBA and Chartered Professional Accountancy graduate students.

“Creating this scholarship is our way of giving back to the institution that provided us with so many opportunities,” says Anne.

Constantine, a retired global executive in the wine and spirits industry, was inspired to give after guest lecturing at the John Molson School. He later developed a course with Matthäus Tekathen, chair of the Department of Accountancy, which they will teach again in 2025.

Anne's career included roles in accountancy, internal audit and theatre design. Another 25 per cent of the couple's estate is set aside for Habitat for Humanity, where she has long served as a volunteer.



“This scholarship fund is intended to honour the sacrifices of our parents,” says Constantine. “Education was a cornerstone in our lives. We hope our contribution will help students realize their potential and make a positive impact on their communities and the world.” ■

Learn more about planned giving at  
**[concordia.ca/plannedgiving](https://concordia.ca/plannedgiving)**.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Read about our latest news and events by following **@ConcordiaAlumni** on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube.

**#CUalumni #CUpride**

Watch our videos at

**[concordia.ca/alumni/videos](http://concordia.ca/alumni/videos).**

Discover what Concordia achieved first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world:

**[concordia.ca/firsts](http://concordia.ca/firsts).**



**Altus Group** provided the John Molson School with software licenses worth more than \$1.3 million. The gift will provide real-estate finance students with access to ARGUS, the company's asset and portfolio management enterprise software.

**Croesus Finansoft Inc.** donated portfolio management software worth **\$750,000** for undergraduate and graduate finance students at the John Molson School.

Documentary producer and former part-time lecturer **Jocelyne Clarke**, GrDip 86, MA 90, donated archival materials worth an estimated **\$138,826** to Concordia University Library.

The **Estate of Henry Paul Crevier** donated **\$136,686** to support Concordia's Greatest Needs.

Records Management and Archives accepted the donation of archival materials from the late **Henry Beissel**, a poet, playwright, essayist, translator, editor and distinguished professor emeritus. The gift-in-kind is worth an estimated **\$119,200**.

A planned gift of **\$105,000** from **Ruth Steinberg** established two scholarships: the Ruth and David Steinberg PhD Scholarship in English Literature (\$60,000) and the Ruth and David Steinberg MA Scholarship in Creative Writing (\$45,000).

The **Estate of Gary L. Sobel** gave **\$100,000**, the second distribution from the estate to support the Miriam Sobel Award for undergraduate students in financial need.



A bequest of **\$95,000** from the late **Rose Szasz**, a long-time member of the Canadian Hungarian Artists Collective who attended Sir George Williams University in the 1950s, was made in support of scholarships for students in the Department of Art Education.

**Michel Magnan**, Distinguished University Research Professor and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair in Corporate Governance at Concordia, made a planned gift of **\$75,000** to provide bursary support for undergraduate students at the Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Fine Arts and John Molson School.

**Pnina Gagnon**, widow of **François-Marc Gagnon**, LL.D. 92 — founding director of Concordia's Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art and an affiliate professor in the Department of Art History — donated archival materials from her late husband worth an estimated **\$63,900**.

A gift of **\$50,000** from the **Estate of Carole Lavallée** will fund the Carole Lavallée Scholarship for Out-of-Province Students. The fund was established in honour of a long-time Concordia staff member who passed away in 2023.

The **Estate of Beverley Taugher Rozek** donated **\$49,914** to support a student award at the School of Irish Studies.

A gift-in-kind worth an estimated **\$32,625** was donated by **Mitchell Press Works** to establish the Claude Truman Mitchell Press Award for undergraduate students in print media. One annual recipient will receive a custom steel press from the donor to encourage their journey as a print-based artist.

**Elaine Betchinski**, BA 77, made a bequest commitment of 45 per cent of the residue of her estate towards Concordia Stingers women's athletics. Betchinski was a four-time basketball all-star and a member of the undefeated 1976-77 Stingers team, which was inducted into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

**Steve Georgopoulos**, BComm 76, and **Liga Dekmeiers-Georgopoulos** made a planned gift in support of the Library Development Fund and the Otsenhákta Student Centre Development Fund.

**John De Vries**, BA 65, and his spouse made a bequest of 25 per cent of their estate towards bursaries for students enrolled in the Department of Sociology.

A retired faculty member made a substantial bequest to supplement an endowment for Faculty of Arts and Science scholarships.

## AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS



WILLIAP DAVIAU



▲ **Vincent René-Lortie**, BFA 17, was nominated for an Academy Award in the Live Action Short Film category for his film *Invincible*. **Alexandre Nour Desjardins**, BFA 17, served as the film's cinematographer.

► **Justine Martin**, BFA 23, was shortlisted for an Academy Award in the Documentary Short Film category for *Oasis*.

► **Abbas Akhavan**, BFA 04, was selected to represent Canada at the 2026 Venice Biennale.



ALEX DE BRABANT

### ORDRE DE MONTRÉAL

Four Concordians were named to the Ordre de Montréal in honour of their achievements and contributions to the city.

**Marguerite Mendell**, BA 72

**Nancy Neamtan**, LLD 15

**J. Sebastian van Berkomp**, BComm 69, LLD 17

**Dorothy Williams**, BA 84, MA 99



## ORDER OF CANADA

Nine Concordians were among the latest appointees to the Order of Canada announced in June and December 2024. The country's top honour is bestowed by Governor General Mary Simon in recognition of exceptional contributions to the country.

**Fabienne Colas**, DFA 24, Companion

**Terry Copp**, BA 59, Member

**Myrna Lashley**, BA 84, Member

**Monique Leroux**, LLD 11, Companion

**Dominique Lemieux**, BFA 81, Companion

**Bruce Lourie**, BSc 84, Member

**Kent Nagano**, DFA 19, Officer

**Joyce Napier**, BA 81, Member

**Frances M. Shaver**, former professor, Member

## ALUMNI WITH IMPACT

For five decades, Concordia has been a catalyst for transformation, empowering individuals to lead with vision and drive positive change.

Our *Alumni With Impact* series celebrates graduates whose achievements have made an impact on their communities in Montreal and beyond.

Learn more at [concordia.ca/alumni/impact](https://concordia.ca/alumni/impact).

## GREAT CONCORDIANS

Among the ranks of Concordia's worldwide network of alumni are a Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate, a multiple Tony Award winner, a member of the Parliament of Canada, Rhodes Scholars and countless visionary researchers and entrepreneurs. Fifty of these extraordinary individuals are being celebrated as part of the Great Concordians initiative, re-launched in June 2024 to mark the 50th anniversary of Concordia. Accomplished across a wide range of disciplines — from the arts and social justice to science, technology and business — honourees showcase the breadth of talent and leadership that Concordia has nurtured over the decades. Learn more at [concordia.ca/greatconcordians](https://concordia.ca/greatconcordians).

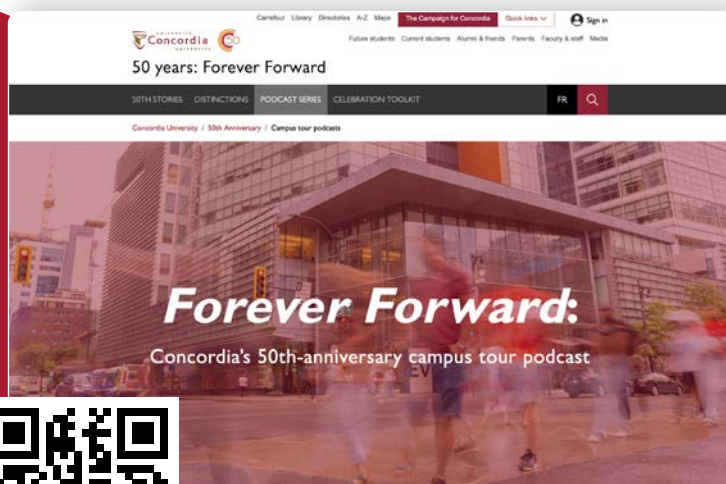
## CONCORDIA FIRSTS

Concordians aren't just making their mark — they're making history. Across disciplines and around the world, they've been the first to push boundaries, challenge the status quo and redefine what's possible. From science and technology to business and sustainability, from cinema and the arts to athletics and engineering, alumni, faculty and students continue to lead the way. As Concordia celebrates its 50th anniversary, explore the bold firsts that have helped shape Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world. Learn more at [concordia.ca/firsts](https://concordia.ca/firsts).

## Explore Concordia's campuses with *Forever Forward*.

This five-part podcast series, hosted by notable alumni, takes you through 50 unique sites across our two campuses. Learn about key moments in Concordia's history — from the 1974 merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University to today's research and teaching hubs. Listen now: [concordia.ca/50th/audio-tours](https://concordia.ca/50th/audio-tours)

Discover more about Concordia's 50th-anniversary celebrations:



# AS CONCORDIA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS, FIVE FACULTY DEANS REFLECT AND LOOK AHEAD

The unification of Sir George Williams University and Loyola College in 1974 laid the foundation for Concordia — an institution defined by growth and innovation. Over the past 50 years, the university has expanded its student body, faculty, research and global reputation. Five faculty deans reflect on this remarkable evolution and offer insights into the future.



## **Faculty of Fine Arts | Annie Gérin**

Dean Annie Gérin highlights the faculty's transformation from courses held above a YMCA to world-class facilities ranked among the top 100 art and design schools globally. "It's incredible how far we've come," she says, pointing to alumni winning Oscars, Junos and Governor General's Awards. The faculty continues to innovate with initiatives like Curriculab, which integrates decolonization and sustainability into curricula. "My hope is that we'll continue being agile and innovating in response to the ever-changing art world."



## **Faculty of Arts and Science | Pascale Sicotte**

"We've always been interdisciplinary, we've always been diverse — it's in our DNA," says Dean Pascale Sicotte. The faculty continues to push boundaries through research on aging, synthetic biology and immigrant inclusion, fostering critical thinking and lifelong learning. "We want to create spaces where everyone has a voice, where important discussions take place, and where we can rethink the world of tomorrow."



## **Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science | Mourad Debbabi**

"Remarkable growth," observes Dean Mourad Debbabi of the Gina Cody School. With more than 11,000 students and a strong reputation in aerospace, electrification, smart cities, cybersecurity and software engineering, the faculty ranks among the best in Canada and beyond. "The future looks like more growth, innovation and societal impact," he says, citing new programs in AI and cybersecurity, a \$123-million grant for electrification research, and plans to expand into quantum computing.





### **John Molson School of Business | Anne-Marie Croteau**

Renamed in 2000, the John Molson School of Business has seen tremendous growth in reputation and research. “That was huge for our positioning among business schools globally,” says Dean Anne-Marie Croteau. With top-ranked MBA programs and recognition as a Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) Champion, the school is dedicated to being “relevant, responsible and respected.”

The ultimate goal? Achieving the prestigious “triple crown accreditation” from leading global business education bodies.



### **School of Health | Véronique Pepin**

“We didn’t have an official home for health at Concordia — now we do,” says Dean Véronique Pepin. Launched in 2023, the School of Health unites Concordia’s expertise in biomedical sciences, clinical research and community health. It integrates Loyola Campus’s PERFORM Centre while maintaining a department-free model, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. “We want to be a leading school of health known for its innovation and agility.” ■





## HOW CONCORDIA'S EXPANSION ACROSS CAMPUSES ENRICHES MONTREAL — AND THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

Whether on the bustling Ste. Catherine Street or De Maisonneuve Boulevard in downtown Montreal's Quartier Concordia, or on the vibrant stretch of Sherbrooke Street in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG), Concordia's presence is undeniable. The university doesn't just occupy space; it breathes life into the city.

Thousands of students fill the streets and public transportation, heading to classes, labs, the sports field or the library. They bring a youthfulness, energy, joie de vivre and international flavour, helping solidify Montreal's ranking as one of the top 10 student cities in the world.

The university also supports the city in ways that may be less evident, yet more quantifiable. According to *Economic Impact Assessment of Concordia University*, an independent report released in December 2023, Concordia generated nearly \$2 billion in value added to the economies of Montreal and Quebec in 2022 alone.

"This assessment puts a dollar figure — a very significant one — on what we've long known: that Concordia alumni, researchers and students, as well as the university itself, provide our local economy with a major, quantifiable economic benefit," says President Graham Carr.

The report breaks down these contributions into three principal areas: \$925 million in human capital enhancement through the university's 179,000 graduates working in the province; \$301 million through research conducted and disseminated by Concordia; and \$763 million spent by Concordia as well as its students and visitors from outside Quebec.

### **Building for the future**

Much of the university's current public face is relatively new. From 1999 onward, Concordia's transformation was dramatic, reflecting its growing ambition, research profile and international reputation. The first major step involved revitalizing the underutilized Loyola Campus, followed by the approval of the \$350-million Concordia Space Plan in 2000.

Over the next decade, Concordia transformed Loyola from a sleepy suburban site to a thriving campus, while also expanding its downtown presence. The university moved out of rental spaces and acquired key properties, including the Guy Métro Building, the Grey Nuns site and the Faubourg Tower. These developments allowed Concordia to offer state-of-the-art facilities across faculties.

Concordia's investments have helped transform underdeveloped areas, set environmental standards with LEED-certified buildings and bolstered Montreal's reputation as a hub for technology, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

"Without those properties added between 2000 and 2012, Concordia would not be what it is today. It would not have been able to grow nor attract leading faculty and researchers," says Michael Di Grappa, BA 84, vice-president of Services and Sustainability. ■

Learn more at [concordia.ca/timeline](https://concordia.ca/timeline).





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part of the student journey.

Help the next generation on theirs.

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