

**Communitas**  
**Annual Report**  
**25 May 2022**



# Agenda

## 1. 2021-2022 Overview

- Activities
- Financial Report

**Decision:** Approval of Financial Statements

## 2. 2022-2023

- Budget

**Decision:** Approval of Budget

- Direction of the organization

## 3. 2022-2023 Board of Directors

- Presentation of Slate

**Decision:** Election of Board





A photograph of a park scene. In the center, a group of people are gathered around a picnic table. A man in a white t-shirt and green shorts stands with his back to the camera, facing a man in a black shirt and white shorts. To the right, a woman in a purple top and patterned pants stands near a woman in a dark dress. Further right, a man in a black t-shirt and shorts is visible. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a multi-story building. The text "2021-22 Activities Overview" is overlaid in large white font across the center of the image.

# 2021-22 Activities Overview



# Communitas Moved Offices



- Why did we move?
- Impact on our operations



# Open Door



**Communitas celebrates!**

**20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OPEN DOOR  
(11 September 2001 – 11 September 2021)**

# Open Door



## Attendance

	2015 - 2106	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
Escorted out of the pens	149	182	192	204	172	0	0
Returned to community	671	714	493	386	1071 Combined	408	349
Volunteers	683	786	695	768		904	887
TOTAL	1503	1682	1380	1358	1243	1312	1236

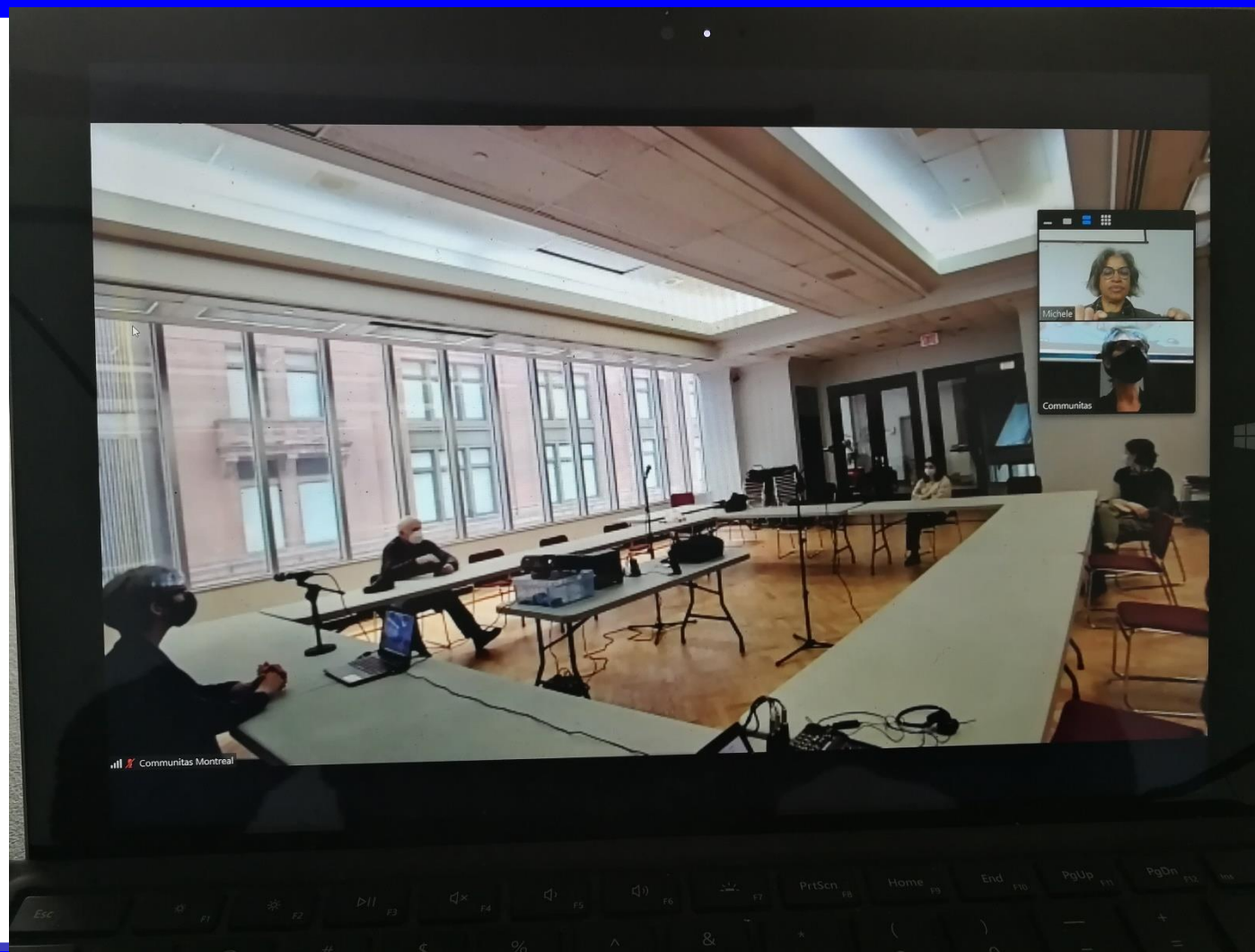
# Open Door



## Activities

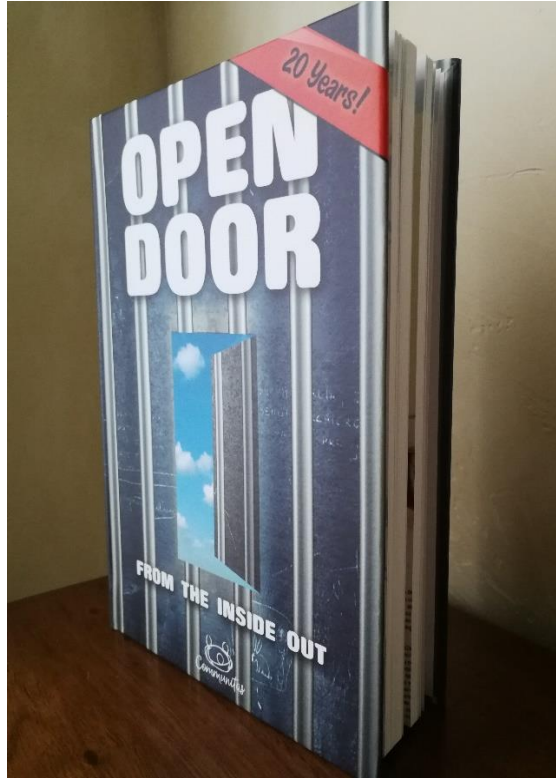
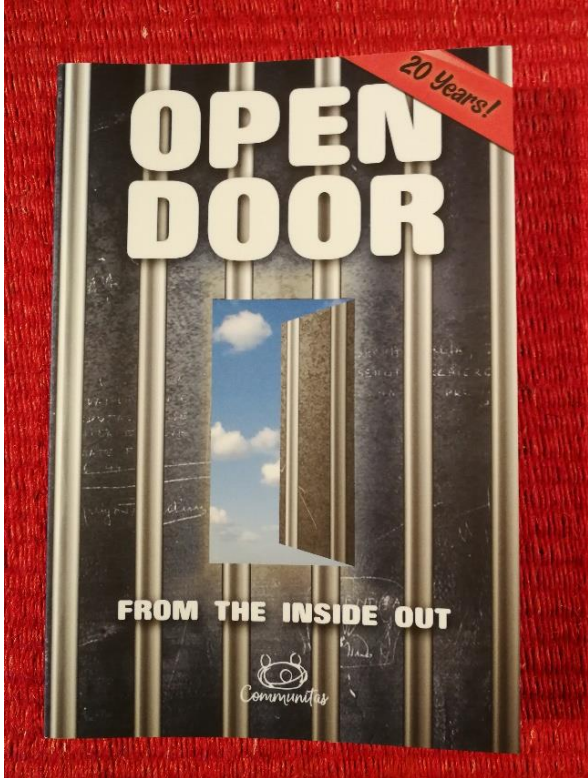
- 52 online meetings welcoming zoomers from across North America
- First in-person gathering in 18 months: 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary party held on Saturday, September 11 at the Old Port
- Indoor-Outdoor Book launch held on December 21 in the rotunda and Raoul Wallenberg Square
- A cautious reopening of Open Door with new sound equipment for hybrid meetings

# Open Door – Hybrid test





# Open Door Book: From the Inside Out



- Book concept
- Design
- Interviews (> 150)
- Research
- Learning experience
- Book Launch
- Fundraising

**Number of planning sessions**

50+

**Approximate number of hours preparation**

~ 2,400 hours

# Open Door Book Launch



- 300 Soft covers printed
- 50 Hard covers printed
- 222 Soft covers distributed
- 30 Hard covers distributed
- Funds raised - \$8,590 (Net)
- Book production sponsored by Pathy Fellowship - \$8,000

# Circles

- Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)
- Circles of Reintegration
- High needs individuals – Regular contact and support



Number of circles	Number of circle meetings	Volunteer hours
7	151	600++



# The Gospel Zone

- Twice/month on Zoom
- Visits to the Prison Chapel
- Meaningful space to build community

Number of meetings	Average participants per meeting	Number of men visited in Prison Chapel
24 (3 in-person, balance on Zoom)	8.5	15



# Sou'Wester

*Communitas' grassroots newsletter on criminal justice & prisoner reintegration*

## the Sou'Wester

Spring 2021

### A Solitary Letter

The story of Canada's reliance on solitary confinement continues to be written. An eloquent and poignant letter, which the Sou'Wester reproduces here with the author's permission, serves as a moving backdrop to that tale.

March 26, 2021

Madame Anne Kelly  
CSC Commissioner

Re: Segregation, solitary confinement.

This letter is written because of my visceral reaction to statements that are attributed to you in an article written by Justin Ling on February 28, 2021. It is written that you made the statements that solitary confinement does not exist and that some inmates do not want to come out of their cells.

As an inmate serving a life sentence and who has had many segregation placements—some of which I clearly earned—I was shocked by this answer. It left me feeling frustrated, angry and revolted. Why? Because every inmate and employee of the CSC knows that segregation exists. And to deny this fact and the very negative, destructive consequences of segregation feeds mistrust and unhealthy views towards the professionalism of the CSC.

*Continued on page 4*



### Getting Together At Open Door

Want to Meet at "Open Door"?

A well kept secret?

A treasured activity?

A longing for fellowship that the Pandemic has pushed astray?

All that precedes, and much, much more. Yes, the Pandemic has changed Open Door—like it has changed many other things in our lives. However, the directors at Communitas—the creators, sponsors and brain trust behind Open Door quickly adapted and had the next weekly meeting set up as a Zoom call. And not only did Open Door survive; in many ways it continues to flourish in this new virtual setting.

Someone remarked that Zoom is the cultural equivalent of those old seance scenes we used to watch in the movies: "Are you there?" "Can you hear me?" "You are muted—show us a sign!"

So while we cannot meet in person it has allowed us to interact with presenters from Middle Canada, the West Coast and attendees from next door and far and away. It is kind of cool.

*Continued on page 2*

We would love to hear from you!



3974 Notre Dame West, Suite B  
Montreal, QC H4C 1R1 Tel.: 514-244-6147  
Send your letters to our editor at:  
info@communitasmontreal.org  
www.communitasmontreal.org

The Sou'Wester name is a reference  
to Montreal's Southwest, where  
Communitas began its work in 1999  
and is still based today.

Twitter: @communitas\_MTL  
Facebook: /communitasmontreal

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## the Sou'Wester

A grassroots newsletter on criminal justice & prisoner reintegration

Summer 2021 Edition

The Sou'Wester name is a reference  
to Montreal's Southwest, where  
Communitas began its work in 1999

The Open Door 20th  
anniversary book  
sneak peeks!

page 6

Communitas is pleased to  
welcome a new member to  
the Coordination Team

page 4

Understanding  
the power  
of listening

page 5

## Loneliness and Restorative Justice

Otto Driedger, Professor Emeritus University of Regina

I came across an article in Maclean's, March 2021 which reminded me of the experience we (Florence and I) have with individuals coming back into society from incarceration and becoming core members in Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA). It also reminded me of the many other ways in which we have been and continue to be involved in restorative justice issues and services.

*Continued on page 2*



### Getting into Harvard or being admitted to palliative care

By Marilyn Silverstone

We live in a society in which getting a place in Harvard is an enormous accomplishment, one for which candidates compete with all their strength. Palliative care, on the other hand, compassionate care for those

with terminal illnesses, is not, supposedly, in great demand. And yet you have to compete for a bed in a palliative care unit as well. I should know. I'm in palliative care right now. I call it my Harvard. Even when I was young and strong, I knew that I'd accept death when it came my way without heroic measures. I wouldn't take the counsel of the poet Dylan Thomas but would instead "go gently into that good night." (1)

*Continued on page 3*

### Communitas moves to a new office

As of August 1, 2021, Communitas has relocated to the Undercroft of Christ Church Cathedral located at 635 St. Catherine Street W. (mailing address 1444 Union). Many of you who attend Open Door will be very familiar with our new space as it is where we occasionally convene Open Door when our regular space at Fulford Hall is unavailable 2 or 3 times a year.

*Continued on page 4*





# ...more Sou'Wester

We would love to hear from you!  
1444 Union Avenue  
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www.communitasmontreal.org

**the Sou'Wester**

Fall 2021 Edition

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A grassroots newsletter on criminal justice & prisoner reintegration

The Open Door 20th anniversary book sneak peeks!  
page 6

Part 2: Marlyn's Graduation by Marlyn Silverstone  
page 4

Restorative Justice Week 2021 Reflections  
page 7

## Life on the Outside after Prison

*As an ex-con out after decades in jail, I have been asked to write an essay on what it is like to rejoin society after a long, long absence.*

The best short story ever written about what it's like was published in 1819, by the famous American author of fables Washington Irving. It is set in the Catskill Mountains of the northeastern United States, a reasonable drive from Montreal that I can never make again, sadly, because of my criminal record. *Continued on page 3*

## Class Action Strip Search Settlement

In the Summer 2021 edition of the Sou'Wester, the Mostly Legal column reported on a class action settlement regarding inmates in Quebec's provincial institutions who may have been subject to unlawful strip searches.

*Continued on page 3*



## Race relations, trauma research and compassionate activism

By Justin Muthail

There are few wounds that cut as deep as racial oppression. Compassionate activism may allow us to fight for change while con-

sidering these wounds of the past. In our contentious debates about race relations, we have failed to pay adequate attention to what the last 25 years of research tells us about how racial discrimination can be addressed. Processing present day racial oppression through the lens of trauma psychology allows us to see that compassionate activism can address the trauma of the past while fighting the injustice of the present.

*Continued on page 2*

## 4 issues

## Circulation of 750 copies

## Institutions & community

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1444 Union Avenue  
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**the Sou'Wester**

Winter 2021-22 Edition

The Sou'Wester name is a reference to Montreal's Southwest, where Communitas began its work in 1999

A grassroots newsletter on criminal justice & prisoner reintegration

Edging toward in-person Open Door Meetings  
page 2

Communitas Consultations 2022  
page 4

News From the Inside  
page 9

## Christmas Card Campaign

A total of 2750 Christmas cards were distributed to inmates in federal institutions across Quebec with the collaboration of the chaplains at the institutions and we thank them greatly. *Continued on page 2*

## Whither Mandatory Minimum Sentences?

Canada's Criminal Code discloses for each species of behaviour it proscribes the type and extent of the penalties to which malefactors open themselves. Within these statutorily defined limits the law entrusts selection of the appropriate sentence to the sentencing court's sole discretion, but subject always to the principles laid out in the Code, the most fundamental being that sentences must be "proportionate to the gravity of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the offender" (s.718.1). Respect for that bedrock formula necessarily contemplates a range of fact-driven situations, from the worst possible case, all the way down the scale to that point where moral blameworthiness is actually expunged (one recalls Lord Blackstone's 18th century dictum that "an unwarrantable act without a vicious will

is no crime at all"). Little wonder, then, that our criminal statutes as a rule set maximum sanctions but not mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment.

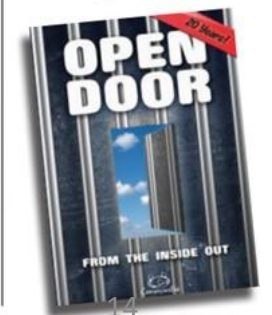
Note the words, "as a rule." The proportionality principle is conspicuously sidestepped by the Code's unyielding exaction of a life term of imprisonment for first or second degree murder, although for the latter, gradations of severity at least are available to the court in determining an individual's parole ineligibility period. Other exceptions exist- notably, the mandatory minimums of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, and sentences the Code has established for various weapons offences.

*Continued on page 8*

## Book Review – Open Door: From the Inside Out

The book Open Door: From the Inside Out will take you on a beautiful journey. You won't arrive at some exotic far-away place, but at a venue in downtown Montreal, where, under the auspices of Communitas, people have been meeting weekly for the last twenty years for an activity called Open Door.

*Continued on page 3*





# Christmas Card Campaign

- *328 cards were handwritten by Communitas members*
- *The cards were delivered to prisons across Quebec for in-mates at Christmas 2021*



# TABLE TALK CANCELLED

Weekly free lunch  
offering an  
opportunity  
for social interaction,  
open conversation

- Chef cooks for everyone,  
just bring your appetite!

**Friday noon at our  
office**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## Meetings

- 18 online meetings over the period 2021 - 2022:
- |                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • May 13, 2021  | *May 31, 2021   | *June 2, 2021 |
| • June 23, 2021 | *June 30, 2021  | *Aug 2, 2021  |
| • Sept 21, 2021 | *Oct 18, 2021   | *Oct 27, 2021 |
| • Nov 2, 2021   | *Nov 25, 2021   | *Dec 9, 2021  |
| • Jan 6, 2022   | *Feb 10, 2022   | *Mar 21, 2022 |
| • Mar 29, 2022  | *April 13, 2022 | *May 16, 2022 |



## COORDINATION TEAM (Steering Committee)

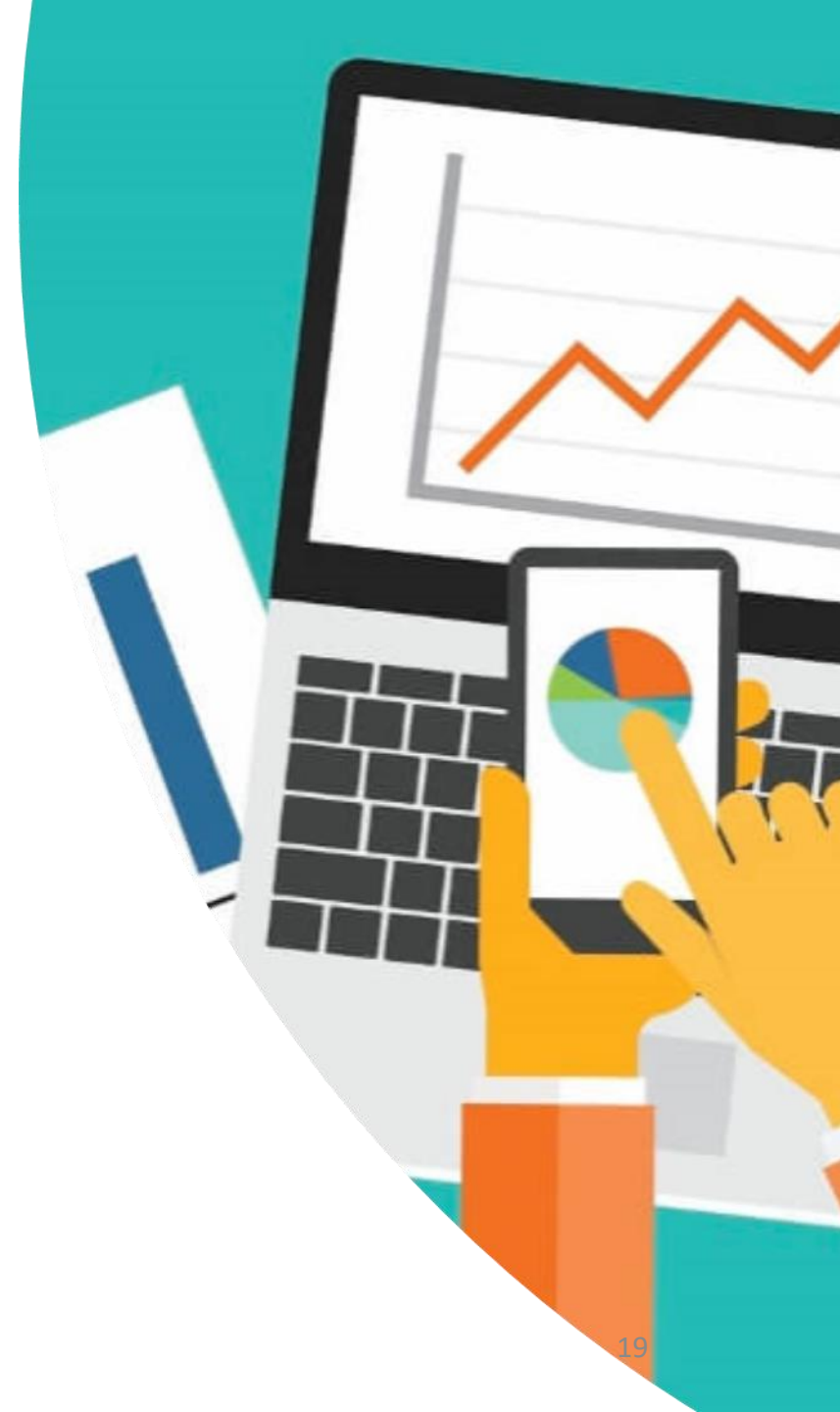
### Activities

The Coordination Team comprised Peter, Jeri, Bill and Brent. They met every Monday morning via zoom to plan activities and ensure that everything was under control.

- The Coordination Team reported directly to the Board of Directors during the monthly BOD meeting.
- The Coordination Team met a total of 46 times during the year 2021-2022.

# Financial Reports

## 2020-2021



# COMMUNITAS INCOME STATEMENT ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3

<b>MOUVEMENT COMMUNITAS</b>				
<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>				
<b>FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021</b>				
<b>(Unaudited)</b>				
	<b>CoSA Fund \$</b>	<b>General Fund \$</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>	<b>2020 \$</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Grant from CoSA Canada	63 700	-	<b>63 700</b>	67 473
Grant for Montreal Community Chaplaincy	-	21 691	<b>21 691</b>	10 299
Donations	-	13 713	<b>13 713</b>	22 896
Interests	-	26	<b>26</b>	-
	<b>63 700</b>	<b>35 430</b>	<b>99 130</b>	<b>100 668</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries and fringe benefits	40 908	5 603	<b>46 511</b>	59 512
Rent	10 853	4 751	<b>15 604</b>	15 436
Coordination	5 175	10 338	<b>15 513</b>	5 300
Professional fees	1 368	4 579	<b>5 947</b>	7 156
Office supplies	779	2 404	<b>3 183</b>	1 129
Telecommunications	881	1 408	<b>2 289</b>	1 374
Training	1 537	20	<b>1 557</b>	680
Insurance	560	373	<b>933</b>	851
Advertising and promotion	-	400	<b>400</b>	321
Travel	162	-	<b>162</b>	245
Meals and entertainment	-	150	<b>150</b>	3 778
Taxes and permits	-	36	<b>36</b>	174
Maintenance and repairs	-	-	<b>-</b>	550
Bank charges	-	-	<b>-</b>	180
	<b>62 223</b>	<b>30 062</b>	<b>92 285</b>	<b>96 686</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>1 477</b>	<b>5 368</b>	<b>6 845</b>	<b>3 982</b>



**COMMUNITAS SUMMARY BANK STATEMENT 1 April 2021- 31 March 2022**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WITHDRAWALS</b>	<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<i>B/F as at 31 March 2021</i>			<b>52,376.86</b>
	<b>CAD</b>	<b>CAD</b>	<b>CAD</b>
30-Apr-21	8,342.00	3,662.69	47,697.55
31-May-21	6,809.62	17,798.41	58,686.34
30-Jun-21	4,689.25	1,554.27	55,551.36
31-Jul-21	4,940.01	202.90	50,814.25
31-Aug-21	6,385.42	16,820.38	61,249.21
30-Sep-21	5,892.39	144.75	55,501.57
31-Oct-21	8,822.82	106.15	46,784.90
30-Nov-21	7,507.25	17,668.02	56,945.67
31-Dec-21	6,536.02	16,261.77	66,671.42
31-Jan-22	5,218.14	6,127.87	67,581.15
28-Feb-22	8,486.05	3,757.83	62,852.93
31-Mar-22	11,451.10	2,716.64	54,118.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,080.07</b>	<b>86,821.68</b>	

**SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)                      1,741.61**

<b>SUMMARY REVENUE (2021-22)</b>	
COSA CANADA GRANT	46,454.97
DONATIONS	40,366.71
<b>TOTAL REVENUE 2021-22</b>	<b>86,821.68</b>

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF 2021 -2022 and 2022-2023

- 31 March 2022 marked the end of the 5 years COSA project – the major funding source of Communitas.
- We have not yet received the final payment of **\$17,913**, covering the last 3 months of the fiscal year 2021-2022.
- The review engagement for the accounting is to be presented by the accountants Cloutier & Longtin on June 29, 2022.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2022 the available amount in our account was **\$49,583**.
- The funds available for 2022 -2023, and beyond, should be **\$67,496** (\$17,913+\$49,583), plus whatever donations we receive over the year and subsequent years.
- At this point in time, there are no concrete propositions regarding any contracts, grants etc. that would bring significant external funding to Communitas.

Roch Lemay,

Treasurer, May 25, 2022

# 2022-2023 Budget





Communitas Budget 2021-22	Budget Proposal 2022-2023		
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
<b>CoSA &amp; Organizational</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>	<b>45,663</b>	<b>25,386</b>	
<i>Coordinator</i>	27,999	-	
<i>Assistant Coordinator J</i>	8,832	8,830	
<i>Assistant Coordinator B</i>	8,832	16,556	
Administrative Expenses	1,714	1,714	
Insurance	950	950	
Office Equipment	530	530	
Rent & Utilities	<b>13,746</b>	<b>6,360</b>	
<i>Rent</i>	12,246	6,000	
<i>Phone &amp; Internet</i>	1,500	360	
Supplies, materials, postage,	2,000	2,000	
Technical services (bookkeeping, financial assessment-notice to reader)	6,880	4,550	
Travel and Living Expenses	300	300	
<b>Volunteer Recruitment</b>			
Training	3,000	500	
<b>Communitas Activities</b>			
<b>Open Door</b>			
Honoraria - <i>Speakers</i>	600	600	
Refreshments	600	600	
Drivers Reimbursement	120	120	
<b>Table Talk</b>			
Food and Beverage	750	750	
SEL		7,860	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>76,853</b>	<b>52,220</b>	
<b><u>Projected Revenue</u></b>			
<b>Revenue Item</b>			
CoSA Canada Contribution Agreement	65,000	18,000	
Donations & Fundraising Target	13,000	15,000	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	76,853	52,220	
<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>- 19,220</b>	

# 2022-23

# Operations

- Context: coming out of COVID, progressive opening
- Return to full in-person Open Door
- Year of transitions - coordination, CoSA Canada, Board of Directors
- Consultations
- Fundraising
- Opportunities – Social & Emotional Learning, Short Story Club, Table Talk resumption, In-reach to prisons resume; Gospel Zone...



# Board of Directors 2022-2023

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- By-laws require seven (7) directors
- One-year term
- **Seven nominations**
  - One (1) new nomination: Dave Williams
  - Six (6) standing for re-election:
    - Michele, Roch, Jeri, Steve, Pauline, Sabrina
- **Presentation of Slate**
- **Approval**





**Thank You**

