

**Communitas'  
Annual General  
Meeting  
24 May 2023**



# Agenda

## 1. 2022-2023 Overview

- Activities
- Financial Report

**Decision:** Approval of Financial Statements

## 2. 2023-2024

- Budget

**Decision:** Approval of Budget

- Direction of the organization

## 3. 2023-2024 Board of Directors

- Presentation of Slate

**Decision:** Election of Board









# Open Door



# Open Door



## Attendance

	2015 - 2106	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023
Escorted out of the pens	149	182	192	204	172	0	0	126
Returned to community	671	714	493	386	1071 Combined	408	349	416
Volunteers	683	786	695	768		904	887	856 (483+373 Zoom)
TOTAL	1503	1682	1380	1358	1243	1312	1236	1398

# Open Door



# Open Door



## Activities

- 52 hybrid meetings welcoming Montrealers and zoomers from across North America
- Delighted to see our members from the pens after a 2-year lockdown
- September 11: a celebration of 21 years
- A small but lively Christmas party at Fulford Hall
- Continuing a cautious reopening of Open Door with new sound equipment for hybrid meetings
- Good sales of the book Open Door: From the Inside Out



# Christmas Party





# TABLE TALK – BACK AGAIN

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

- Chef cooks for everyone,  
just bring your appetite!

**Friday noon at our  
office**



# Table Talk





# Table Talk



Number of Table Talk meetings = 39

(17 June 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Total attendance = 457

Number of ex- prisoners participating = 146

Number of volunteers participating = 311

# Table Talk





# Summer Picnic



## *Montee St. Francois Minimum Security Institution*

Number of visits for one-on-one consultations  
= 19

Total number of men seen = 104



# 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
4	60	200+

# The Gospel Zone

- Once/month on Zoom - 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays
- Visits to the Prison Chapel
- Meaningful space to build community

Number of meetings	Average participants per meeting	Number of men visited in Prison Chapels
24 (12 in-person, balance on Zoom)	9.7	83





# Sou'Wester

We would love to hear from you!  
1444 Union Avenue  
Montreal QC, H3A 2B8  
514 244 6147  
info@communitasmontreal.org  
www.communitasmontreal.org

## the Sou'Wester

Spring 2023 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

News from the  
Inside  
page 3

Mostly Legal  
Dollars and Scents  
page 6

In the News  
page 11

### Table Talk – It's all about Community!

Table Talk has always represented the very essence of community at Communitas! Not even Covid or broken water pipes has been able to undermine the deep bond that has formed over the years, first at the old office on Notre Dame Street, then at the Undercroft, and now, temporarily at least, at Fulford Hall.  
*Continued on page 2*

### Hello to all Communitas members and to the Sou'Wester readership!

My name is Olivia, and I started a placement with Communitas in the fall as part of my Bachelor of Social Work at Dalhousie University. My program is in Nova Scotia,

but as a distance student, I am able to work from my home base of Montreal. I will be with Communitas till the end of July.

*Continued on page 3*



People are always impressed when you tell them that you attended Woodstock. Since only half a million attended the festival, back in 1969, you're considered to be part of the elite if you were there. To get the most "bang for my buck", as the saying goes, I impart the information casually, as though highlighting a moment in time. "Oh, yes, I've visited Chicago. After the summer that I went to Woodstock."

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## the Sou'Wester

Fall/Winter  
2022 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

News from the  
Inside  
page 3

Mostly Legal  
Pot-Pourri  
page 6

Sou'Wester content  
competition  
page 11

### Bob's photographic journey

From the little black Kodak box camera, I had as a young boy to 35mm cameras, the digital revolution, making a living as a portrait photographer, the commercial photography studio, fine art photography, digital impressions, publications in books, magazines, exhibitions and where I'm at today, experimenting with a barely new and controversial movement, making images with Artificial Intelligence -- AI+.

*Continued on page 2*



"Great party!" people said as they were leaving. One person even thought it was one of the best Open Door Christmas parties ever. We knew that because of COVID, the numbers would be somewhat smaller than in other years, and we set out eight beautifully decorated tables throughout Fulford Hall. This year 45 guests came to enjoy the first Open Door Christmas party in three years.

We started by applauding Talent, who escorted the men from B-16 (600), and then Peter Huish said a lovely grace, reminding us of how fortunate we are to come together in this loving community. As always, the buffet tables were overflowing with dishes from around the world: two long tables of main course dishes and one long table of yummy desserts.

*Continued on page 3*

### Federal government ended CoSA funding

CoSA was funded by the Government of Canada for 15 years, starting in 2000. Its annual budget has never exceeded \$2 million, compared to the \$5 billion the Canadian government spends yearly on jails and prisons. Moreover, the public and private costs of a single serious sexual assault have been estimated by Public Safety Canada as being several hundred thousand dollars.

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# ...more Sou'Wester

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**the Sou'Wester**

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Summer 2022 Edition  
A grassroots newsletter on criminal justice & prisoner reintegration

Open Door Notes page 9	Interview with Natasha page 10	Internet Humour page 11
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**The Communitas Journée de Ressourcement**

The Communitas Journée de Ressourcement 2022 was a resounding success – after a Covid hiatus of two years! As advertised, the sun shone, and the weather was perfect!

*Continued on page 2*




**No Need for Speed**

Cycling across Canada is a life's dream for many cyclists, a dream that had dogged me for years. Every spring as the snow melted I'd wonder: "is this the year that I'll do it?". But life has had its way of throwing obstacles at me when I'd try to take off for three months.

Nevertheless, this summer I decided to live the dream. The plan was to ride to Newfoundland, fly to Vancouver and ride back home. A coast-to-coast 7000 km ride using only one flight.

I loaded my tent, floor mat, sleeping bag, light cooking gear, clothing, repair tools and my trusty drone on my road bike. She/it now weighed 35 kilograms. Never before had I done a single day of cycling with so much gear in tow. Just before I left, I removed my odometer as I did not want to be bothered by my speed - the important thing here was to enjoy the ride without feeling the need to perform.

*Continued on page 3*



**No, longer prison sentences do not reduce crime**

*Experts' Open Letter in Response to a Recent CBC Article*

On September 15, 2022 a CBC article claimed that "experts" support handing out "longer jail sentences" in order to reduce crime and respond to "prolific offenders". As experts in criminology, sociology, and law we feel it is our obligation to clearly and decisively reject this assertion. Decades of research from Canada and comparable jurisdictions like the United States, United Kingdom and Australia has shown that longer prison sentences do not reduce crime.

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4 issues

Circulation of 800 copies

Institutions & community

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Spring 2022 Edition  
A grassroots newsletter on criminal justice & prisoner reintegration

Saying "Adios" to Monika page 2	Bissonnette and Lifelong Imprisonment. page 6	Sou'Wester content competition page 11
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**The Communitas Short Story Club**

Until Communitas created a reading group, I'd never been attracted to book clubs. Belonging to one, I thought, would entail ploughing to the end of long-popular novels of little interest to me.

*Continued on page 2*



**Remembering Douglas Barnes**

It was March 13th, and the soft snow on the side of Mount Royal had hardened into an icy hard ground-covering. A small group of folks were gathering there for one purpose: to remember long-time Communitas member Douglas Barnes. Doug passed away quietly on January 7th.

The group was led by an extremely sympathetic Elder, Tom Dearhouse from Kahnawake, forming a circle around a fire burning in the center. The people, most of whom had not known each other before, then began, one by one, to share their memory of Doug and what they knew of him. They were often very

different, from his love of cars to his love of children, to art etc. Several mentioned his reliability as an excellent worker. The gathering included family, co-workers, and Communitas members.

Doug was somewhat of a legend, a long-term prisoner who used his time inside to develop his artwork. Many of us had seen evidence of this on visits to the La Macaza or on the Communitas office walls. It was for all of us to discover that there were many other aspects to Doug.

*Continued on page 3*

**DAD HERO**

## Father's Day Reflection on Incarcerated Dads.

More than half of the incarcerated men in Canada are fathers. As Father's Day approaches, it is appropriate that we look at one program in place across the country that seeks to help dads inside.

Dad HERO is one of many programs run by the Canadian Families and Corrections Network (CFCN) that aims to help families inside and out of corrections facilities.

*Continued on page 5*



# Sou'Wester Editorial Committee

- Bill
- Michele
- Margaret
- Ron
- Nico
- Leigh
- Steve (ex-officio)

# Christmas Card Campaign

- *300+ cards were handwritten by Communitas members*
- *The cards were delivered to prisons across Quebec for inmates at Christmas 2022*





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## Meetings

- 8 online meetings over the period 2022 - 2023:
- July 11, 2022
- Sept 12, 2022
- Oct 24, 2022
- Dec 5, 2022
- Dec 12, 2022
- Dec 22, 2022
- \*Feb 27, 2023
- \*Apr 3, 2023

## COORDINATION TEAM (Steering Committee)

### Activities

The Coordination Team comprised Peter, Jeri, and Bill. 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 39 times during the year 2022-2023.



# Financial Reports

## 2022-2023



# Looking Back.

## Finances 2022-23

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### EXPENSE ITEM

Coordination & Expenses	\$ 24 442
Office costs-Rent/Telcom/Equip.	\$ 6 080
Professional services	
Bookkeeping/Audit	\$ -960
Food & refreshments	\$ 1 488
Supplies/Sou'Wester/Fees	\$ 1 353
Insurance/CNESST	\$ 1 804
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 34 207</b>



# COMMUNITAS DESJARDINS STATEMENT 1 APRIL 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023

					CAD	
<b>BALANCE B/F 1 APRIL 2022</b>					<b>54,118.47</b>	
DATES			<b>WITHDRAWALS</b>	<b>DEPOSITS</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	
1-30 APRIL 2022			10,896.83	381.38	43,603.02	
1-31 MAY 2022			3,874.00	2,240.57	41,969.59	
1-30 JUNE 2022			847.75	4,180.19	45,302.03	
1-31 JULY 2022			8,196.12	629.56	37,735.47	
1-31 AUGUST 2022			2,371.12	273.75	35,638.10	
1-30 SEPTEMBER 2022			6,593.20	14,070.25	43,115.15	
1-31 OCTOBER 2022			2,846.49	942.81	41,211.47	
1-30 NOVEMBER 2022			3,781.10	12,476.01	49,906.38	
1-31 DECEMBER 2022			2,685.37	12,726.35	59,947.36	
1-31 JANUARY 2023			4,706.54	1,896.75	57,137.57	
1-28 FEBRUARY 2023			2,468.94	817.81	55,486.44	
1-31 MARCH 2023			3,479.37	348.18	52,355.25	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>52,746.83</b>	<b>50,983.61</b>	<b>52,355.25</b>	
<b>EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>				<b>-\$1,763.22</b>		



# COMMUNITAS BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 2023

ASSETS	TOTAL	
	CAD	CAD
<b>SHORT TERM ASSETS</b>		
Petty Cash	- 80.08	
Current Account	52,355.25	
Qualifying Share	5.00	
Total on Hand		52,280.17
<b>Total Short Term Assets</b>		<b>52,280.17</b>
Fixed Assets		
Computer		402.40
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>402.40</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>52,682.57</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payables		1,413.58
Accrued Liabilities		33.42
GST/HST paid on purchases		- 332.11
QST paid on purchases		- 662.53
<b>Total Short Term Liabilities</b>		<b>452.36</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>		<b>452.36</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
<b>Capital</b>		
Retained Results from Prev. Exerc.		50,324.07
Net Earnings		1,906.14
<b>Total - Capital</b>		<b>52,230.21</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>52,230.21</b>
<b>LIABILITY AND EQUITY</b>		<b>52,682.57</b>

# COMMUNITAS INCOME STATEMENT ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

MOUVEMENT COMUNITAS  
INCOME STATEMENT  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023  
Unaudited

	2022-2023
REVENUES	
Donations & Grants	36,204
Other Revenue	- 91
Sub-Total	36,113
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Coordination	23,325
Professional fees	-960
Rent	5,609
Telecommunications	471
Office supplies	213
Telephone	1,117
Insurance	1,804
Printing & Editing & Subscriptions	920
Food & Refreshment	1,488
Mailing & Postal Fees	208
Taxes and permits	-
Bank charges	12
Sub-Total	34,207
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	1,906

## FINANCIAL APPEAL SUMMARY (2022-2023)



Total number of Donors = 51

Total received as at 31 December 2023 = \$26,282

Net received (less Canada Helps commission) = \$25,490

Canada Helps commission = \$792 (\$711 paid by donors)

Balance of commission paid = \$81

Total number of Official Receipts issued = 35



# 2023-2024 Budget



Communitas Budget	2022-2023	Budget Proposal 2023-2024	
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
<b>Salaries</b>	25,386	<b>26,634</b>	
Assistant Coordinator J	8,830	9,319	
Assistant Coordinator B	16,556	17,315	
Administrative Expenses	1,714	697	
Insurance	950	1,253	
Office Equipment	530	500	
<b>Rent &amp; Utilities</b>	6,360	<b>6,504</b>	
Rent	6,000	6,000	
Phone & Internet	360	504	
Supplies, materials, postage, printing, etc.	2,000	2,000	
Technical services (bookkeeping)	4,550	2,759	
Travel and Living Expenses	300	-	
<b>Volunteer Recruitment and Training</b>			
Training/Appreciation	500	750	
<b>Communitas Activities</b>			
<b>Open Door</b>			
Honoraria - Speakers	600	100	
Refreshments	600	600	
Drivers Reimbursement	120	120	
<b>Table Talk</b>			
Food and Beverage	750	4,000	
SEL	7,860	-	
Fundraising event		1,000	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	52,220	<b>46,918</b>	
<b><u>Projected Revenue</u></b>			
Revenue Item			
CoSA Canada Contribution Agreement	18,000	-	
Donations & Fundraising Target	15,000	30,000	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	33,000	<b>30,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	52,220	<b>46,618</b>	
<b>SURPLUS OR DEFICIT</b>	- 19,220	- <b>16,918</b>	

# 2023-24

# Operations

- Context: COVID still lingering, care still required...
- Open Door fully transitioned to Hybrid Model
- Year of transitions – Shared coordination, More ETAs to Open Door with addn. Escorts; Increased in-person visits to pens (600 & 6099)
- Consultations
- Fundraising to be prioritised
- Opportunities – Internships; Increased use of Social Media, CoSA volunteer training





# Board of Directors 2023-2024

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



**Thank You**

