



**COMMUNITAS'
ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024**

Communitas


COMMUNITAS ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

An Overview





All Members' Appreciation Brunch on June 10, 2023

A group of people are seated at round tables in a large, bright room with large windows. The tables are covered with white cloths and have plates of food, glasses, and water bottles on them. Some people are looking towards the camera, while others are engaged in conversation. The room has a modern feel with recessed ceiling lights and large windows that let in natural light. The overall atmosphere appears to be a social gathering or a meeting.

About 48 Members spanning 25 years joined us for this festive Saturday morning. Musicians, buffet, door prizes, and a poem that included the name of everyone present.

**OPEN DOOR
TAKES PLACE EVERY
WEEK AND HAS BEEN
HAPPENING FOR MORE
THAN 20 YEARS**



	2016 -2107	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 -2022	2022 -2023	2023 -2024
Escorted out of the pens	182	192	204	172	0	0	126	234
Returned to community	714	493	386	1071 Combined	408	349	416	453
Volunteers	786	695	768		904	887	856 (483+373 Zoom)	740 (503+237 Zoom)
TOTAL	1682	1380	1358	1243	1312	1236	1398	1427

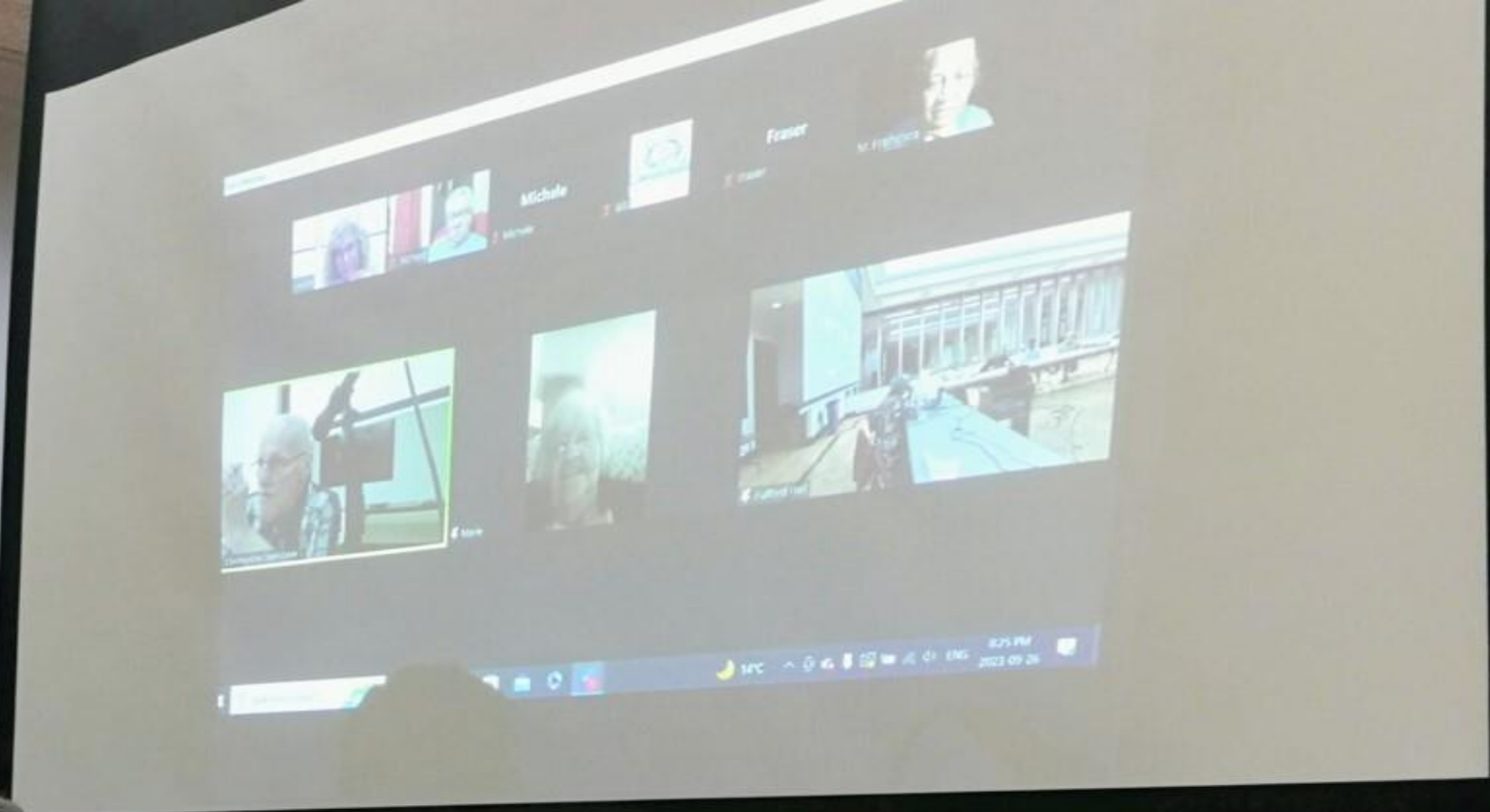
OPEN DOOR ATTENDANCE CONTINUES TO INCREASE POST COVID. MORE MEN FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THE PENS ATTENDED THIS YEAR, AS WELL AS MORE IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FROM VOLUNTEERS, WITH A CORRESPONDING DECREASE OF ZOOM ATTENDEES.





THE OPEN DOOR SET-UP CREW





The participation of Zoom attendees can be seen here.

OPEN DOOR

- 50 hybrid meetings welcoming Montrealers and Zoomers from across North America
- Traditional justice topics (Restorative Justice Week, Citizens' Rights versus the Police etc.)
- New and unusual evenings: a men's chorale, a local children's author, oil & gas drilling, dyslexia, banking, deontology
- Enthusiastic welcome of new attendees
- Less than 1 box of *Open Door From the Inside Out* (2021) books is left for sale
- Golden Escort Drivers to bring out our members from 600, 6099 and Ste. Anne





2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY



Waiting patiently for the food to be served!

TABLE TALK

Weekly free lunch

Fridays at noon at our office in the undercroft

...Offering an opportunity for social interaction and open conversation.

...Chef cooks for everyone... just bring your appetite!





Table Talk

7 April 2023 –
29 March 2024

NUMBER OF EX-
PRISONERS
PARTICIPATING: 364

NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEERS
PARTICIPATING: 437

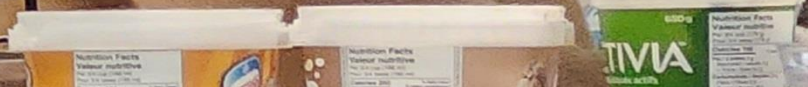
NUMBER OF TABLE
TALK MEETINGS: 51

TOTAL ATTENDANCE:
801



Attendance has increased significantly post-COVID







	2022 -2023	2023 -2024
Number of Table Talk meetings	39	51
Returned to community	146	364
Volunteers	311	437
TOTAL	457	801

TABLE TALK ATTENDANCE



IN-REACH / GOSPEL ZONE

Montee St. Francois Minimum Security Institution (600)

Number of visits for one-on-one consultations: 6

Number of men visited: 38

Total number of men seen: 64. No of volunteers: 64

Montee St. Francois Medium Security Institution (6099)

Total number of men seen: 179. No of volunteers: 123

St. Anne des Plains Minimum Security Institution

Total number of men seen: 29. No of volunteers: 17

COMMUNITAS

THE GOSPEL ZONE

Visits to the Prison Chapels

A Meaningful Space to Build Community

Number of Meetings: 31

Number of Volunteers: 204

Number of Men Visited in Prison Chapels: 272

The Penitentiaries included are the Minimum Security Pen and the Multi-level Pen both in Laval – Federal Training Center -600 and FTC 6900, and St. Anne-des-Plains Minimum. These are the penitentiaries where Communitas has been historically connected through Peter – when he was Chaplain there for 18 years, and now through our Board member Sabrina is the current chaplain.

Circles



NUMBER OF CIRCLES: 4

NUMBER OF CIRCLE MEETINGS: 103

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 250+

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

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

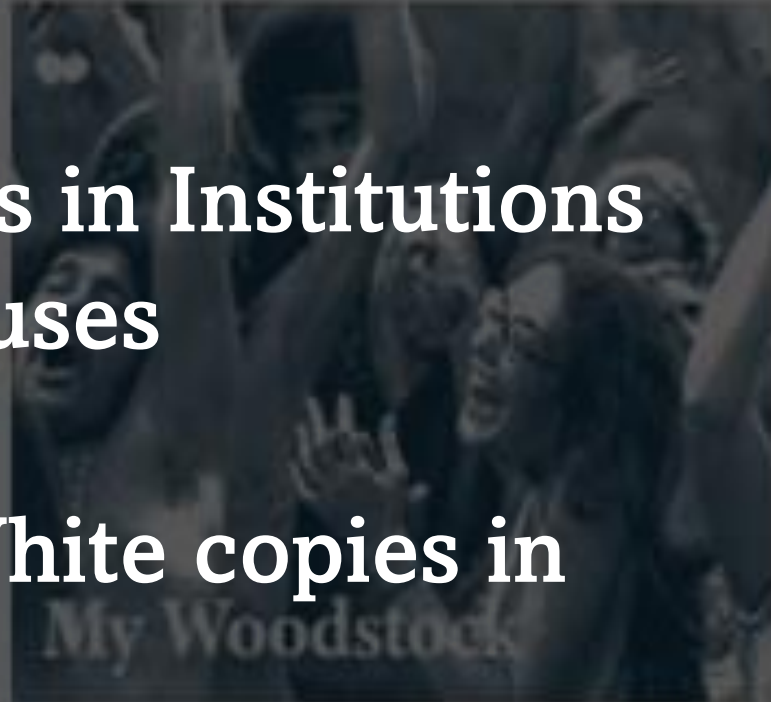
SOU'WESTER

4 issues

400 colour copies in Institutions and Halfway Houses

400 Black and White copies in the community

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



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

The Bernardo effect and the Tories page 5	Mostly Legal The Politics of Punishment page 6	A volunteer looks back page 8
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Summary Report of the Annual General Meeting page 8	Mostly Legal page 6	In the News page 11
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MORE SOU'WESTER

Special thanks to the editorial committee.

SOU'WESTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Bill

Michele

Margaret

Ron

Nico

Leigh

Marlyn

Steve (ex-officio)





CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN

- 800+ cards were handwritten by Communitas members
- The cards were delivered to prisons across Quebec for inmates at Christmas 2023
- A province-wide initiative in collaboration with Relais Famille and other NGOs



- Communitas receives Joe Mell Award from Maison Crossroads
- Communitas recognized with award from Christ Church Cathedral

AWARDS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings

- 8 online meetings over the period 2023 - 2024:
- May 8, 2023
- Jun 14, 2023
- Aug 23, 2023
- Sept 20, 2023
- Nov 1, 2023
- Jan 24, 2024
- Mar 4, 2024
- Apr 8, 2024

COMMUNITAS

Activities:

The Coordination Team was comprised of 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 33 times during the year 2023-2024.

COORDINATION TEAM (STEERING COMMITTEE)

FINANCIAL REPORTS 2023-2024

LOOKING BACK AT: FINANCES 2023-24

EXPENSE ITEM

Coordination \$ 21,891.18

Office costs-
Rent/Telcom/Equip. \$ 7,614.06

Professional services
Bookkeeping \$ 1,984.82

Food & refreshments \$ 3,128.95

Supplies/Sou'Wester/Fees \$ 2,223.26

Insurance/CNESST \$ 1,854.53

TOTAL \$ 38,696.80



COMMUNITAS
2023-2024
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 March 2024

ASSETS	TOTAL	
	CAD	CAD
SHORT TERM ASSETS		
Petty Cash	- 80.08	
Current Account	41,106.74	
Qualifying Share	5.00	
Total on Hand		41,031.66
Total Short Term Assets		41,031.66
TOTAL ASSETS		41,031.66
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payables		-1,197.77
Accrued Liabilities		33.42
GST/HST paid on purchases		-639.02
QST paid on purchases		-1,274.77
Total Short Term Liabilities		-3,078.14
TOTAL LIABILITY		-3,078.14
EQUITY		
Capital		
Retained Results from Prev. Exerc.		51,827.81
Net Earnings		-7,718.01
Total - Capital		44,109.80
TOTAL EQUITY		44,109.80
LIABILITY AND EQUITY		41,031.66

MOUVEMENT COMUNITAS
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
Unaudited

2023-2024

REVENUES

Donations	26,016.11
Membership Fees	4,935.00
Other Revenue	27.68

Sub-Total 30,978.79

OPERATING EXPENSES

Coordination	21,891.18
Professional fees	1,984.82
Rent	6,000.00
Telecommunications	476.75
Office supplies	253.28
Telephone	1,137.31
Insurance	1,854.53
Printing & Editing & Subscriptions	1,969.98
Food & Refreshment	3,128.95

Sub-Total 38,696.80

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES -7,718.01

FINANCIAL DONATIONS SUMMARY (2023-2024)

Total number of Donors: 89

Total received as at 31 March 2024: \$29,451

Net received (less Canada Helps commission): \$28,951

Canada Helps commission: \$500 (\$344 paid by donors)

Balance of commission paid: \$156

Total number of Official Receipts issued: 37

2024-2025 BUDGET



Communitas Budget	2023-2024	Budget Proposal 2024-2025
Expenses		
Salaries	26,634	26,634
Assistant Coordinator J	9,319	9,319
Assistant Coordinator B	17,315	17,315
Administrative Expenses	697	1,197
Insurance	1,253	1,553
Office Equipment	500	390
Rent & Utilities	6,504	6,504
Rent	6,000	6,000
Phone & Internet	504	504
Supplies, materials, postage, printing, etc.	2,000	2,000
Technical services (bookkeeping)	2,759	2,069
Travel and Living Expenses	-	-
Volunteer Recruitment and Training		
Training/Appreciation	750	750
Communitas Activities		
Open Door		
Honoraria - Speakers	100	100
Refreshments	600	2,000
Drivers Reimbursement	120	120
Table Talk		
Food and Beverage	4,000	2,600
Fundraising event	1,000	1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	46,918	46,918
Projected Revenue		
Revenue Item		
Donations & Fundraising Target	30,000	30,000
TOTAL REVENUE	30,000	30,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	46,618	46,618
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	-	-
	16,918	16,918

2024-25 OPERATIONS

- **Fundraising to be prioritized**
- **Volunteer Coordination**
- **25th Anniversary Celebration (Art Exhibition)**
- **Consolidation of In-Reach and Outings to three penitentiaries (FTC600; FTC6099; SAPE)**
- **Consultations**
- **Opportunities – Internships; Increased use of Social Media**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025



**Top Row: Michele, Chair/Treasurer; Steve, Vice-Chair;
Jeri, Secretary; Peter, honorary member; Bottom Row:
Sabrina, Donald, Pauline, Rosalie**



Special thanks to Bishop Mary and Dean Bertrand of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal and Christ Church Cathedral for their continued support of our mission, with the provision of rent-free premises for our Open Door activities.

Chaplains Sabrina, Jacinthe, Laurent, Mario, Tim and Benoit for their collaboration in working with Communitas and allowing access to the various prisons for our volunteers.

Our many volunteers and members who support our work financially, spiritually, and through the many hours of their time freely given.

THANK YOU

