



McGILL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT
2022-2023

PRESENTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE
166TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



McGILL FACULTY CLUB
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Presented on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting

In the summer prior to the launch of the 2022-2023 academic year, the McGill Alumni Association began its emergence from pandemic isolation measures to meet the challenges of our global post-covid era. Care and caution for the health and safety of our membership required empathy and sensitivity in response to an increasing desire to gather – to get together in person, for meetings, for meals together and for events.

And come together, we did!

Our global community of alumni were particularly responsive to our invitation to salute Prof. Suzanne Fortier by bidding her adieu at a series of Third Century Celebrations to mark the end of her nine-year tenure as McGill's 17th Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

My heartfelt thanks to all of our McGill alumni hosts, volunteers and guests who helped the team in University Advancement bring about this series of stellar events held in Dubai, London (UK), Montreal, Toronto, New York, Calgary and Vancouver.

The Montreal event was held in tandem with the first in-person MAA's Honours & Awards Banquet post-pandemic, where guests – and Prof. Fortier – viewed a moving debut video highlighting her years as our University's leader. The occasion was further enhanced by the celebration of 16 recipients of MAA awards that honoured the accomplishments of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of McGill.

July 2022 marks the time of year when the MAA hosts a series of Send-Offs in cities around the world, events that welcome incoming students and their parents to a gathering in their hometown to make important connections before arriving on campus. Several of these events were still held in a hybrid format in 2022, but a few were again held in person to the great satisfaction of participants.

Send-Offs spilled into another welcoming activity held during Move-In Weekend in late August 2022, called Parents Tent. On this occasion, the MAA invited the parents of incoming students to opt into receiving news from campus and invitations to alumni events in their region, to which they are welcome to join.

Homecoming Celebration Weekend in October 2022 was again very special as we welcomed alumni back to McGill's campuses for in-person activities after two years of virtual festivities and reunions.

The MAA Board was very pleased to host a special dinner at Homecoming that brought together the leadership of our constituent and identity-based groups. We shared plans and ideas about how best to engage alumni in the life of our University, especially in support of our students, while getting reacquainted after a long time apart.

Throughout the academic year, the MAA Board held Virtual Meet-Ups with our regional alumni groups, to share news from campus and to provide support to branch leaders in the accomplishment of their projects.

Connections – or Outreach – to our alumni groups is one of three pillars of the MAA Board's our strategic plan, combined with Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Giving.

Our Outreach activities are aimed at supporting our groups in carrying out their mandate in service to fellow alumni, aligned with the University's mission and priorities. In addition to the Meet-Ups mentioned earlier, an important component of our regional efforts is our Alumni Communities Funding program, where the Board uses a portion of its annual budget to help branches offset event expenses.

Many groups make good use of this funding program to organize annual events such as Welcome to Your City, holiday gatherings and events to raise awareness around McGill24, the University's annual day of giving, among other occasions.

Outreach is also our opportunity to share best practices on governance, long range planning and especially sharing event ideas and formats of greatest appeal to the members we serve.

The MAA Board has been committed to practices around Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, or EDI, for the last decade, but this commitment took on greater urgency in 2020 when the MAA issued a Statement in support of the University's stance on Injustice and Racism, and its response to Addressing Systemic Racism.

The Board's commitment now to EDI is one we live – through succession planning, recognition and sustainable/accessible event planning – but one we also convey to our volunteer leadership around the world. We strive for all our members to consider diversity in its full sense and value different perspectives, experiences, identities, and contributions to our society.

To further embed EDI in all that we do, our Board, through both the Alumni Communities Funding program and also its Student Sponsorship Program, encourages initiatives that helps advance dialogue, understanding and action.

Our opportunities for dialogue with students take many forms – through mentorship, career exploration, job shadowing and more – aided by the input of a formal committee of the Board called the McGill Alumni-Student Engagement Council, or MASEC.

MASEC keeps the MAA Board aware of the student experience today, and areas where alumni might provide support, largely in the areas of mentorship and networking for career exploration and advancement, but also in funding opportunities.

As such, the Board is an official ambassador of McGill's day of giving known as McGill24, where our dedication to student success is most tangible. In the interest of supporting as many students and young alumni as possible in their philanthropic activities, the MAA made a matching fund contribution of \$40,000 towards this campaign in March 2023. Our gift combined with several others to inspire this cohort of future supporters to make 1,731 gifts, while the graduating Class of 2023 alone made 633 gifts, more than any other class.

As Directors of the MAA Board, we likewise believe in demonstrating our individual leadership and generosity, and with a sense of great pride, state that we achieved a 100 percent giving rate again last year. We hope that our actions inspire other McGillians to give to McGill – to any area and in any amount of your choosing. Collective giving makes a great deal of difference to the University, and again, contributes in a significant way to student success.

I take this opportunity to extend my profound thanks and gratitude to my fellow Executive and Directors of the MAA Board, and to all our incredible constituent group and regional volunteers. You wear your McGill pride in your hearts and on your sleeves, for which I and McGill are truly grateful.

Respectfully submitted,



Joey Odman
President