



Dear Friends of the MISC,

With summer in full swing, what better time to look back at what we've been up to these past six months? Here's a look back at 2015 so far...

JANUARY

The year started off with the launch of our long-anticipated [Indigenous Studies undergraduate program](#). Professor Allan Downey, who has been so instrumental in setting up the program, led the first day of classes on **January 5**, and not even an ice storm could keep the students away. You can watch a video celebrating the first day of class [here](#).

After all he has done to help launch this program; MISC is thrilled to announce that Professor Downey has been hired by McGill as an Assistant Professor. Professor Downey will split his time between MISC and the History Department as of this fall.

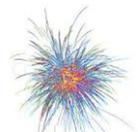


FEBRUARY

On **February 19** and **20**, we held our annual conference, on the topic of [The Cities We Need / Les villes qu'il nous faut](#). Held this year at Old Montreal's Phi Centre, the conference drew a diverse crowd of academics, activists, politicians and policy-makers. Standout moments included a panel of Mayors from cities large and small from across Canada including [Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck](#), who just happens to be a McGill graduate!

The conference was a tremendous success and touched on themes ranging from urban citizenship to digital issues to nightlife. Many thanks to all who joined us!

Video of the conference can be viewed [here](#), and photos can be viewed [here](#).



MARCH

On **March 9** we joined with the McGill Alumni Association to hold an event featuring Liberal Party of Canada Leader and McGill graduate Justin Trudeau, at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York hotel. Trudeau delivered a keynote speech to

a packed room of over 600 people, which got immense national and international coverage.

Video can be viewed [here](#). A special short film of the event prepared by the McGill Alumni Association can be viewed [here](#).



APRIL

Our Visiting Eakin Fellow Dr. Ruth Kircher held a lecture on her research, *Social Identities and Language Attitudes in Quebec*. Dr. Kircher spoke to a full lecture hall, and the question period that followed was lively. Photos can be viewed [here](#).

Kircher's work was subsequently featured on *C'est la vie*, the # 1 national radio show on life in French-speaking Canada, You can hear her interview [here](#).



MAY

We wrapped up the semester with a pair of exciting events, starting with a half-day **May 5** symposium on the topic of *Sport and Identity*. Journalist Brendan Kelly hosted a series of presentations on topics as diverse as the history of football in Newfoundland and women's place in hockey. Photos can be viewed [here](#).

And on **May 19**, we teamed up with the Alumni Association for another Toronto event featuring a high-profile McGill graduate, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair. Mulcair was joined by the "McGill Four", a quartet of young NDP MPs elected while they were still undergraduate students at McGill (Charmaine Borg, Matthew Dubé, Mylène Freeman, and Laurin Liu). Fellow McGill alum Althia Raj (Ottawa Bureau Chief, *Huffington Post*), chaired a panel discussion between the four on their lives in politics.

You can view photos [here](#), and a special video prepared by the Alumni Association [here](#).



AUTUMN

As always, we've got lots coming up when classes begin again this fall. On **October 1**, we hold the annual Cundill Lecture, given by the previous year's winner, author Gary Bass (*The Blood Telegram*).

October 2 and **3** we hold a two-day conference in partnership with the Canadian Studies Network and Université de Montréal as part of our *Canada in the Americas Initiative* (CITA).

October 7 we host author Roxane Dunbar-Oritz, who's been getting lots of attention for her book, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*.

October 20 we will co-host another well-known Canadian author, Joseph Boyden (*The Orenda, Through Black Spruce*).

And on **November 2** we hold the annual Cundill Prize in Historical Literature in Toronto. Now in its eighth year, the \$75,000 U.S. award is the world's most lucrative award for historical non-fiction.

And moving ahead to 2016, we hold our annual conference on **February 11** and **12**. The 2016 conference theme is *Canada in the World*.

And, this being MISC, we'll probably be announcing a few more events along the way, so stay tuned!

So, enjoy the summer months, and know there's a lot to look forward to at the MISC!

