



*Inside the Issue - February 2021*

## REPORTS

Look inside to find activity reports from the education, strategic planning, and communications sub-committees.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

See information regarding upcoming faculty and student workshops.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Showcasing what McGill has planned to celebrate Black History Month, and how you can participate!

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

This month we are also highlighting a new bursary for Indigenous students.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Now that we are well into the new year, we are looking ahead to bring you more resources, highlights and pertinent information. While our team is compiling the newsletters each month, we invite you to share with us any resources you come across that you would like featured in a future issue (please send an email to [isabella.poitras@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:isabella.poitras@mail.mcgill.ca)). We appreciate your feedback and thank you for taking the time to read.

*- Annika Hanson, Dr. Elin Thordardottir & Isabella Poitras*

# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month (BHM) is an annual observance and celebration which began in the United States in 1976. Since then, it has become recognized in Canada and beyond as a time where we reflect upon and celebrate black history. For more on the history of BHM, please see here:

<https://moishistoiredesnoirs.com/en/about/the-origin-of-black-history-month>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>



## HOW TO PARTICIPATE AT MCGILL

This February, McGill celebrates Black History Month with events for students and faculty in the school community and beyond. Please follow the link here for the schedule of events <https://www.mcgill.ca/equity/initiatives-education/black-history-month>

We also invite you to check out the Social Accountability and Community Engagement Office for their events, including Part 2 of the Workshop: Effective Allyship Against Systemic Racism on Monday, February 15, 2021

<https://www.mcgill.ca/med-saceoffice/black-history-month>

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

TD's program "La Promesse TD Prêts à Agir" has worked with leaders and community partners in Quebec to bring a month of programming to you virtually. Their round table created a schedule which "promotes activities highlighting both the history and the contemporary situation of Black communities in Quebec.", which can be found here:

<https://moishistoiredesnoirs.com/en/>



## DID YOU KNOW?

January 29th has now been designated by the federal government as a day of memorial of the 2017 Québec City mosque shooting, "the worst mass murder in a house of worship in Canada's history." We encourage you to review the attached articles and resources, as we remember the victims of this attack and stand in solidarity with the community to denounce Islamophobia.

<https://theconversation.com/remembering-the-quebec-city-mosque-attack-islamophobia-and-canadas-national-amnesia-152799>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/anti-muslim-sentiment-higher-in-quebec-than-rest-of-canada-study-finds>



## BURSARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two new bursaries, developed in remembrance of Joyce Echaquan, are now available to Indigenous students. Please see the attached document for more information and application components/criteria

[https://reseaudialog.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bourse\\_joyce.pdf](https://reseaudialog.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bourse_joyce.pdf)

## WORKSHOPS

The EDI Committee is pleased to announce that a workshop for faculty members entitled "Managing Microaggressions" took place on February 2nd 2021, and was presented by Meryem Benslimane and Shanice Yard.



Student workshops are coming soon!



## MEET THE COMMITTEE

The EDI committee is a collaboration of SCSD faculty, and research and applied students. All members of the SCSD community are welcome to join. Our next meeting will take place on February 22nd at 3:30 pm. Please email [isabella.poitras@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:isabella.poitras@mail.mcgill.ca) for the meeting Zoom link.

**Chair:** *Dr. Laura Gonnerman*

**Education Sub-Committee:** *Dr. Noémie Auclair-Ouellet (lead), Sophie Vaillancourt, Kelly Root, Aaron Glick, Lana Weshah, Aryana Napoleon Patenaude, Stephanie Deschamps*

**Strategic Plan Sub-Committee:** *Dr. Aparna Nadig (lead), Dr. Karsten Steinhauer, Dr. Tanya Matthews, Dr. Nicole Li-Jessen*

**Communications Sub-Committee:** *Isabella Poitras (lead), Annika Hanson, Dr. Elin Thordardottir*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

- The surveys to collect information about Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the SCSD created by the education committee with input from the EDI committee as a whole have been approved at the December Faculty meeting. This survey is now closed and results will be available soon.
- Professors Laura Gonnerman and Noémie Auclair-Ouellet had the opportunity to meet with Equity Advisors Shanice Yarde and Meryem Benslimane. The latter offered feedback on the surveys before they were sent out to the SCSD students and Faculty.
- Equity Advisors Meryem Benslimane and Shanice Yarde offered a very interesting 1.5-hour workshop to Faculty on February 2nd. The workshop's topic was Managing Micro-aggressions. A second workshop that will address specific needs raised by the surveys is planned to take place later in March or early April.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

- We developed a proposal for a Black student bursary and professional mentor for Black students, and submitted these to be considered for inclusion in the Faculty of Medicine anti-black racism plan.
- We drafted a new EDI section for our admissions website including resources for Indigenous and Black applicants, and will get it posted this month.