



Dawson Boys & Girls Club  
Repaire jeunesse Dawson

**APRIL 1, 2019-  
MARCH 31, 2020**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**CELEBRATING  
60 YEARS**

# WHO WE ARE

Alicia Mancini, President  
Marjorie Clarke, Vice-President  
Diana Glennie\*, Secretary  
Emani Hamouda, Treasurer  
Siméon Bégin, Administrator  
Jacqueline Hall\*, Administrator  
Jean-Michel Marcotte\*, Administrator  
Marie-Joëlle Proulx\*, Administrator

Thank you for your service in 2019

Luc Mantha, Vice President  
Amélie Dansereau, Treasurer  
Annie St-Cyr, Administrator

\*Joined the Board of Directors in 2020

## OUR MISSION

Dawson Boys & Girls Club is a safe and supportive family community centre where children, youth, adults, and seniors can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence, leadership, and skills for life.

## OUR VALUES

**ACCEPTANCE**

**RELIABILITY**

**ADAPTABILITY**

**WELL-BEING**

**EMPOWERMENT**

**COLLABORATION**

Dear members,

As we look back over the previous year three key words come to mind - celebration, transition, and resilience. A long standing pillar of the community, our centre has enriched the lives of its members by providing quality programming for all who walk through our doors.

From newborns to seniors, we saw increases this year in both the number of programs offered and program attendance. With the growing importance of food security and urban agriculture initiatives at Dawson, we officially launched a Food and Sustainability Department and adopted Manna Food Bank into our diverse range of programs.

In November 2019, Dawson welcomed Chad Polito as our new Executive Director. The experience and enthusiasm that the centre has gained is palpable. We are excited to move forward on the path of change under Chad's leadership as we adapt to the needs of the community. We would also like to thank our staff for their dedication to Dawson and the members we serve. Notably, we would like to congratulate Cindy Cohen who celebrates 15 years of service this year.

2019 marked a significant milestone in our history; Dawson Boys & Girls Club celebrated its 60th anniversary! We wish to extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to our donors, community partners, board of directors, volunteers, student interns, and staff for their indispensable contributions. The achievements outlined in this report were only possible as a result of the passion from our supporters.

As we look to the future, our focus remains on increasing our capacity to serve, strengthening our core programming, and deepening our impact. We are counting on your ongoing partnership with us as we provide a safe, welcoming environment for all.

Thank you!



Alicia Mancini  
President

*Alicia Mancini*



Chad Polito  
Executive Director

*Chad Polito*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## APRIL



Dawson adopted the food programs previously housed at the South West Mission



We hosted a UNICEF Canada Change Summit on the topic of belonging



## MAY



Dawson co-hosted the national youth forum Express Yourself 2019 with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Youth Council

## JUNE



We hosted our first ever "Dawson in the Park" at parc Arthur-Therrien with over 60 families in attendance





## OCTOBER



We travelled to Oka, Quebec for an intergenerational apple picking event



## FEBRUARY



Our Kid Food Nation club visits the Perform Centre at Concordia University to learn about nutrition

## SEPTEMBER



We renovated our art room with the help of Michaels



## DECEMBER



Dawson celebrated our 60th anniversary with an annual holiday dinner



# PARENTS & TOTS

Additional programming six days per week was offered to support parents in a warm and inclusive setting. We continue to have many classes, workshops, and activity blocks designed to enhance the parent-child bond in an inclusive, fun, and creative atmosphere.

Some of our most popular offerings included the Monday morning parent child group and the baby massage class. Precious moments shared between parents and their adorable little ones made this such a desirable class as families became members.



With specialized equipment to enhance early childhood gross motor development, parents and children play three times per week in our gym. We offered a large variety of activities and three memorable outings: annual apple picking in Oka, visiting the animals at Granby Zoo, and exploring art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.



## OUR ACTIVITIES

- Busy Bees Playgroup
- Leap Frogs Preschool Group
- Respite
- Parent Activities
- Parent/Child Activities
- Outings

4

additional program hours per week

1.5

additional hours to our Friday respite

847

program attendances throughout the year

# 4-12 PROGRAM



The after-school program is a safe and supportive space for all children. This year, we continued to offer our homework support program with 13 club choices that focused on educational development, physical fitness and the arts. A new kindergarten-aged group was introduced as well, helping the children integrate from school life to after-school life.

Thanks to the generous funding of the Jumpstart Community grant, we were able to provide 282 hours of gym activities that helped enhance our members' physical literacy skills.

Through Kid Tech Nation, we were able to educate children in digital literacy and offer programming on Saturdays. Pink shirt day continues to be an important staple in our program, and we will continue to advocate for all children's rights every day.

Thank you to Erin Sports, One Magic Moment, Old Navy and Gap for creating memorable holiday moments for our families. Their generosity helps put smiles on many of our members' faces.

Partnership with the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation enabled us to bring our "Know Better Play Better" project to fruition. This partnership helped connect us to one of our biggest fans, Tomas Tatar. Tomas has given his time to the centre, encouraging members to achieve their personal goals.

## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

- Hockey
- S'magic
- Mindfulness
- Improv
- Art
- Get in the Game
- Kid Food Nation
- Dance
- Chess
- Girls group
- Boys club
- Glee
- Homework



# 15%

increase in after-school enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year



# 25%

increase of summer day camp registration from 100 to 120 children per week.





# YOUTH PROGRAMS

2019-2020 proved to be another exciting year for our youth! Dawson was chosen amongst 10 communities across Canada by Bell, NBA and BGCC and received two basketball backboards, new nets, and rims - an in-kind gift worth more than \$10,000! Our youth members and staff were also so excited to be featured in the Bell's Backboard Project video.

In addition to social, recreational, and educational activities for pre-teens, teens, and young adults, our young people are learning to become advocates and take on leadership roles. As proud representatives of Dawson Boys & Girl Club and the City of Montreal, our Youth Council co-hosted Express Yourself 2019, a National Youth Forum at Concordia University. They were empowered and given the opportunity to lead various workshops. They shared their experiences and ideas with more than 100 teenagers from across Canada. Youth Council member Davon Scott was selected to be the Quebec Youth Representative for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada National Youth Council 2019-2021.

Our staff also received extensive training in leadership, planning, teamwork, behavior management and safety through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada e-learning portal.

## DAWSON'S YOUTH PROGRAMS

LEAD UP

Torch Club

Respect2Connect

Let's Talk Digital

Raise the Grade

Career Launch

NAOS jeunesse

Sports & Wellness

Arts

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**BEST BUY \$5,000 POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP**

Janet Luker-Fitka

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CANADA  
POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP**

Kheyra Davie-King  
Emmet Carriere

**TED ROGERS POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP**

Zoé Gauthier



**4,956**

attendances to our youth programs during the year



# SENIORS

Seniors are initially attracted to Dawson for the quality programs and stay for the welcoming atmosphere, enthusiastic volunteers and caring facilitators.

Gabrielle Roddy's open-gym and stretching-yoga classes are now at capacity thanks to her expertise, passion for teaching, creativity and capacity to adapt programs to many different levels and needs. This past year she offered three fall prevention workshops with 20 participants.

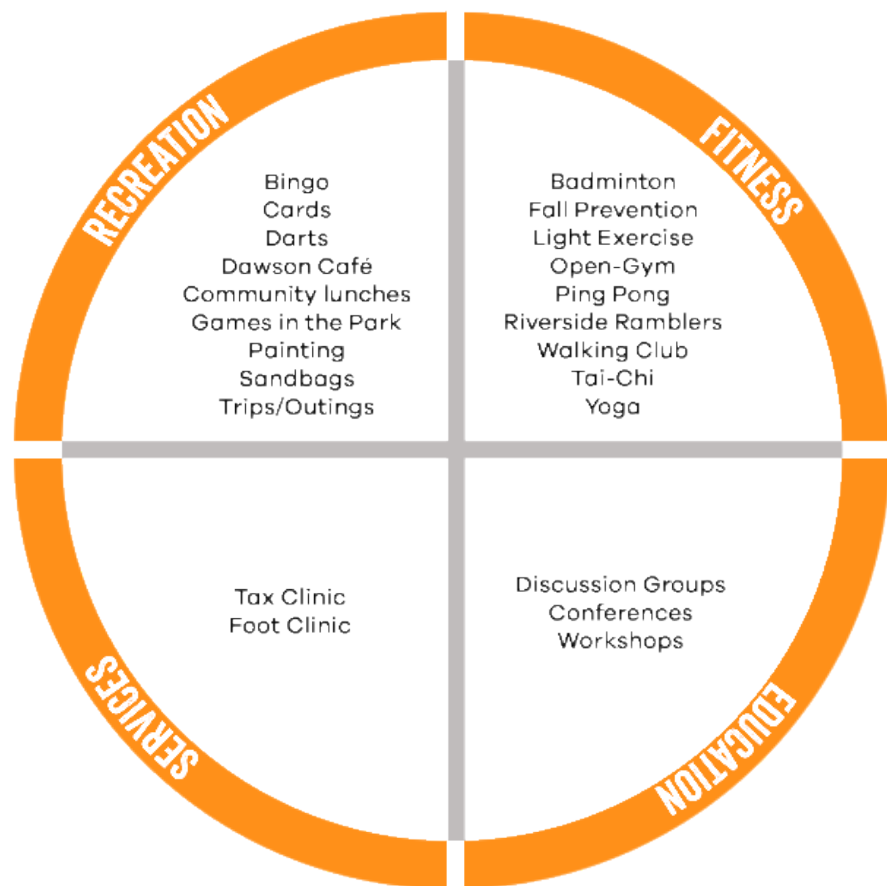
The reading and discussion group offered in partnership with the Thomas More Institute celebrated 7 years at Dawson. We are thankful for our two passionate animators, Murray Shugar and Jennifer Anstead who have made this such a success. The group reached its capacity of 12 in the fall of 2019.

The foot clinic celebrated 20 years at Dawson with the same technician, Denise Gervais. This affordable service to the community serves as a screening tool for the overall health and safety of seniors while improving mobility and circulation.

**140**  
senior  
members

**1000+**  
hours of  
programs

**18**  
volunteers



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

**1959**



Dawson Boys Club opened at 666 rue Woodland in Verdun

First membership is teenager Keith Bussey!



**1960**



Inauguration of the club by the Honorable George Vanier

**1970's**



Dawson changes our name to Dawson Boys & Girls Club



**1980's**

Changed name to Dawson Community Centre



**1991**



Creation of the Seniors Program



**1998**



Moms and Tots program created and changed to what we now know as Parents and Tots

# 2000's



Dawson introduces computer programs for our members

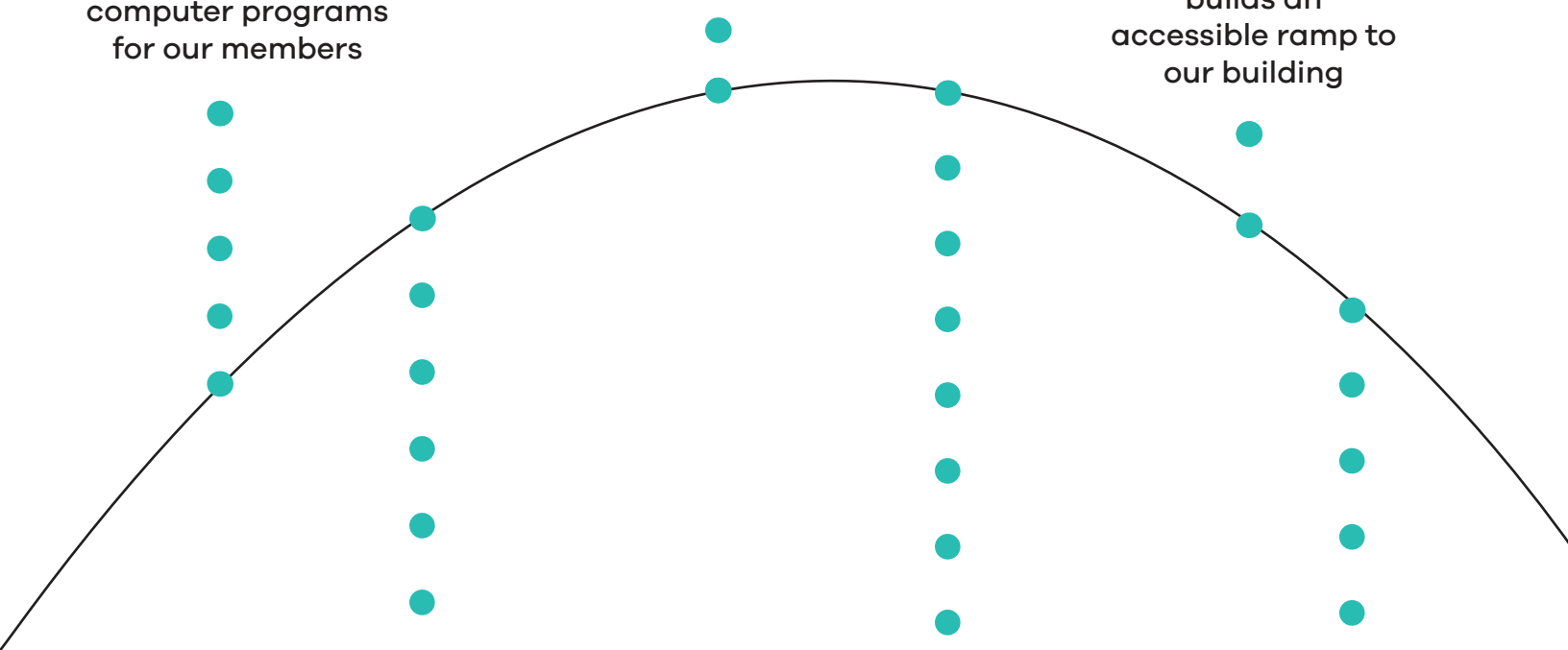
# 2013-2016

Race for Kids fundraiser is organized with the support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

# 2017



Dawson builds an accessible ramp to our building



# 2010's



New roof top garden built and the start of gardening programs at Dawson

# 2016



Repaire jeunesse Dawson  
Dawson Boys & Girls Club

Aligns with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada national branding initiative and changes name to Repaire jeunesse Dawson/ Dawson Boys & Girls Club

# 2019

Dawson celebrates our 60th Anniversary!



# FOOD + SUSTAINABILITY

Food and Sustainability had its debut to Dawson programs as a new department in April of 2019. The department is home to four distinct programs. The focus is to ensure our members and the community at large have access to fresh and healthy food, to offer educational workshops related to growing and cooking food from scratch, and to advocate and teach how to diminish our ecological footprint.



## DAWSON KITCHEN

Headed by our chef, Michelle MacGregor, the Dawson kitchen prepared fresh and healthy snacks and light meals for all our members and provided three-course community lunches every Tuesday.

Our activities included: P'tits Chefs (tots 3-5 years), Kid Food Nation (children 7- 12 years), Community Lunches, and special events.

## UN PLANT DE TOMATE À LA FOIS

Led by Julie Langlois, Dawson's urban agriculture initiative brings hands-on gardening to citizens throughout the community.

This past year we offered horticultural workshops in schools, daycares, and day camps.

## MOBILE MARKETS

Mobile Markets were created to sell fresh and affordable fruit and vegetables on-site in a number of social housing units across Verdun.

The goal is to ensure elderly residents with mobility issues have access to produce. Dawson expanded this offer by including a mini-market held at the same time as our community lunch at our centre.

## MANNA FOOD BANK

Founded in 1985, Manna was integrated into Dawson's programming in November of 2019. Spearheaded by Joseph Quinn, Susan Mooney, and George O'Reilly, the food bank was added to the Food and Sustainability department and distributes food baskets to Verdun's vulnerable population.

# 1,750

food baskets distributed through Manna Food Bank

# 15,000

snacks served to members of our after-school program

# 48

days that Manna Food Bank was open



# 18

weeks of collective gardening



# 112

hours of workshops offered



69% 0-12 PROGRAM

14% YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

8% SPECIAL EVENTS

7% COMMUNITY

2% SENIORS

# 400

meals served at our Dawson Seniors Cafe

# 450

children and youth reached through our in-school horticulture animation

# 1,600

kilograms of fresh produce sold at our Mini Markets between July 2019 and March 2020



# MEMBER SERVICES

The goal of the member services department is to ensure our family of members have excellent programs and meaningful experiences each time they walk through our doors.

Elevating and building a cohesive brand for Dawson continues to be a priority. Together with a can-do attitude, our staff work diligently to make sure this happens.

**1000**  
likes on our  
Facebook page!

**"[Dawson] is  
literally the  
heart of the  
community"**

**250+**  
followers on  
our instagram

**"Such a  
fantastic place!  
Staff is  
exceptional"**

Our 60th anniversary event was attended by Verdun borough mayor Jean-François Parenteau, councillor Luc Gagnon, councillor Marie-Andrée Mauger, and the Honorable David Lametti.



## REVIEW

“

I knew I had found our spot. When people introduced themselves, it felt like they actually wanted to meet \*me\*.

”





# VOLUNTEERING

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR DEDICATING YOUR TIME, ENERGY AND PASSION.  
OUR PROGRAMMING IS STRENGTHENED BY THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE!

## A DIFFERENCE WAS MADE WHEN YOU:

- Comforted a new parent as their baby cried
- Planted vegetables in the roof top garden
- Helped a child in the after-school program
- Phoned a member to make sure they were okay
- Assembled food baskets at Manna Food Bank
- Played basketball in the gym with our youth
- Assisted with the annual holiday dinner
- Made Dawson your charity of choice

**8,686**

**TOTAL HOURS DEVOTED BY OUR  
VOLUNTEERS TO DAWSON!**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

In 1959, Joseph Quinn was one of Dawson's first charter members and actively participated in the youth programs at Dawson. With a passion for giving back to his community, Joseph served on the Dawson Board of Directors for 15 years as Treasurer. He continues to help out wherever he can. Since 1998, he has been a weekly volunteer with the Manna Verdun Food Bank, now under Dawson's Food & Sustainability department where he continues to be of assistance to the community.



Throughout the years Joseph has been recognized for his volunteer contributions to the community. We value Joseph's extraordinary volunteer service and the thousands of hours given to Dawson throughout his lifetime. Thank you Joseph!

# LEGACY GIVING

*gifts with a lasting impact*



## A PROMISED GIFT FROM KATHLEEN & STANLEY STUHEC

A former Montrealer, Kathleen, then Kathy Mooney, worked at Dawson Community Centre as the first Stay in School Initiatives Program Coordinator (1991-93), followed by her first fundraising position (1995). Almost 30 years later she fondly remembers the kids who taught her about life, love, and resiliency. Colleagues and mentors became good friends and stay in touch by Facebook.



*Dawson staff circa 1992*

*Jennifer de Domenico, Danny Lemieux, Line Rousseau, Kathy Mooney, and Poly Geramania.*

“

IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK WHERE ONE HAS RECEIVED SO MUCH. THIS IS WHY STAN AND I CHOSE TO LEAVE A GIFT FOR DAWSON IN OUR WILL MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO. WE CHOSE TO INFORM THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR GIVING INTENTIONS NOW SO IT CAN BE RECORDED AND TO ENSURE DAWSON CONTINUES TO HELP PEOPLE MANY YEARS AFTER WE ARE GONE.

”

For over 60 years, Dawson has made a significant difference to members of the Verdun community. Life-changing experiences and memorable moments for so many were created here. We would love to hear from you!

For more information about leaving a gift to Dawson in your will, please contact Executive Director Chad Polito at 514.767.9967 ext 222 or [direction@dawsonbgc.ca](mailto:direction@dawsonbgc.ca)

# ALUMNI

Help Us Build the One & Only Dawson Alumni Society!

We know Dawson has impacted the lives of children, teens, parents, seniors, volunteers, staff, and friends who have benefitted from our programming. We would love to hear from you! Please share your story by sending us an email at [info-registration@dawsonbgc.ca](mailto:info-registration@dawsonbgc.ca).

# SUPPORT

WE REACHED OUT FOR YOUR HELP AND YOU WERE THERE!  
THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR FUNDERS, SPONSORS AND PARTNERS.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada  
Repaires jeunesse du Canada



## SUPPORTERS

Astra Zeneca  
Bell Canada  
Best Buy  
Boys and Girls Clubs of  
Canada  
Calgary Foundation  
Canadian Tire Jumpstart  
Charities  
Centraide of Greater  
Montreal  
City of Montreal  
Arrondissement de  
Verdun  
Club Lions de Verdun

Coca-Cola Canada  
Commission scolaire  
Marguerite Bourgeoys  
Erin Sports Association  
FedEx Canada  
Fidelity Investments  
Gap Inc.  
Gewurz Family Foundation  
Giant Tiger  
Government of Canada  
Government of Quebec  
Jays Care Foundation  
Kraft Heinz Canada Inc.

Manulife Financial  
Mondeléz International  
Montreal Canadians  
Children's Foundation  
New Verdun Restaurant  
NBA  
Old Navy  
Optimist Club of Verdun  
President's Choice  
Children's Charity  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Verdun Wackers Golf  
Adventure

## COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

ABC Life Literacy Canada  
Ancre des jeunes  
Anglo Family Council  
Beurling Academy  
Casa C.A.F.I.  
Concertation en  
développement social  
de Verdun (CDSV)  
Concordia University  
CPE Riverview  
Dawson College

École Saule Rieurs  
La maison de  
l'environnement  
La Maison des Familles de  
Verdun Inc.  
Lester B. Person School  
Board  
Les Fruits Défendus  
Riverview Elementary School  
St. Columba House

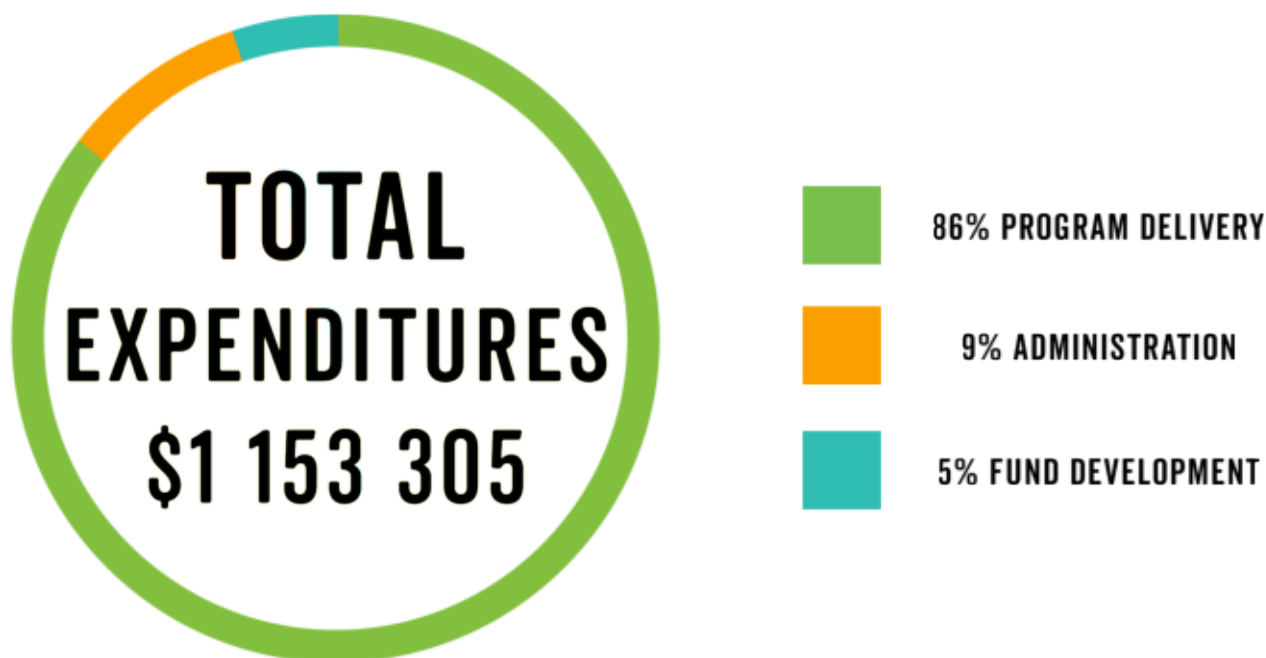
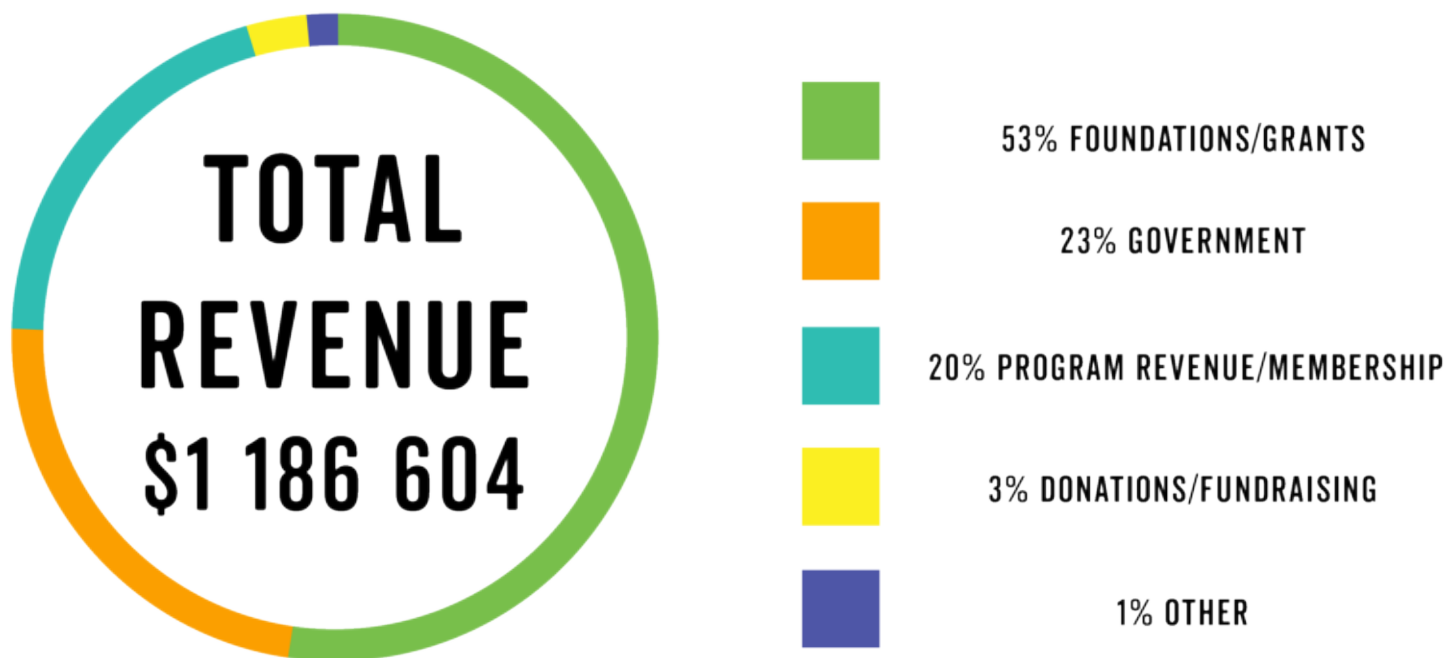
Table de concertation  
Famille de Verdun  
(TCFV)  
Table de Concertation  
Jeunesse Verdun  
Thomas-More Institute  
Toujours Ensemble  
Trajet  
Verdun Elementary School  
YMCA Montreal

*\*Every effort has been made to ensure all names are complete and accurate. If we have omitted or listed your name incorrectly, please contact [administration@dawsonbgc.ca](mailto:administration@dawsonbgc.ca)*



# FINANCIALS

Dawson Community Centre  
April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020



*Full Audited financial statements are available upon request.*

# STAFF

## LEADERSHIP

Chad Polito, Executive Director  
Marie Rousseau, Director of Finance & Administration  
Joanne Eberlin, Administrative Secretary  
Cindy Cohen, 0-12 Coordinator  
Darley Polony, Youth Education Coordinator  
Marc Paradis, Seniors 50+ Coordinator  
Roxanne Tisdall, Food & Sustainability Coordinator  
Emmanuel Bobin\*, Sports and Recreation Coordinator  
Sophia Kopyna, Member Services Coordinator  
Joanne Kuldip\*, Receptionist  
Ingrid Intrevado, Head Animator  
Alvin Romero, Maintenance Manager

## PART TIME STAFF

Aaron Blair\*  
Abigail Yaeger  
Afeefa Ayub\*  
Alejandra Conde Cordero\*  
Andrew Gullotti\*  
Angad Sharma\*  
Anita Huber\*  
Benjamin Schuringa\*  
Brandon Adelin\*  
Brenden Renzelli  
Christina Koukolas\*  
Dalia Huber\*  
Dayna Martin  
Dylan O'Hara\*  
Dylan Vincelette\*  
Emmet Carriere  
Erika Espinosa  
Esther Dobe\*  
Floralie Pointel-Abeto\*  
Franc Di Mauro  
Gabriel Leduc\*  
Gabrielle Roddy  
Hanna Pentland Grosse\*  
Hoda Mady

Jade Lewis Parris  
Jenna Trumpler\*  
Jéromine Bouton\*  
Jessica Dewling  
Jessica Prior  
Jordan Lalonde  
Jose Abarca Silva  
Julie Langlois  
Juliette Charpentier  
Kareem Martin  
Kasha Chang  
Kelsey Hunt\*  
Keydra Vaughn\*  
Kristina Pouliezoz  
Lea Rosa Kirdokian  
Léonore Pion\*  
Lincoln Marshall\*  
Lucie Fabros\*  
Marie Eve Leduc  
Marilou Cyr\*  
Matisse Morneau-Dion\*  
Megan McCambridge  
Mérim Yahia-Zoubir \*  
Michelle MacGregor

Mikaela Cuaycong\*  
Mikhayla Reid\*  
Nathan Cornelow\*  
Nathaniel Waplington  
Nikita Morozov  
Pascal Filippi\*  
Peter Gradys  
Rachel Dewling  
Rebecca Cornelow  
Ritu Ritu\*  
Sabrina Bujo-Nagji  
Sabrina Gear\*  
Shannon Kennedy\*  
Sheila Morrison\*  
Sherwin Cumberbatch  
Sophia Nathaniel\*  
Stephanie Anthony\*  
Titas Banerjee  
Vanessa Prior\*  
Vincent Gardener  
William Grant\*  
Zoe Bogris\*

\* Departures



**DAWSON RELIES ON THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE TO OFFER QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING. PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION!**

## **DAWSON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB / REPAIRE JEUNESSE DAWSON**

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**@DCCVERDUN**



**@DAWSONBGC**



**@DAWSONBGC**

**CHARITABLE BUSINESS REGISTRATION NUMBER: 106890056 RR 0001**