



YFC CANADA NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019



LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of YFC,

The New Year is an inspiring time of year; a time to reflect back on what has been accomplished by God's grace and to look forward towards new goals for the coming year. As we continue to reach youth across Canada and share with them the news that they are loved by our gracious Saviour, we wanted to take this opportunity to encourage you by sharing some of the ways your partnership is impacting young people in the province of Quebec.

Every day our staff, across Canada, pour themselves into the lives of the youth with whom they work. In Montreal, there are many countless opportunities to connect young people with innovating programming that shows them God's love.

Thank you for your continued partnership with us! Your partnership allows our staff and volunteers regular opportunities to show the love of Jesus Christ. We appreciate your prayer and financial support as we work to see every young person living fully in Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Tim Coles
National Director

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTREAL

The challenges that the 1.3 million youth of Quebec face each day are very real and include: anxiety, depression, identity, sexuality, bullying, technology, ethics, poverty, substance use, self-esteem and peer pressure. While these issues are similar to those faced by the rest of the youth of Canada, the difference Quebec youth face is the extreme secularization of the province. No province in Canada currently or historically has been as closed to the gospel as Quebec. As a result, the majority of Quebec youth have never heard the transforming message of Jesus. We consider it a privilege and an amazing opportunity to be able to share this message of hope with them, many for the first time.

At *Montreal YFC*, we long to see every one of Quebec's 1.3 million young people living fully in Christ. We desire to see them living fully - emotionally, physically, relationally, and spiritually. Whether it be through youth rallies, breakfast, mentoring, teen mom, or refugee programs, each one is designed to enable the youth we serve to discover and live life to the fullest. We believe this is God's desire for them.

There often seems to be a significant level of politics that arises when we talk about Quebec. Thank you for seeing beyond this and seeing the emptiness and brokenness of young people, dearly loved by our heavenly Father. Thank you for caring for the youth of our amazing country.

Al Heron
Executive Director, Montreal





REACHING THE YOUTH OF CANADA

FOCUS ON QUEBEC

Known for spectacular landscape, European charm in a North American environment, rich culture, and history, Quebec is only one of Canada's 10 provinces and 3 territories, but almost one quarter of Canadians live in Quebec with Montreal being Canada's second largest city. Traditionally, the Roman Catholic Church played a huge role in shaping Quebec - with churches on many corners and streets named after Saints - however these days Christianity has become more of an historical reference rather than a lifestyle of faith. Today most of the Quebecois population see Catholicism as part of their cultural heritage and nothing more; only 0.5% of the population have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.¹

Many consider the people living in Quebec to be among the largest unreached people group in North America.

Youth for Christ is actively working to reach young people in Quebec through *Jeunesse sans limite Montréal/Montreal Youth Unlimited (MYU)*. MYU provides community-based programs that connect passionate people to the aspirations of Quebec youth by offering authentic relationships and fun, innovative programming to enable youth to discover their worth and God's unique purpose for their lives. MYU empowers compassionate people to actively participate in the transformation of Quebec youth.

In Quebec, 62.8% of births are outside of marriage and 16.8% of families are single-parent families.² Since 2003, MYU has offered a program called Options Pregnancy Centre which serves young women

and their families as they navigate unplanned pregnancies. This Centre offers free baby and maternity items and numerous supports including recently-added specialized, medical services. Because of generous individual donations and ongoing partnerships, these services are completely free so that young woman are never refused care. Options Pregnancy Centre practices a holistic and custom-tailored approach to each client who walks through the doors with a specific focus on teen pregnancy.

Annually, approximately 7 in 100 young woman become pregnant under the age of 19 in the Montérégie region of Quebec.³ Accessing these critical services free of charge offers true empowered support to those impacted by unplanned pregnancy.

Options Pregnancy Centre realizes that each young women's needs are unique. Some need help getting a medical card so they can receive the medical care they need, while others may need help filing taxes so they will be able to apply for low-income housing. Some might need help sharing the news of the pregnancy with loved ones. Staff and volunteers are available to share information, resources, and tools that allow for crucial decisions to be made in confidence and clarity. If desired, a plan of action will be created which may include plugging into some of their programs or connecting them with applicable community resources. All of these tasks help young families as they work through their unplanned pregnancy and assure them that they are cared for and are not alone.

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¹ From <http://www.christianweek.org/creative-training-prepares-workers-quebec-mission-field>

² From http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/quebec-chiffre-main/pdf/qcm2018_an.pdf

³ From Montérégie PORTRAIT STATISTIQUE ÉGALITÉ FEMMES HOMME



MONTREAL PROGRAMS

TERRA NOVA – creates communities where kids and teens may form healthy relationships, challenging them to become the best versions of themselves.

DAY CAMPS – Terra Nova Christian Day Camp in Dorval is all about making fun memories, instilling Christian values and creating community for children ages 6 - 12.

LA CORDE – is located in the Cloverdale community of East Pierrefonds, one of the largest housing co-ops in Canada, representing over 50 nationalities with an average drop-out age of 14. La Corde offers breakfast, lunch, after-school homework help, life-skills programs and more.

STATION 7 – is a bilingual youth centre in Chateauguy which offers various activities depending on the season and on the needs of the youth.

OPTIONS PREGNANCY CENTRE – offers free confidential support to those impacted by crisis pregnancy.

CHATEAUGUAY VALLEY – located in a rural area southwest of Montreal. The team seeks to walk with young people on their journey to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, their Saviour.

CITY-WIDE PROGRAMS – these programs are open to all young people around the city of Montreal.

CREATIVE ARTIST EVANGELISM – François reaches young people with a clear message of salvation in Jesus Christ through the use of creative arts performances.

CAMP DE LA MONTAGNE – is a summer camp approximately 1 hour north of Montreal in Amherst, Quebec.

SYRIAN OUTREACH – Osanna worked with YFC in Lebanon and as a Syrian refugee herself, she is passionate about working with recent refugees and others in the Syrian/Armenian community of Montreal.

REFUGE 180 – is designed for youth to come, play games, hang out, be listened to and loved.

NOWUS – Eastern Townships – is a space for young people to develop skills through programs and outreach that positively affect the community including events, leadership programs, mentoring and summer camps.

MAISON MOISE - located in Valleyfield, is a shelter for teen moms who need support – including mentoring and coaching - through pregnancy and the baby's early months.

For more information on MYU and the various programs offered, please visit jslmontreal.org or email info@jslmontreal.org

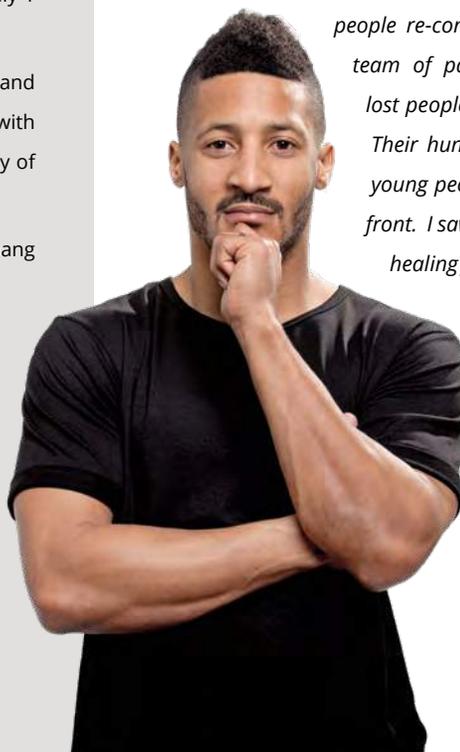


Our staff across the country are called to serve the youth in their community. **Shawn Naylor** is one of those staff who has worked with MYU since 2013 in various roles including football coach, developer of young leaders, event coordinator and travelling as a speaker in high schools, colleges, universities, Jr. High/ Youth retreats and conferences. He is there for young people when they need love and truth spoken and shared with them. He travels globally, proclaiming the grace and redemptive power of God's love. Shawn believes in miracles and that God has a destiny for each one of us. He meets young people on their battleground, lifts them up, uses humour and walks with them to their God-intended destinies.

This past year Shawn organized an evangelical youth rally called Unified. Hundreds of students attended the event and many youth made decisions to follow the Lord. Nothing gets Shawn more excited than seeing young people give their lives to Christ. One of Shawn's co-workers attended Unified and said this:

I'm sitting in Shawn's Unified event now surrounded by teenagers praising the living God! I see hands raised high; I see tears; I see a team of passionate people who hunger to see lost people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. Their hunger is being satisfied. I think I saw 5 young people raise their hands and come to the front. I saw about 15 come forward to experience healing from addictions in Jesus' name. Shawn, I am so thankful for you and for your ministry!!! Don't stop, keep pushing!

For more information on Shawn and his speaking ministry, please visit www.shawnnaylor.ca





Now might be a great time *to have a conversation.*

We understand that most people don't want to think or talk about Wills, estate plans and end-of-life decisions. It can be hard, uncomfortable and frankly a little awkward. But, if we don't have those conversations with ourselves, our parents or our family – who will? When you don't have a Will or a plan in place, someone else will make the decisions for you and they may not reflect your faith, your values or your ideas.

Our partners at **Advisors with Purpose** will help **get the conversation started.** Their Estate Specialists are available to discuss your unique situation and can help you create a fully personalized estate plan. *This service is complimentary and completely confidential. There is no obligation and no one will try to sell you anything.*

Contact them today to speak to an estate specialist.

1.866.336.3315 plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca



LEAVING A LEGACY

There are many ways that you can leave a legacy in your community including supporting *YFC Canada*. We have recently partnered with Advisors with Purpose who can help create a plan for your Will that reflects your life and your hope for the next generation. Our partnership with Advisors with Purpose allows us to offer you this free and confidential service; there is no obligation to you – and they will never sell you any product.

Contact them today to speak to an estate specialist at **1.866.336.3315** or plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca

DONATE

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we see the *hope* and *potential* in every young person