



INSTITUT
THOMAS MORE
INSTITUTE



2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT

Lifelong
Learning
in the Liberal
Arts

Éducation en
arts libéraux
tout au long de
la vie

OUR MANDATE

Founded in 1945, The Thomas More Institute (TMI) is a secular, liberal arts academic institution that offers adults of all ages opportunities to explore a wide variety of topics in university-level discussion courses.

TMI is dedicated to the principle that learning is a lifelong process and that people learn best from each other by listening, questioning, and discussing in an environment where all perspectives are welcome.

Our outreach programs and special education events are designed to nurture curiosity, learning, and social engagement, particularly for those who may feel socially isolated or who are seeking a different approach to education.

TMI's varied courses and activities are offered with the belief that intelligent inquiry and critical reflection are central to community and well-being.

Students who seek an alternative method of education have the opportunity to earn a Comprehensive Certificate from TMI or a Bachelor of Arts degree through TMI's affiliation with Bishop's University. Whether taking courses for credit or for pleasure, participants develop a stronger sense of community, a new or renewed passion for lifelong learning, and an understanding of other perspectives.

OUR VALUES

CURIOSITY

CREATIVITY

OPENNESS

COMMUNITY



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our annual report where we reflect on the achievements and challenges of our organization in the past year. We are excited to share some of these with you.

A significant marker for the year was TMI's transformative shift in how courses are delivered. As the pandemic slowly receded, we knew that while many of our participants were eager to return to in-person classes, others felt more comfortable remaining online. Facing this permanently changed and increasingly digital landscape, TMI implemented a dual programming mode, offering a full range of courses in both formats. We will continue to fine tune our approach as we go forward, seeking to capitalize on the opportunities this new landscape offers. We thank our community for the resilience they have shown in the face of these changes.

While the format for courses is definitely something to think about, what really matters is the content itself. TMI's academic program in 22/23 included 43 liberal arts courses complemented by additional cultural and academic events. A 13% increase in new student registrations provided a positive testament to the strength of the program and the efforts that have been made to expand our community. More broadly, TMI's Seniors Outreach Program continued providing intellectual and social stimulation for seniors throughout the Greater Montreal area with an overall increase of 13% in registrations. TMI's Curriculum Committee and volunteer course designers meanwhile, focused efforts on developing new and innovative courses for the upcoming year. We thank our community of volunteers for their commitment to developing these enriching lifelong learning opportunities.

The ongoing sustainability of TMI remains at the forefront of our considerations. Like most organizations, TMI emerged from the pandemic facing pressure on both revenues and expenses. The Strategic Funding Committee, established in 2022 to address these longer-term issues was successful in securing new grant funding including support from the Federal Government's Community Services Recovery Fund. Securing new grants, while just one step towards sustainability, speaks volumes about the strength and vibrancy of our community. We thank all our donors and partners whose generous and ongoing financial support is so vital to our mission.

Through all these initiatives, what truly warmed our hearts was witnessing the strong desire within our community to reconnect. The enthusiastic turnout for our Feast of Lights and Volunteer Appreciation events served as a testament to the deep bonds and relationships that have been fostered within our community. It is this sense of togetherness and unity that fuels our passion for what we do.

As we embark on the coming year, we will continue building upon the solid foundations we have laid, striving to make our organization even stronger. None of this would be possible without the ongoing efforts of our tremendous community of volunteers and lifelong learners. Your support, dedication, and endless enthusiasm are the driving force behind our success.

Thank you.

Carol Fiedler
Board Chair

Madeleine Colaço
Executive Director

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

ACADEMIC COURSES 2022/23

A welcome return to in-person discussions

This year, 43 academic courses provided a rich and innovative range of liberal arts subjects to explore. Total course registrations of 363 were in line with last year and we welcomed 62 new participants, a 13% increase year-on-year. Courses were split 50/50 between in-person options at our Atwater, Gatineau and Pointe-Claire locations and online offerings. Those opting for online joined us from a variety of locations, not only from across Canada, but also from the U.S. and Europe. We are extremely grateful to the **Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur du Québec** for its ongoing support of TMI's academic programming development and delivery.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT 2023/24

Programming innovations complement traditional approaches

Throughout the year, TMI's Curriculum Committee supported and encouraged TMI designers to develop 45 new courses for the upcoming academic year sending out four calls for proposals and hosting a brainstorming session in January. The Committee also saw the diversification of offerings by supplementing traditional TMI discussion courses with expanded writing workshops and spearheading the new "TMI and our City" initiative.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!
This year, over 100 volunteers devoted their time to developing and delivering TMI's programming.



TMI and Our City

This new series of courses seeks to engage the community with the world of the arts around us. Opera, guided walks, museum visits, and other topics encourage participation in the wider context of the city we inhabit and the world around us. These shorter 4-6 week courses also provide an ideal opportunity for newcomers to sample TMI's unique approach to learning.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Volunteer course designers and leaders are at the heart of TMI's enriching courses and discussions. Most have an academic profile, are retired professionals or still teach and lecture at educational institutions. Training of this volunteer cohort is a vital part of the Institute's mandate, supporting TMI's academic philosophy and the delivery of TMI's discussion-based approach.

Training for Designers and Leaders during the year

- 3 Leaders and Designers Workshops
- Leadership Training Workshop
- On-going 1-to-1 support and advice

SENIORS OUTREACH PROGRAM

A community initiative that goes from strength to strength

Since 1975, TMI has offered the Seniors Outreach Program which is designed to reach English-speaking seniors in the Montreal community. The program's goals are to help seniors reinforce their cognitive skills, break isolation, and forge new friendships via TMI's approach to lifelong learning.

This past year, participants in 13 seniors' residences and community centres delved into the subject of "The Canadian Short Story." The 18-week course was designed to explore the diversity of voices and points of view within Canada through a variety of stories. Registrations for this ever-popular program increased by 13% versus last year reaching 303 in total. TMI is grateful to the **Cole Foundation** for its support of the program.

THANK YOU TO THE PROGRAM'S
30 VOLUNTEER COURSE LEADERS!

The weekly Monday get together discussing the week's reading material has brought many a resident together intellectually and socially. I feel honored that that the Thomas More Institute is committed to offering varied course topics of interest to my residents. I sincerely hope we can continue to support each other for many years to come.

Administrator
Maxwell House Residence

CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

TMI's academic programming is supplemented by a variety of events providing additional opportunities for learning and community engagement.

CULTURAL EVENTS

- *Trends in Diversity in Publishing* : A TMI "Interview Series" webinar with Malcolm Fraser, editor of the Montreal Review of Books explored current trends in publishing (Nov '22).
- *Thomas Hobbes on Freedom of Association* : Concordia Professor Dr. Travis Smith led a discussion on Hobbes's thinking about the tradeoff between securing the peace of a civil society and allowing the assembly of citizens (April '23).
- Book launch *Go Wide - Reimagining the Landscape of Theology* Author Martha Elias Downey was interviewed on her book exploring what happens when we sidestep the notions of verticality in how we think about God (May '23).



COMMUNITY AND OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

TMIers came out in force for our community events. Organized with the help of volunteers, these events provided an opportunity to reconnect in a convivial atmosphere, while Open Houses introduced new people to TMI.

- Student Social Tea: November '22
- Feast of Lights Celebration: December '22
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: May '23
- Open Houses: September, January and March



PATHWAYS FOR THE FUTURE

Throughout the year, a number of projects were undertaken that laid the groundwork for longer-term initiatives aimed at building and diversifying TMI's community of lifelong learners

LISTENING TO AND LEARNING FROM OUR COMMUNITY

In May, TMI conducted an online survey to take the pulse of the community in a post-pandemic context and gain insight in a broad range of areas. We thank the community for their enthusiastic participation in this initiative.

The survey provided a strong endorsement of TMI revealing a 92% satisfaction rate with TMI courses and an appreciation for the intellectual challenge, diversity, and sense of community offered by our institution.

Valuable insights in areas such as format and subject preferences will help guide future programming. We thank the **Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund** which helped fund this initiative and has provided additional support to implement projects that build on the results.

TMI provides an intellectually stimulating environment that helps to keep me engaged in ideas and issues and in sharing that activity with others that bring their own life experience to those issues. It helps to broaden my own perspective.

Un endroit sans jugement et très accueillant pour apprendre de nouvelles connaissances

Spotlight on Community Preferences

- 56% of students prefer in-person courses
- 25% prefer online courses
- 10% prefer hybrid courses

BUILDING ON TMI'S ARTISTIC HERITAGE

TMI's founders were strong supporters of the visual arts and art courses have long been popular with the TMI community. This year saw the initiation of a project building on TMI's heritage in this area by giving greater visibility to TMI's art collection, which contains some 150 works, mostly by Quebec artists from the modern and contemporary periods. Under the vision and guidance of Concordia Professor Emeritus of Art History, Sandra Paikowsky, one of TMI's classroom walls was transformed into a mini gallery. Professor Paikowsky reviewed the collection and selected works that highlight its treasures.

The gallery wall is part of a broader initiative to increase TMI's programming in the visual arts through courses, talks, and partnerships. We thank Professor Paikowsky along with staff and volunteers who helped bring the gallery wall to fruition.



BRIGHTENING OUR PREMISES

As the TMI community returned to in-person classes in September '22 many commented on the brighter environment. This was due to new LED lighting that had been installed throughout the premises. Over the year a number of additional refurbishments took place to freshen up the premises and make them more welcoming for the community. We thank the volunteers who contributed on an ongoing basis to making these projects possible.

OUR TEAM

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTSTANDING STAFF,
BOARD, COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOR
YOUR COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT!

STAFF

We thank our staff for their work and dedication to TMI initiatives and for providing a welcoming atmosphere for the TMI community. During the summer of 2022, they were helped by three interns hired through the Federal Government's "Canada Summer Jobs" program. We are grateful for their contributions and thank **Employment and Social Development Canada** for funding this opportunity to introduce a younger generation to our organization.

We also thank those dedicated volunteers who provide ongoing support to staff in a range of areas including archival and art management, office upkeep, reception, translation, and editing.

Madeleine Colaço, Executive Director
Joseph Vietri, Manager of Academic Affairs
Cecilia Mueller-Judson, Administrative Services Coordinator
Jennifer MacGregor, Seniors Outreach Program Coordinator
Patricia Saxton (Rebekah Bradley), Accountant
Bridget Anthony, Administrative Assistant
Katie Hautakoski, Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The TMI Board plays a key role in areas including curriculum development, designing and leading courses, serving on TMI committees or acting in an advisory role requiring specific expertise. This year, the Board was delighted to welcome three new members, Louise Jarrett, Mariela Tovar and Marilyn Kaplow.

Carol Fiedler, Ph. D., Chair
Len Richman, M.A., Vice-Chair
David Dussault, B.A., Treasurer
Martin Baenninger, B.A., Secretary
Shernaz Choksi, Ph. D.
Anne Fitzpatrick, Ph. D.
Christine Jamieson, Ph. D.
Louise Jarrett, B.A., Dip. Ed.
Marilyn Kaplow, M.B.A., M.Sc.A
Judy MacDonald, B.A., B. Ed., M.Ed.
Brian McDonough, B.A., B.C.L., M.A.
Anthony Rustin, Ph. D.
Daniel Schoula, M.A.
Mariela Tovar, Ph.D.
Madeleine Colaço, M.B.A. *ex officio*

COMMITTEES

TMI's committees are mandated to contribute to the growth and success of TMI in their particular domains. We thank them for their invaluable support throughout the year.

CURRICULUM

Charged with developing our academic program and supporting over 100 volunteer academic positions. This year, the Committee met weekly from mid-September until the end of May. The various academic backgrounds and interests of CC members was an asset in both the support for courses in the 22-23 academic year and the development of the 23-24 curriculum.

ACCREDITATION

Focused on advising our credit students on their path to attaining a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, in association with Bishop's University, or a Comprehensive Certificate on a subject of interest. This year, the AC met twice to oversee the progress of credit students and brainstorm new ways to attract B.A. or Certificate students.

NOMINATION

Responsible for ensuring continuity of our Board of Directors by identifying potential Board members who capture and cultivate the TMI spirit and who are able to contribute to achieving the goals of the organization. This year, the Committee met twice and confirmed the reappointment of five Board members.

INTERVIEW COMMITTEE

The committee hosts webinars in which TMI volunteers interview authors, professors, or public speakers on the issues of our time and subjects of interest to the community. This year the committee planned and held a webinar in November as well as developing plans and themes for webinars to be held in the fall of 2023.

STRATEGIC FUNDING COMMITTEE

The Committee was established in the fall of 2022 to address the long-term financial well-being of TMI. Bringing together the Chairs of the Fundraising, Finance and Grants committees as well as two directors who have long been engaged in academia, the Committee met five times during the year. Committee work, focused on financial evaluations as well as implementing a more focused approach to grants, resulted in \$67,000 in funding from new funding partners.

OUR FINANCES

Year ending
May 31st
2023
\$

Year ending
May 31st
2022
\$

REVENUES

Grants

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur du Québec	120,500	120,500
Employment and Social Development Canada - Canada Summer Jobs	10,462	25,060
Government of Canada - Community Services Recovery Fund	2,000	-
Employment and Social Development Canada - New Horizons for Seniors Program	1,292	13,106
Canada Wage Subsidy	-	36,010
Canadian Council of Archives	-	8,542
Concordia University - Humanities +	-	2,457
Lindsay Memorial Foundation	-	10,000
Donations	148,143	130,517
Courses, Seniors Outreach Program and administrative fees	64,019	61,077
	346,416	407,269

EXPENSES

Salaries and social charges	257,668	278,140
Classroom material and supplies	13,723	14,997
Office expenses	13,860	15,079
Website and computer equipment	12,636	15,364
Mail charges and prospectus	12,283	10,967
Interest and bank charges	10,239	10,936
Publicity	9,979	5,399
Lecturers and facilitators	9,360	7,870
Occupancy costs	8,786	10,221
Major office upgrades	8,000	-
Professional fees	7,058	5,921
Taxes and insurance	6,840	5,399
Energy	6,808	7,090
Depreciation of fixed assets	6,570	8,630
Maintenance and repairs	4,672	4,387
Seniors Outreach Program *	7,934	13,582
Telecommunications	2,512	2,509
Community Events and Others	1,310	119
New Horizons for Seniors Program	1,292	4,202
	401,530	420,812
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE UNREALIZED LOSS (GAIN) ON INVESTMENTS	(55,114)	(13,543)
UNREALIZED LOSS (GAIN) ON INVESTMENTS	(32,155)	37,792
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	(22,959)	(51,335)

*Seniors Outreach Program expenses exclude office administration recharges.

OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS



TMI is a registered charity mandated to provide imaginative, rigorous, convivial learning opportunities to adults. THANK YOU to our donors for your tremendous support. Your generosity provides vital funding for this mission. We also wish to gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur du Québec, as well as support from Employment and Social Development Canada and the Federal Government's Community Services Recovery Fund.

\$10,000 +

Anonymous
George and Sylvia
Aikens Foundation
Clare Hallward
Stephen Sims

\$5,000 +

Anonymous
Azrieli Foundation
Cole Foundation
Carol Fiedler
The Friends of
Anita David
Anthony Rustin

\$2,000 +

Warren Allmand Fund
Aaron and Wally Fish
Family Foundation
David Dussault

\$1,000 +

Anonymous
Andrew Byers
Madeleine Colaço
Donna Willow
Thompson Estate
Erika
Podesser-Romwalter
Sharon Poissant
Thomas Tutsch

\$500 +

Anonymous
Beverly
Birkman-McKendy
Marlene Bourke
Barry Cole
Andrew Dias
Jessie L. Fiedler
William Fiedler
Ronald Fitzgerald
Anne Fitzpatrick

Bill Gilsdorf
Anthony Joseph
Ellen Kom
Brian McDonough
Greg Peace
Roger Perrault
Susan Perreault
Donald & Sara Pistolesi
Barbara Rolston
Daniel Schouela

\$250 +

Anonymous
Munirah Amra
Martin & Celia
Baenninger
Linda Benguigui
Shernaz Choksi
Charlotte de Neeve
Mickey De Takacsy
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UP TO \$249

Anonymous
Judy Abrams
Mary Allen
Susan Anastasopoulos
Jennifer Anstead

Paris Arnopoulos
Gregory Barkovich
Paul Billette
Janet Boeckh
Wilma Brown
Moira Carley
Martin Carnegie
Gloria Cherney
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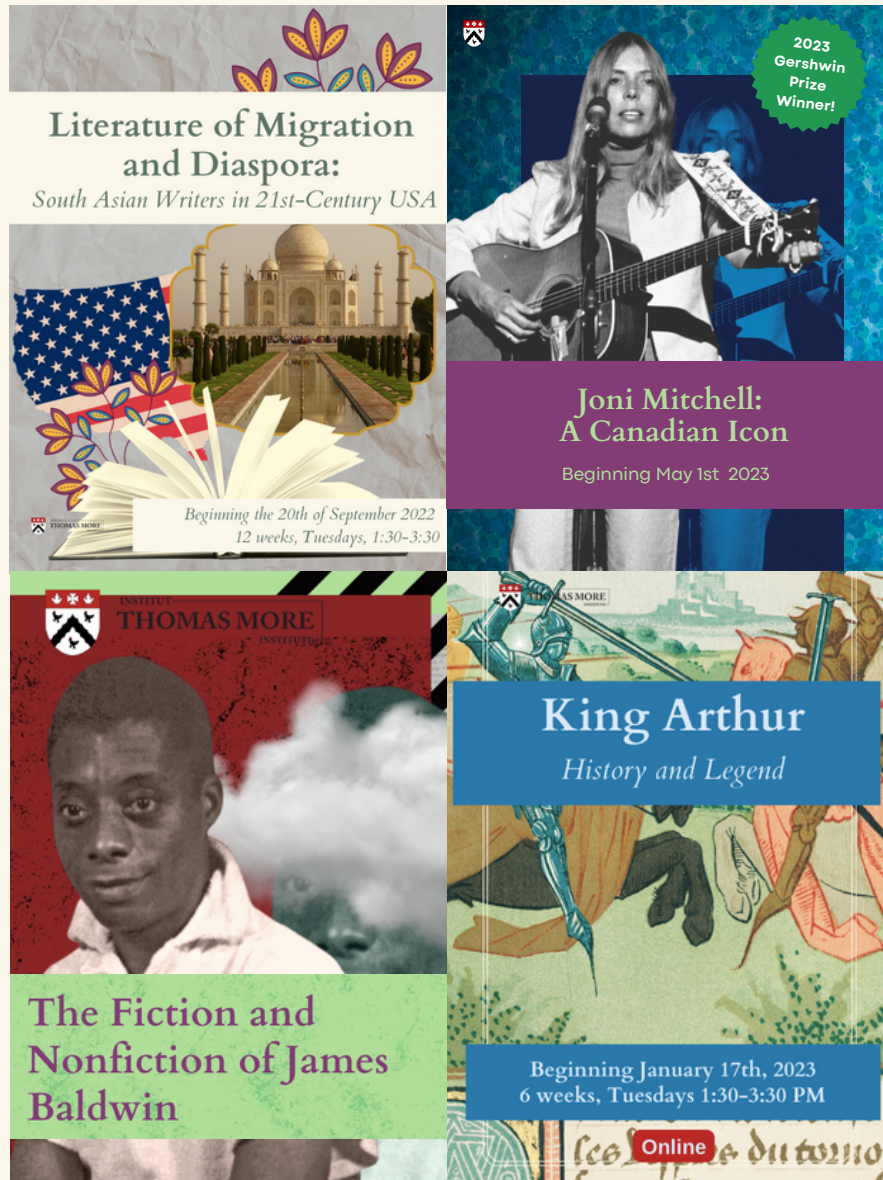
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Joseph Tarasofsky
Charles Taylor
The Auxiliary of St Mary's
Hospital Centre
Mariela Tovar
Debrah White

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Arnold Pless
Anita David
Doris Rooney
Michael Danby-Smith

THANK YOU

Every donation is a concrete gesture of support for better listening, more dialogue, and sharper curiosity.



“The TMI community provides a very welcome oasis of reflection and friendship, as well as the joy of sharing and discussing a wide range of ideas and topics. In a world increasingly polarized and outraged, TMI reminds us of constructive and positive ways in which we can improve our world and learn to better understand one another.”

- TMI Community Survey, May 2022

Visit our website for more information
THOMASMORE.QC.CA