

February 2022 eBulletin



Credit: André Filion

Updated technology ready to go

Equipped for the future

New equipment installed at MCLL last week (see above photo) will make it possible for two classrooms to accommodate an innovative hybrid model. Study group members will soon be able to attend in person, online or via the new hybrid setup. The new model allows members online to participate fully in the same way as members in the classroom, joining discussions and giving presentations. For study group participants, moderators and Zoom technicians to use this new technology effectively, it will be important to improve digital literacy and training. The cost of purchasing and installing the equipment was covered by funds from outside sources as well as from our members. This

project would not be possible without all of you, and the support of hybrid task force members **Martin Coles, Ana Milic, Tim Skene and Susan Van Gelder.**

Love is in the air

Please come to our MCLL Virtual Valentine's Hangout on **Sunday, February 13 at 1 p.m.** Enjoy readings on love in many languages, music, videos and breakout rooms for chat. Registration is not necessary. A Zoom link will be sent out to all by email.

Warm clothing a big help as temperatures drop

Derek Tannis, associate dean of student success and enrolment management at McGill School of Continuing Studies, delivered the full load of clothing MCLL collected to Resilience Montreal on January 21. "The volunteers at Resilience were so grateful," he reports. "When I arrived, one said, 'Is that all for us?'. Apparently, they had run out of clothing and were especially appreciative. (It was) one of the coldest days of winter and well past the "season of giving" (although that should really be all seasons), and in the throes of a fifth wave of this pandemic, I think the timing couldn't have been more perfect." Derek extended a special thanks to **Ana Milic** for "spreading the word to our terrific MCLL community" and to members for "their invaluable support in organizing the donations, and for communicating the good news."

MCLL is booming!

Registration has hit record highs in the past two winters. Could it be due to travel restrictions? We have 403 members signed up for study groups this winter term, almost equal to the 405 registrants in winter 2021, our biggest winter to date. This year's numbers are remarkable, considering we had to cancel several study groups. Before the pandemic, the fall was our biggest term, but since we had to move to Zoom, winter has boomed. Membership is seven per cent higher than in our last pre-pandemic term (Winter 2020) when 377 registered, and 15 per cent higher than last fall (Fall 2021).

Bénévoles recherchés

Nous sommes à la recherche de quelques bénévoles de langue maternelle française pour faire de la conversation en français avec des étudiants de l'École d'éducation permanente de McGill. Il s'agit de parler avec un étudiant pendant environ une heure par semaine. C'est vous qui déciderez du moment et des modalités (visioconférence ou en personne) de vos rencontres ainsi que les thèmes à discuter. Il ne s'agit pas de donner des cours de langue. Ce que les étudiants désirent, c'est l'occasion de d'améliorer leur français oral en le parlant avec quelqu'un dans un contexte informel. Si vous voulez de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec **Danielle Duhamel** à mcll.scs.fr@mcgill.ca

Volunteer wanted: database designer

Do you have some basic database design skills, and might you be willing to volunteer for some MCLL-related work? We need help to design an online database using [Airtable](#) or something similar, to help us manage our language volunteer initiatives. We want to match MCLL volunteers with partners from other organizations, and maintain records of our volunteers and their partners from semester to semester. We have a basic prototype but need more expert advice. Please contact **Lorne Huston**: lhuston137@gmail.com

Want to practice your French?

A new session of our conversation exchange to improve your French and help improve your partner's English starts at the beginning of February and ends in mid-April. We will provide you with the name of a partner and their email address. Then it will be up to you to contact that person and decide together how and when you want to meet, and what you want to talk about. If interested, contact **Alain Lessard** at convex.mcll@mcgill.ca.

News, opinions and views on any MCLL-related topic are most welcome. Just contact Susan Purcell, the eBulletin editor, at suepurcell@videotron.ca, or call her at (514) 488-3503.

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