

Forty three years
of services to communities



Intercultural Institute of Montreal

October 2006

After almost forty years, the Intercultural Institute of Montreal has moved to a new location. Yes, we have left 4917 St.Urbain and we are now at 4730 Papineau Street since mid-July, 2006. Although these kinds of changes may represent considerable difficulties, they also bring in a breath of promises that can direct us to new horizons.

The Institute is reputed for its non-mainstream thinking and approach to ethnic, cultural, racial and religious diversity in contemporary societies as well as for its discourse on the nature of pluralism. It is also well known for a variety of programs in the areas of intercultural training, public education and research-action. At the international level, IIM's journal INTERculture is known in some networks of intellectuals, for providing seminal thinking in cross-cultural critique and search for alternatives.

We maintain our hopes to be able to continue our social action by exploring new vistas of reflection and continue to offer services to communities of diverse origins in Quebec and in Canada.

Our commitments remain firm to combat all forms of prejudices, to sensitize diverse peoples to intercultural relations and render services to persons, families communities as well as to professionals in different institutions in order to sustain social cohesion. We also continue to engage ourselves in search for new modes of social practices in community work.

**The « services » responding to these urgent social needs
deserve financial support and sustenance**

Annual Fundraising Campaign 2006

INTERCULTURALITY

A way to justice and social cohesion in a plural world

DOCUMENTATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The library and documentation centre was established in 1963 at the time of the founding of the Intercultural Institute of Montreal. The entire collection of intercultural documentation and resources offers a profound understanding of cultural pluralism, intercultural relations and helps promote

research on intercultural alternatives. The collection contains especially philosophical, anthropological, psychological and sociological studies on cultures and intercultural issues. Moreover a particular attention is given to narrative discourses and oral traditions.

Some data on our collection:

Books	6 189
Articles and reports	3 827
Magazines, periodicals and journals	143
Audio discs and cassettes	150
Video cassettes	106
Ethnographic illustrations	600

InterCulture JOURNAL

This is an international journal of intercultural, and community based transdisciplinary research, published bi-annually in French and in English editions. Its consulting editorial team is composed of writers, scholars and social activists from various regions of the world. The journal is reputed for its

in-depth intercultural analysis and reflections on contemporary social issues at local and international levels. The subscribers to the journal comprise many institutions such as, universities, libraries and individuals and it is distributed in 30 different countries. This is the 38th year of this publication (since 1968). Most of the past issues can be still be bought or consulted on the spot.

A list of last issues of Interculture

- ü "Revisiting Feminism: cultural trajectories". By F.Appfel, N. Saxena and L. Ahmed. Issue 150.
- ü "The terrorism of money. Intercultural perspectives" (II). By *Robert Vachon*. Issue 149.
- ü "Diversity of Educational Cultures". By *Grimaldo Rengifo* and *Lomomba Emongo*. Issue 148.
- ü "The terrorism of money. Intercultural perspectives" (I). By *Derek Rasmussen* and *Robert Vachon*. Issue 147.
- ü "Beyond the religion and culture of Human Rights, the Nation State and the Rule of Law. A chronicle / testimony of IIM's research-action (1970-2002)" (III), By *Robert Vachon*. Issue 146.

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REFERRAL SERVICES AND ETHNODOC

Every year between 250 to 350 people seek this service. This service is supported by a database comprising documented community resources within diverse ethnocultural communities. This database contains more than 600 descriptive notices and 40

titles of catalogues and specialized directories. This body of information allows us to maintain the quality of our referral services.

Statistical Profile 2006

Total users:	275
Information and referral to other organizations and institutions	50%
Documentation referral	35%
Cultural resource-persons	15%

User's Profile

ii Public institutions (health and social services, Educational institutions, government institutions)	35%
ii Non-profit and Community organizations and individuals including students	45%

INTERCULTURAL CONSULTING SERVICE

The Intercultural Consulting Service responds to a variety of professional, social and personal needs of individuals facing difficult situations related to cultural, religious and racial diversity in our society.

Topics and issues treated: relations between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Quebec and Canada, religious diversity and interreligious dialogue, immigrant settlement and integration policies and programs, initiating intercultural training programs, mixed marriages, international development and interculturality, intercultural conflict resolution, international adoption and intercultural issues and much more.

Some data about this service in 2005- 2006:

Number of individual based consultations given	102
Evaluation and assessment of articles, theses and projects	18

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INTERCULTURAL NEWSBULLETIN

The Intercultural Newsbulletin is a very effective tool to disseminate information about cultural and intercultural activities that are going on in Montreal and other regions of Quebec. Moreover, it helps

us to maintain links with various ethnocultural and intercultural organizations.

Total subscribers	600
Community organizations	65%
Public institutions	30%

1963 - Our story in brief - 2006

For the first two decades (1960s and 1970s), the Intercultural Institute of Montreal had devoted its energy toward opening up various vistas for reflection and raising public awareness of cultural, racial and religious diversity in Quebec and Canadian societies as well as in the world. In order to reach this goal, a multitude of programs and services were developed and offered to the general public, communities and institutions. Features of our action had been the following : providing information on cultures and religions of the world, giving voices to the immigrant and ethnocultural communities, exposing immigrant communities to the culture(s) of the host society, advocacy for the Aboriginal Nations of Canada, offering innovative intercultural education and training programs for the key actors (professionals) in community organizations and in various institutions, elaborating methodologies and approaches for intercultural and inter-religious relations and for research-action, publishing an international Journal INTERculture and other documents.

Since mid-1980s we have integrated explicitly three other features into our action, namely the international dimension of interculturality, empirical research-action projects on social issues concerning diverse communities and research-action for intercultural community development. Moreover, the inclusion of local-global and North-South dynamics of interculturality and the concern for affecting social change in the pluralistic context of our societies, had given a new direction to our work.

Thus since 1990s a new image of the Intercultural Institute of Montreal began to emerge. Today its vision, philosophy and action are articulated around three fundamental notions: *grassroots, interculturality and alternatives*. Revitalization of civil society and its diverse communities, engaging in community-based interculturalism and search for intercultural alternatives for our common good, find their expression in our programs, activities and services.

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