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Newsletter



About La Fondation Universitaire Pierre Arbour:

- Created in 2005
- Since 2006, we have awarded over 240 scholarships. In 2017 50% were to women.
- We have granted \$390 000 worth of scholarships in 2016-2017, \$437 000 in 2017-2018

Management:

Pierre Arbour, President
Philippe Arbour,
Vice-President
Marine Hadengue,
President of the Selection
Committee
Chelsea Craig, Treasurer
Lina Heid, Secretary

Board of Directors

- Pierre Arbour
- Philippe Arbour
- Michel Bolduc
- André Laurin
- Marine Hadengue
- Michel Brunet
- André Monette

Net Assets

2017 : \$16.7 million
2016 : \$15 million
2015 : \$13.3 million
2014 : \$13 million

Networking Event

On November 6th 2017, we had the pleasure of listening to a conference by Mr. Michel Brunet concerning the law firm of the future, more than 40 people attended. Mr. Brunet also sits on the board of directors here at the Foundation and was the previous president of Dentons Canada.



Invitation

We are pleased to invite you to a cocktail which will take place Monday, June 4th 2018 in the office of CIRANO situated at 1140 Sherbrooke West at 6pm. The invited speaker will be Mr. Michel Gareau who is the president of STARPAX, and will discuss his company's progress in a revolutionary method of curing cancer.

A Bit of History

It is important to remember, as Quebecers and all of us as Canadians, the events that shaped Quebec and can explain the Foundation's motivations.

In 1763, Quebec (then called Lower-Canada) following the Treaty of Paris negotiated between England and France after the plain of Abraham defeat of 1759, obtained the right to the French language as well as the right to practice the Catholic religion which was unique in the British Empire of that period. Under that regime the Clergy was put in charge of education and its control was complete for 200 years. In 1780, more than 30 years after the British conquest, the literacy rate in Quebec was 16%.

During two centuries under the direction of the Catholic Church, a small elite was educated consisting of lawyers, doctors and a great number of nuns and priests; this system favored obedience over originality.

We had to wait until 1963 to finally acquire a Ministry of Education and thanks to politicians like **Jean-Lesage**, **Paul Guérin-Lajoie** and **René Levesque**, Quebec finally came out of the "great darkness" which allowed censorship of books and the banning of libraries.

La Fondation Universitaire Pierre Arbour is located at 1434 Sherbrooke st. W, suite 300, in Montréal, H3G 1K4.



It was only in 1917 that we saw the construction of the Montreal library on Sherbrooke St East and even then their many books were either unavailable or put under a Vatican controlled Index. During the 60's, clerical control on education was gradually lessened and soon priests and nuns married and became civil servants, teachers or nurses working for the state.

Cardinal Léger, an imposing figure in the clerical power structure, consoled himself by staying as chancellor of the Université de Montreal as this institution had a Vatican charter. Contrarily to Quebec, Scotland was one of the first country in the world to adopt a system of compulsory education at the primary level; in addition, Scotland created a few universities open to the general population.

In England only the aristocrats were educated and only they could be accepted at Oxford and Cambridge. This Scottish education system allowed thirty years later the creation of outstanding intellectuals such as the great economist **Adam Smith** and the world known philosopher **David Hume**. This was also one of the reasons which allowed the Scots to become the accountants and the merchants of the British Empire because they knew how to count and write.

One of those Scots, **James McGill**, a migrant to Quebec at the end of the 18th century, made a fortune in the fur trade and in 1821 gave a large tract of land on the slope of Mont Royal in Montreal, which allowed the creation of McGill University. Since then McGill had the honor to see his graduates win 14 Nobel Prizes and 144 Rhodes Scholarships, which is a Canadian record.

While the Scottish and English residents were becoming wealthy as entrepreneurs, the Quebec people not speaking English the language of commerce and not being educated in science, remained excluded from the economic growth of the country but only as factory workers, farmers and lumberjacks.

Finally thanks to the Ministry of Education, at the end of the 70's, one could notice the creation of new class of business men and entrepreneurs who were French speaking. The Foundation hopes that the 212 scholars that we helped since 2006 will contribute to the continuation of economic growth in Quebec which is now very noticeable.

A student in Quebec can achieve an undergraduate degree at l'Ecole Polytechnique for \$3,500 per year; the same student will have to spend \$9,500 at the Ryerson Institute of Toronto for the same degree. Meanwhile a degree at Harvard would cost around \$28,000 US; in the U.S.A there is a great disparity between prestigious universities such as Harvard and Yale where the cost of a degree is around

\$30,000 while in less well known universities tuitions are around \$20,000 annually.

The Foundation scholarships that vary from \$9,000 to \$15,000 annually would be considered miniscule in the U.S but in Quebec these scholarships have really helped students in completing their degree because of the modest tuition fees in our universities.

In the U.S the massive student loan debt in 2016 stood at more than \$1.5 trillion which is a major societal problem; the average loan on graduation now stands at \$22,000 per graduate. Thanks to our system of loans and bursaries, this situation hardly exists in Quebec which should be appreciated.

La Fondation Universitaire Pierre Arbour has a role to play in this student debt issue; we help meritorious students who need financial aid to complete their Masters and also their Doctorates in three distinct disciplines; Business, Engineering and Computer Science. To this day since 2006, the Foundation has contributed \$3.5 million in scholarships to 212 students.



Benjamin Franklin was sent to Montreal in May 1776 carrying a letter in French from the U.S Congress, urging the inhabitants to join the American Revolution. Franklin was not successful and somewhat discouraged he left Montreal 15 days later for Philadelphia where he was named ambassador to Paris. Franklin was instrumental in convincing King Louis XV to

support the American Revolution; this support became essential especially at Yorktown in 1778 where the English garrison had to give up when the French fleet appeared at Chesapeake Bay. This event was the last major battle between the Americans and the British before the peace treaty of 1783.

In 1776, Benjamin Franklin while going to Montreal took Fleury Mesplet and his printing equipment with him; Mesplet founded the first newspaper in Montreal called the Gazette Littéraire de Montreal in 1778.



Unfortunately, he was imprisoned for 3 years in 1779 because of pressures by the High-Clergy on the English Governor; the paper had to close to reopen only upon Mesplet liberation.