



Montreal **ASSAULT PREVENTION CENTRE**

JULY 2018



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We say farewell to a giant. Lisa Weintraub, a pioneer of Women's and children's rights passed away last month.

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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT DAY

On April 6th, Youth Engagement Day was organized by the Alliance pour l'engagement jeunesse.

The day's mission is to familiarize young people with social and environmental issues and challenges; to create an opportunity for them to make a commitment to the cause of their choice and to find ways to implement their selection during the school year. The Centre offered a workshop on assault prevention and taught self-defense tools. We all shared lunch and stories after.





ACTION

THE #METOO MOVEMENT AND SELF-DEFENSE

Since October 2017, the world has been shocked by the denunciations of harassment and sexual assault by Hollywood actresses. The #Metoo movement took the world by storm and gave way to a wave of denunciations that showed the extent of sexual assault women deal with across the world. The #Metoo movement was founded by African-American activist Tarana Burke in 2007 after she learned that one of her 13-year-old students had been sexually assaulted and the remembrance that she herself had been assaulted by the police. The #Metoo Movement aims to create a chain of solidarity for survivors of sexual assault to help them break the isolation and thus be able to talk about their experiences. In an article in Lapresse.ca of May 18, 2018, Tarana Burke says she never thought of ever having a national conversation about sexual violence. She asks that the emphasis be placed on the victims and not on the perpetrators of sexual assault.



ACTION Statistics 2017-2018

Teenage girls: 142

Women: 271

Total: 413 participants

Read: Women tell their stories:

<http://www.cpamapc.org/pdfs/women-tell-their-stories.pdf>

She added that, in her opinion, it is also important that work be done at the individual level so that everyone participates in their own education and awareness.

It is with this perspective that we believe feminist self-defense to be an effective tool for empowerment. Self-defense allows us to protect ourselves, to assert ourselves and help us feel strong and able to say no, but also to say yes. It allows us to fully flourish and claim our right to desire. It teaches us to lift our head up and express what we have to say. It gives us tools to turn our fears into strength when sharing spaces with men.

Through self-defense, we are able to become aware of the many situations in which we have stopped assaults, which helps us reclaim our success stories so that we can tell and share them massively. In short, self-defense gives us the courage and strength to continue our life journey as women and as survivors so that we can ultimately make the world a more loving and peaceful place for women.

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME WEEK

ACTION-CPAM would like to thank the Department of Justice Canada for supporting us financially during Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. Our team was able to share ACTION's feminist self-defense prevention tools with sixty women from diverse backgrounds. We held four, one-and-a-half hour self-defense workshops and two, 14-hour workshops where we shared our verbal and physical prevention strategies. We also had the opportunity to discuss different topics with participating women in a friendly way around delicious food. We hope to continue to have the financial support that makes our services more accessible to women.



CAP

CAP A NEW REALITY

For many years now, CAP has been aware of the challenges faced by many schools in Montreal, to welcome and integrate children from recent immigrant families as well as refugees. This year, with a greater than usual arrival of refugees into Quebec from the United States and the continued integration of children from the conflict in Syria we have noticed a large increase in the number of Welcoming Classes and special education classes in schools.

For example we will be finishing our year at a large school in Montreal North, offering CAP to eight new Welcoming Classes added just this year. This school already has several classes for new arrivals. CAP is easily adaptable for children with limited languages skills, as we use many short role plays to illustrate key ideas and repeat important concepts.

We are always impressed at how enthusiastic the children are in these classes and how ready they are to try out new words and phrases that they are learning. Schools and teachers need also to be thanked for their role in helping the children and families feel welcomed in their new home.

The CAP program had a very successful year, seeing both more children and parents/teachers. We were happy to hire our intern in Sexology (UQAM) from last year, Nadège Desmarais-Beaupré, as a CAP animator working three days a week in school as well as helping in the office from time to time. Nadège was partly hired to replace long time employee Virginie(Virgo) LeGalès.



THANK YOU VIRGINIE!

Virginie LeGalès began working at the Centre in 2002 as a CAP animator. Since that time she has become an indispensable member of our team, contributing a wide array of skills from editor extraordinaire to program developer, singer, event's organiser, fund raiser and the best baker at the Centre. Virginie always displayed an amazing concern for the wellbeing of the children we encountered and is an uncompromising advocate for their rights. After 17 years of hard work Virginie will be using her talents with another organisation. Merci Virginie and great success in your new adventure

CAP Statistics 2017-2018

Elementary Schools:

Monseigneur Laval, Bedford, St-Vincent-Marie, Martin Bélanger, Gilles Vigneault, St-Noel-Chabanel

Preschool:

Galijode, Pincourt Cooperative Preschool, Tournesol, Coin des Enfants, Île des Sœurs, Mlle Pluche, CPE Montessori Pointe-Claire Repère-des-Mousses, Portes Ouvertes, La Rosée

Program for people with an intellectual disability:

Montreal Association for the Intellectually Disabled (AMD), Trisomie 21 Champagnat, Forum Jeunesse, CREP

Total:

Children 2,865 and Adults 120
People with an Intellectual Disability 215

FAREWELL LISA WEINTRAUB

written by David Singleton



Lisa (center) with Ann Caines and David Singleton at the Centre's 25th anniversary. (2009)



Lisa giving one of our first CAP classes. (1984)

It is with great sadness that I have to announce to the many people who had their lives changed by Lisa Weintraub that she has died in Toronto on the 18th of June. Lisa was a pioneer for women's rights and a fearless proponent of the right of women, children and other vulnerable groups to live without fear and violence. Lisa transformed her convictions into action by becoming a women's self-defense instructor, teaching Wen-do In Montreal.

In 1984 Lisa went to the United States to qualify as a trainer for a children's program called Child Assault Prevention. This would change her life and many of ours. This training provided the roots for the Action program, CAP in Montreal and eventually the creation of the Centre as it exists today. Lisa eventually moved to Ontario where her tireless energy resulted in the creation of COPA a sister organisation with the same mandate for assault prevention in the Franco-Ontarian community. It is impossible to overstate Lisa's contribution to the betterment of women's and children's lives in general and to all those, men and women who worked and played with her. Our condolences to Robert Lewis her partner and Yonah and Lev her children.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Department of Justice Canada through its program Victims and Crime Survivors Week 2018 for providing funds, to offer free of charge, two Action courses and four demos. Food and daycare was also provide thanks to the grant.

Thank-you is also extended to several other generous donors: Premier Philippe Couillard, Ministers, Gaétan Barrette, Lucie Charlebois, Stéphanie Vallée, Martin Coiteux, Luc Fortin, Jean-Marc Fournier and MNA's Manon Massé et Guy Ouellette. Also Norton Rose Fulbright. Your support has been put to good use.

THANK YOU!

The Montreal Assault Prevention Centre is a community-based, non-profit organization whose mandate is to reduce the vulnerability of individuals to assault. Our instructors animate the programs ACTION, Diversity in ACTION, CAP, CONFIDENCE-SOLIDARITY-RESPECT, Program for People with an Intellectual Disability and POSITIVE DISCIPLINE.

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