



2012-2013

Activity Report

2013 Activity Report

This Activity Report covers an 18-month period from June 2012 to December 2013. This is explained by the fact that the Foundation decided in June 2012 to henceforth approve its Financial Statements and Activity Report in February or March, namely, at a time of the year that was closer to the end of our fiscal year and that would coincide with the calendar year.

Since the last Activity Report, our activities have continued and can be examined under three main headings:

- Organizational development;
- Special activities;
- Regular activities.

Organizational development

The Board of Directors undertook a review of our Constitution and By-Laws. The latter were several years old and had to be adjusted to more properly reflect how our operations had slowly but surely evolved. Our new Constitution officializes, amongst other modifications, the existence of an executive committee, the abolition of the Annual General Meeting and spells out the notion of *Friends of the Foundation*. As soon as the final wording of these texts is completed, they will be translated and made available on our Web site.

The Board of Directors updated the Foundation's overall orientations and an information document was produced. The latter will be given to people and organizations that we try solicit in the future as *Partners* or *Major Partners*. It is also available on our Web site.

The Foundation has received two major bequests over the past 18 months. Ms. Thérèse Laliberté, a loyal donor bequeathed \$45,000 to the Foundation; while Madeleine Parent whose deep attachment to Lea Roback and unwavering commitment to the Foundation was well-known, left \$140,000 to the Foundation, an amount that could be greater once the estate is completely settled.

Special activities

The Board of Directors decided to organize the Foundation's activities for 2013 under the theme of the Foundation's 20th anniversary. Indeed, 1993 was the year that Lea Roback celebrated her 90th birthday and several friends decided to present her with a gift on the occasion, namely, the creation of a Foundation. With this gesture, they sought to promote a cause that was very close to her heart: the right to an education.

Since its creation, the Foundation has supported the educational plans of women who are economically disadvantaged and socially committed, by annually granting scholarships to them. Accordingly, over the past 20 years, some 200 scholarships have been granted and more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) disbursed.

There was thus every good reason to celebrate! As part of these 20th anniversary celebrations:

The foundation provided its support for a revival, in Quebec City, of the play *La Déposition* by Hélène Pedneault, she too a generous friend of the Foundation. This initiative, that helped mark the 25th anniversary of the creation of this play, sought to better raise awareness of the Foundation outside of Montreal and to thereby expand its pool of donors;

The Foundation also organized, in conjunction with the Maison Parent-Roback (MPR), a cocktail where former members of the Board of Directors and former scholarship recipients were invited, as well as women who work for the various women's groups housed at the MPR. On this occasion, we celebrated not only our 20th anniversary, but also the 15th anniversary of the MPR.

On November 3, the Foundation held a big anniversary event. For the occasion an organizing committee made up of Monique Simard, Nicole Lacelle, Andrée Lévesque and the Vice-President of Fundraising, Ghislaine Patry-Buisson prepared *Paroles rebelles*. This show was built around a number of texts signed by committed women and read by very talented

artists: Madeleine Péloquin, Ève Landry, Violette Chauveau, Johanna Nutter, Brigitte Poupart, Elisapie and Louisette Dussault, all directed by Brigitte Poupart. The musical segment was performed by *Christine Tassan et les Imposteurs*, a gypsy-style jazz group.

Regular activities

The Foundation's revenue

As usual, we conducted our annual fundraising campaign that resulted in us collecting some \$10,909 in 2012 and \$9,793 in 2013.

We also continued our effort to ensure the renewal of support from our Partners, as well as trying to recruit some new ones. In this regard, we were able received \$12,500 in 2012 and \$7,770 in 2013.

However, these were not the only amounts that the Foundation received. The Foundation receives donations throughout the year, including bequests and contributions when we organize certain special activities. It also receives Hélène Pedneault's royalties, coming from all her work, as well as those from Andrée Lévesque's biography of Madeleine Parent. It also sells certain by-products, such as: DVDs, books, posters that are likewise a source of revenue.

Accordingly, the Foundation was thus able to raise a total amount of \$84,005 in 2012, and more than \$170,000 in 2013.

Awarding scholarships

In June 2012, the Foundation awarded 14 scholarships for a total of \$26,600. In June 2013, it awarded 16 scholarships for the overall amount of \$32,000.

The process of awarding these scholarships was successfully conducted thanks to the remarkable co-ordination of our Vice-President of Scholarships, the support of our secretary and collaboration of the overwhelming majority of members of our Board of Directors, who invested themselves in preparing summaries of

the candidates, examining the applications, the candidate pre-selection process and sitting on the selection committee itself.

Meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee

To properly conduct all these activities, be they regular or special, we held eight meetings of the Executive Committee and five of the Board of Directors.

In addition, several meetings of various committees were necessary to work on organizing the activities planned as part of our 20th anniversary celebrations.

Perspectives for 2014

As one can easily see, the past 18 months have been very intense. 2014 will thus essentially be a year for consolidation.

Our financial situation, thanks to very generous bequests, thanks to the support of our *Partners* and *Major Partners* and the dedication of our donors, enables us to view the future with optimism and hope. We have the means to fulfil our mission and to help women turn their educational plans into reality. Of course, the needs are immense and we will never be able to respond positively to all the demands, but the Foundation has significantly increased its capacity to make a difference.

The Foundation is also able to count upon the commitment of a 13 members Board of Directors. Engaged and determined women who are putting their beliefs and investing their time into giving shape to an ideal embodied by Lea Roback.

The Board of Directors
February 2014