



WIKIMEDIA
CANADA

Annual report 2023

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A word from our Chair



How wonderful it is to see our budding project grow!

I've been involved with Wikimedia Canada for over 10 years. From the very start, I have trained new contributors, mentored facilitators and led numerous outreach sessions. When I joined the Board of Directors, I had to put these activities aside to focus primarily on running an association that had no permanent staff. My colleagues and I worked very hard to build a full-time, paid team that are able to support contributors far better than we were able to do as volunteers, even though we devoted many hours to the task each year.

With the recruitment of Louis Germain at the end of 2022 and Sophie Valade in 2023, the Board of Directors has once again been able to focus on other key areas, such as the organization's governance and mobilization strategy. Indeed, over the past ten years, I have witnessed the enthusiastic involvement of major institutions such as libraries, universities and scientific associations, museums and other cultural centers. It is thanks to the trust of these partners, their executives and their employees, that Wikimedia Canada has been able to build its credibility and strength. I'd like to thank them for their support, and I hope that our ties will continue to flourish for a long time to come. My thoughts also go out to each and every contributor who "edits in their corner of the country", enabling projects like Wikipedia to maintain its vibrancy and credibility. Vitality and enjoyment are embodied in each of our face-to-face meetings, such as Wikimania or the WikiConferences.

With full confidence in the current team, I'll gradually be able to resume my role as a behind-the-scenes Wikipedian. I'd like to warmly thank Benoit Rochon, outgoing president, for his years of service and mentorship. I invite the next generation to come forward and take a seat on the Board, so that our association remains human, dynamic and relevant to the community of contributors.

Ha-Loan Phan
Chair

A word from our Executive Director



Photo credit: Julie Contant

The year 2023 has been a positive one in many ways, and I'm proud to share with you some of the highlights of our journey. If the pandemic years enabled us to review our governance and draw up our strategic development plan, 2023 will have allowed us to gradually ramp up the pace and offer activities to our community.

Wikimedia Canada is a small charity with a big impact, and as always, it's impossible to sum up our achievements and successes over the course of a year in this brief introduction. These include the WikiConference North America, where we welcomed over 250 contributors in Toronto, and the Wikithon #ArtLitt, an editing marathon on Quebec and Franco-Canadian literary works, held at BANQ's Bibliothèque nationale last March.

In addition to the challenges internal to our organization, our environment is set to change radically. Just think of artificial intelligence, which is shaking us up and making us lose some of our bearings. Yet it seems to me that AI should also be a means of promoting inclusiveness and diversity through technology. It's our role and our duty, as players in the movement, to know how to evolve with technological advances and implement strategies that integrate our values into its use. As our ecosystem evolves, we need to evolve with it.

I would like to thank all our donors, without whom this adventure would hardly be possible. In 2023, individual donations increased by 30% over the previous year. Thank you!

I'd also like to thank Wikimedia Canada's Board of Directors, members, volunteers, and staff. There is no shortage of ideas and projects, and it's only by working together that we can make them a reality. It is your involvement that contributes to the achievement of our objectives and to the sustainability of our organization. Once again, thank you!

Louis Germain
Executive Director

Who are we?

Wikimedia Canada

The Board of Directors

Wikimedia Canada's Board of Directors is made up of 10 people, including one vacant position. At the 2023 annual general meeting, Wikimedia Canada members elected a new director, Étienne Beaulé. Pierre-Luc Joncas was co-opted by board members in October 2023.

The Board of Directors is as follows:

- **Ha-Loan Phan**, Chair
- **Michael David Miller**, Vice-Chair
- **Hélène Ouellet**, Secretary
- Treasurer - vacant position
- **Étienne Beaulé**, Director
- **Catherine Bernier**, Director
- **Pierre-Luc Joncas**, Director
- **Thérèse Ottawa**, Director
- **Benoit Rochon**, Director
- **Sarah Severson**, Director

Wikimedia Canada is proud of the diversity of its Board of Directors. Of the nine members, five are women and one is from the Atikamekw First Nation. This representation supports our goals of inclusion and diversity.

The team

The Wikimedia Canada team is now composed of two people:

- **Louis Germain**, Executive Director
- **Sophie Valade**, Communications and Philanthropic Development Officer

The Board and team members are based in Alberta, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

Strategy 2022–2026

Since its founding in 2011, Wikimedia Canada has been growing continuously. This growth has accelerated over the past few years, and an ambitious "strategic transformation" plan has been put in place to take full advantage of the opportunities in Canada.

We are aligning ourselves with the principles of the Wikimedia movement's new strategy. Our Strategic Transformation Plan 2022–2026 aims to provide the foundation and direction for this strategic transformation for the upcoming years.

This document is available at: <https://bit.ly/WMCA2022-2026>

Our mission

Wikimedia Canada serves as a catalyst for collecting, developing and disseminating knowledge and educational, cultural and historical content in all languages of Canada, including Indigenous languages, under a free license or in the public domain, using the Wikimedia projects as the primary means of dissemination, and supporting volunteers across the country.

Wikimedia Canada also helps to increase the understanding and awareness of the public and institutions in Canada about free knowledge and the Wikimedia projects.

Our values

Volunteerism

We recognize that volunteerism is at the heart of all our activities.

Collaboration

We encourage and support a collaborative model of free knowledge development, using collective intelligence, in which everyone can participate.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

We encourage and support the diversity and representativeness of the people who participate in our activities and the content whose development we support.

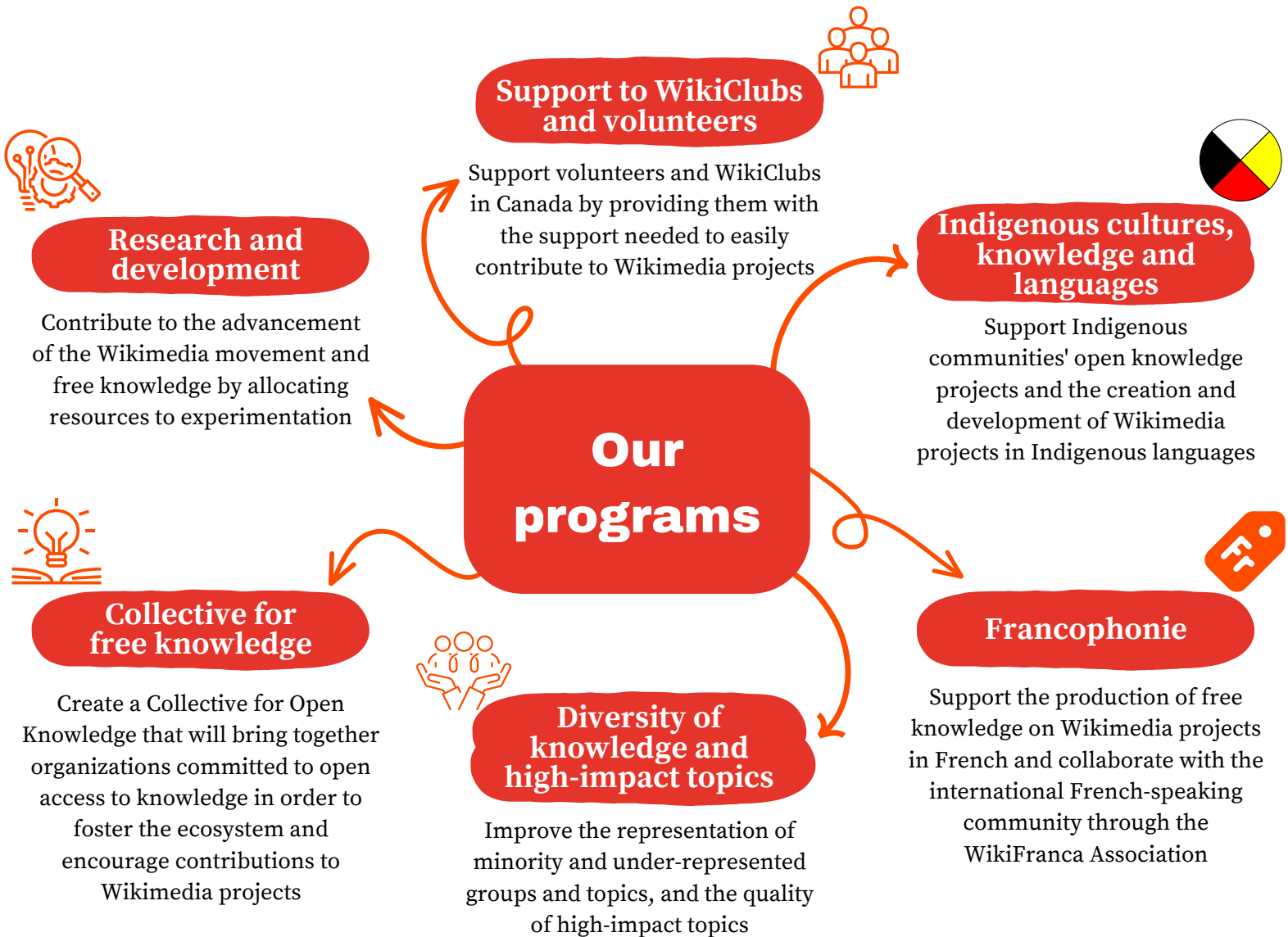
Sharing, Accessibility & Openness

All the content we support is under a license allowing it to be freely shared and reused.

Transparency

All the content we support is under a license allowing it to be freely shared and reused.

Our programs



The year at a glance

January

- Atikamekw heritage enriched on Commons
- Promotion and prevention in audiology

June

- The team is growing!

September

- WikiConvention francophone - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

March

- Wikithon #ArtsLitt at BANQ's Bibliothèque nationale

August

- Wikimania - Singapore

November

- WikiConference North America - Toronto, Canada
- Fundraising campaign
- Projet Collectif's Open Knowledge Day



Photo credit: Pierre Dinel - CC BY-SA 4.0

Atikamekw heritage enriched on Commons

In 2022, the WikiClub Metapeckeka acquired a private archive of photos taken during the shooting of the film “Les Six Saisons Atikamekw”, filmed in the late 1970s and focusing on the Atikamekw Nehirowisiw way of life on Nitaskinan. On January 24 and 25, 2023, two screenings of the film were organized at the Cikowic Elders' House in Manawan. Following the screenings, the elders were invited to describe photos from the film's archival collection, mostly depicting traditional community activities. The entire collection - nearly 900 photos - has been uploaded to Wikimedia Commons, greatly enhancing the visibility of Atikamekw heritage.



#Wiki4WorldHearingDay2023

Photo credit: WHO - CC0

Wiki4WorldHearingDay Campaign 2023

Every year, the #Wiki4WorldHearingDay initiative aims to improve Wikipedia's content on hearing health issues. On this occasion, Ha-Loan Phan, Chair of Wikimedia Canada, and Adriana Lacerda, professor at the Université de Montréal School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, trained students in Wikipedia editing. They were then able to create and/or translate articles, adding over 30,000 words and 180 reliable references to the online encyclopedia.



Photo credit: Peuc - CC BY-SA 4.0

Wikithon #ArtsLitt at the Bibliothèque nationale at BAnQ

On Sunday, March 26, a brigade of some 40 experienced Wikipedians and Wikidatians took part in improving the content of the Wikipedia and Wikidata pages on literary works from Quebec and the Canadian Francophonie. While the wooden rooms of the National Library (Grande Bibliothèque site) echoed with the clatter of keyboards, wikimedians from coast to coast collaborated remotely, from the interactive videoconference platform Aire ouverte.



The team is growing!

In October 2022, Wikimedia Canada welcomed its first paid Executive Director, Louis Germain. The team grew in June 2023 with the arrival of Sophie Valade, in charge of communications and philanthropic development. Recruitment of a project manager is scheduled for late 2023.



Photo credit: Louis Germain

Wikimedia Canada delegation at Wikimania Singapore

The 2023 edition of Wikimania took place from August 16 to 19 in Singapore. Wikimedia Canada was represented by Catherine Bernier, member of the Board of Directors, and Louis Germain, Executive Director. Two people also had the opportunity to attend this conference thanks to Wikimedia Canada scholarships: Chelsea Chiovelli and Jean-Michel Lapointe.



Photo credit: Abiba Pauline - CC BY-SA 4.0

WikiConvention francophone 2023 in Abidjan, en route to Québec 2024!

The 7th edition of the WikiConvention Francophone was held on September 22 and 23 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Presentations made during the conference highlighted the importance of everyone's contributions to improving the dissemination and equity of knowledge. Three presentations were made by Wikimedia Canada representatives.

The closing ceremony was marked by the handover of the WikiConvention Francophone flag from the Wikimedia Côte d'Ivoire team, organizers of the 2023 conference, to the Wikimedia Canada team, which will have the honor of organizing the next conference in October 2024 in Quebec.



Photo credit: Fuzheado - CC0

WikiConference North America in Canada

The WikiConference North America 2023 was held in Toronto from November 9 to 12. For four days, over 250 participants gathered at the Toronto Reference Library.

Over 70 sessions were organized during the conference, covering a wide range of topics such as Wikimedia governance, GLAM, community news and education issues. A large number of these were presented as conferences, while others were organized as editing marathons and workshops.



Photo credit: Melanie Lambrick

Projet collectif's Open Knowledge Day

Projet collectif held its Open Knowledge Day on November 30. On this occasion, Louis Germain, Executive Director of Wikimedia Canada, moderated a round table discussion with Michael David Miller, Vice-Chair of Wikimedia Canada, as well as Jean-Michel Lapointe and Edma-Annie Wheelhouse, to discuss the challenges faced by the Wikimedia movement in recent years and possible solutions.



Photo credit: Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday kicks off fundraising campaign

Every year, Wikimedia Canada holds its annual fundraising campaign. In 2023, the campaign was launched in conjunction with Giving Tuesday, a worldwide generosity initiative.

The campaign ran until December 31. The money raised, through one-off or regular donations, helps fund scholarships, edit-a-thons and other actions that support the Wikimedia movement and free knowledge initiatives across the country.

Activities supported by Wikimedia Canada

Every year, our micro-grant program provides funding for projects across the country.

In 2023, WMCA funded 6 projects:



Photo credit: Dorevabelfiore - CC BY-SA 4.0

- An **editathon to celebrate International Women and Girls in Science Day** on February 11, 2023 at the Toronto Reference Library.
- **Photographic equipment for the Quebec WikiClub**, which has already produced over 1,500 quality images in Commons
- A series of **3 editathons around French-language Quebec content on women and organizations representing sexual and gender diversity**, organized by the Quebec Gay Archives. The workshops were held on June 10, July 15 and August 12, 2023.
- An **editathon on LGBT+ history** organized in partnership with Edmonton Queer History Project (EQHP) and Art + Feminism on June 10, 2023 in Edmonton.
- An **editathon dedicated to Canada's francophone 2SLGBTQI+ community**, organized by the University of Ottawa's Social Sciences and Humanities Data Lab, on October 2, 2023.
- The **creation of a Wiki toolbox on gender bias in Quebec cinema**, in partnership with the Cinémathèque québécoise.

Upcoming events in 2024

January – April

#1Lib1Ref campaign

April

Wikimedia summit - Berlin, Germany

August

Wikimania - Katowice, Poland

October

WikiConference North America - Indianapolis, IN, USA

WikiConvention francophone - Quebec, QC, Canada

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- instagram.com/WikimediaCanada
- twitter.com/WikimediaCA
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Acknowledgements

Wikimedia Canada would like to thank all the volunteers in the Wikimedia movement in Canada, as well as all the contributors to Wikimedia projects and, in particular, the participants in WikiClubs across the country. Without their dedication, nothing would be possible.

We would also like to thank all our partners and, in particular, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) who, in addition to collaborating with us to organize numerous projects, provided Wikimedia Canada with a complimentary office space in Montreal.

We would also like to thank the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) for funding our projects and activities, and all the generous donors who enable us to carry out our mission and support our volunteers in their projects and initiatives.



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