

Together, we'll go far

2024 Annual Report
Desjardins Foundation

 **Desjardins**
Foundation



Guy Cormier

Chair of the Desjardins Foundation Board of Directors
President and CEO of Desjardins Group

Message from the President

This year, I once again witnessed the next generation's boundless energy and enormous potential. I was deeply moved by the winners' inspiring stories at the Desjardins Foundation scholarship awards ceremony. Their engagement, resilience and vision for the future are a reflection of their remarkable strength, which they'll no doubt draw on to overcome the challenges facing our society. These young people are our most valuable resource. That's why we believe in their potential, offer encouragement and provide the tools they need to shape their future.

I believe that education is key to building stronger communities and sparking positive change in our society. Thanks to the Desjardins Foundation's exceptional work, we help hundreds of thousands of young people across the country achieve academic success. Last year alone, the Foundation supported over 541,000 young people in Quebec, Ontario and other parts of Canada.

The Foundation plays a key role in helping young people succeed every step of the way, from the first day of kindergarten to graduation. It has three flagship programs designed to motivate kids and encourage them to stay in school, and that's a testament to our unwavering commitment to young people and our desire to help them reach their full potential. I'm also very proud to see more and more employees and board members getting behind the Foundation and its important mission.

With annual financial support totalling \$50 million, including \$6.7 million directly from the Desjardins Foundation, Desjardins is making a tangible investment in the future of our young people. And believe me—their success will benefit our entire society.

Thank you for contributing to this collective effort that helps the next generation chart their own path towards a bright future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Guy Cormier', written in a cursive style.

Guy Cormier

“Building hope, one young person at a time”

Interview with Nancy Lee

At the Desjardins Foundation, 2024 was a year of fertile collaborations and initiatives that inspired hope. In this interview, Nancy Lee, the Foundation’s Executive Director, talks about its work to help young people succeed at school.

WHAT WERE YOUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024?

Desjardins Group never fails to impress when it comes to collaboration. All the support we received enabled us to have an even greater impact on young people.



Nancy Lee
Executive Director of the Desjardins Foundation

The scholarship application period is a good example. Over the years, March has really become scholarship month at Desjardins. I’m always thrilled to see how engaged people are. This year, 94% of caisses worked with the Desjardins Foundation to support young people.

And of course, young people themselves are as impressive as ever. Their engagement and commitment to helping others and moving society forward is plain to see.

THE DESJARDINS FOUNDATION PRIZES HAVE ALSO BEEN GROWING STEADILY!

That’s for sure! Once again this year, the number of initiatives submitted increased by 20%. The Desjardins Foundation Prizes are a key resource for teachers and others who work with young people and care about their success.

Teachers are so in tune with the needs of their students. They tailor their projects to make sure their students are excited to wake up and go to school every morning to experience success. They have my full admiration.

The education system is facing many challenges, but we also need to applaud all the great things that are being done for young people.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS EVOLVING?

We want to support organizations that work directly with young people. Right now, we have relationships with flagship organizations in Quebec and across the country that are working to help young people succeed.

We offer support in blocks of multiple years, and that fosters deeper partnerships that build trust and go beyond financial support. We know that the actions of our partner organizations are rooted in the real needs of young people, and that maximizes the impact of their initiatives.

Our next step is to consolidate our engagement and take advantage of all the experience and fresh ideas our new advisory committee brings to the table. The committee is made up of education specialists from Quebec and Ontario, and it’s going to give us a better sense of what’s happening at the grassroots level. It’s going to give us access to new perspectives and prevent undue influence from certain perceptions. → 4

YOU TALK QUITE A BIT ABOUT REDUCING GAPS. CAN YOU EXPAND ON THAT A LITTLE BIT?

Helping all young people, regardless of their background, is all well and good. But we also want to make sure we're helping to reduce gaps. That goal has been guiding our actions over the past few years, and now we're being even more explicit about it.

We hear a lot about increasing social needs. It's like filling up a bathtub. When the water starts getting high, you can take out the plug to let some out. But if the tap is still running, it's just going to fill back up. Focusing our efforts on education is a way of turning off the tap.

That's what motivates us at the Foundation: the desire to make a real difference.

IS THAT MINDSET REFLECTED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

Most definitely! We've thought long and hard about how to increase our impact. For young people from underprivileged backgrounds, getting a one-year scholarship is helpful, but it's really just a Band-Aid solution.

Over the next few years, we'll be developing a recurring scholarship program for young people who are being held back by the cost of education. Even before a student begins their post-secondary studies, we need to send them a clear message: We believe in you, and we're going to support you all the way to the finish line.

YOU ALSO ORGANIZED AN INAUGURAL PANEL DISCUSSION. HOW DID IT GO?

It definitely isn't going to be the last one! Two specialists, Ariane Cyr, the Executive Director of Partenaires pour la réussite éducative en Chaudière-Appalaches (PRÉCA), and Égide Royer, psychologist and adjunct professor in the Faculty of Education at Université Laval, gave a talk to about 50 donors and jury members in Lévis.

They touched on things like the development of reading and math skills in younger students. One in four children is already behind when they start school. So we're asking ourselves, "What are the best ways to help them?"

These types of events and our work with the advisory committee give us fresh perspectives on what to do next. It's very exciting.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST SOURCE OF PRIDE?

When I talk about Desjardins at a presentation or an event, people often come up and tell me they've been on a scholarship jury. They always say how much they enjoyed the experience, that they discovered how young people have big dreams and are really on the ball, and that we really have the ability to help them. Those comments are a big source of motivation. Plus, it would be impossible to process 32,000 applications without the 1,500 jury members who come back year after year.

Nearly 18,000 employees, board members and retirees donate to the Desjardins Foundation as part of the Cares and Shares campaign. Not to mention all the fundraising initiatives led by employees and the Friends of the Desjardins Foundation. Their support is invaluable.

ANY FINAL WORDS?

It's often said that education is the key to building a stronger society. What we're aiming for, in our work, is that 5, 10, or 15 years from now, more young people will develop their full potential, find their place in society and become fully engaged citizens. It may sound like a lofty ambition, but you have to dream big if you want to change things.

Nancy Lee



1,563

scholarships
awarded by the
Desjardins Foundation



541,000

young people in Quebec,
Ontario and other parts of
Canada received support



772

projects supported
by the Desjardins
Foundation Prizes

Scholarship recipients share their stories

In 2024, the Desjardins Foundation offered support to 1,563 students. We handed out a total of \$2.9 million in scholarships!

Each one of our scholarship recipients has a unique story. They're living proof that young people are keeping very busy. Their determination and perseverance are a constant source of inspiration.

Meet three of our 2024 scholarship recipients: Étienne, Plem and Clara.

ÉTIENNE DECELLES, dedicated student with a passion for community involvement



WHAT'S ONE ASPECT OF YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER THAT MAKES YOU PROUD?

Last year I was elected to the municipal council for Sainte-Angèle-de-Monnoir, where I live. It's a source of pride because it's pretty rare for people my age to get involved in municipal politics.

I do theatre, stand-up comedy and improv. I take part in the Parlement jeunesse du Québec youth parliament. I just love getting involved and meeting people! You often hear folks say that young people today aren't as determined as they used

to be. But you know what? Horace said the same thing back in his day and age. Involvement might look different for today's youth than it did for our parents, but I'd encourage people to take a closer look.

WHAT CAUSES OR VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

I think the environment is the common thread running through everything I do. Protecting natural environments was a key part of my campaign. Studying geography has opened my eyes to the full extent of the climate crisis. It motivates me to get involved!

HOW HAS YOUR DESJARDINS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP HELPED YOU?

It's really been a gamechanger because it has allowed me to focus on what matters. If you have to spend a lot of time working a job during the school year, it's harder to get involved in other projects. The scholarship has given me a little financial cushion that allows me to be socially engaged.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST DREAM?

I want my involvement to have a tangible impact on people's lives. And I want my job to be more than a nine to five. For me, making a real difference on an issue like the environment is perhaps as much a wish as a dream! But that's what really inspires me.



PLEM KIJAMBA LUSHEMBE, from the Republic of the Congo to McGill University

WHAT'S ONE ASPECT OF YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER THAT MAKES YOU PROUD?

The fact that I've had access to education. I was born in a place where people don't really have the opportunity to go to school. It's rare for people to go further than high school, for example. And I have the opportunity to attend university. I'm very proud to be studying international development and political science at McGill University.



WHAT CAUSES OR VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Autonomy is a fundamental value for me. It's tied into my own personal history. I was born in the Congo, and I grew up in refugee camps until I fled my country at the age of 17. It's impor-

tant to me that people get the tools they need to make their own choices. To make their own decisions about their future.

HOW HAS YOUR DESJARDINS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP HELPED YOU?

I'm the only member of my family in Canada. I'm really grateful that the scholarship has allowed me to focus on my studies.

It's also made me realize that there are people in the community working to help people like me succeed. And that makes me want to do the same for others after I graduate.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST DREAM?

To help people in Africa. I helped create an organization to promote access to education. My dream is to set up development programs and community projects to help people.

CLARA LANDRY, driving social change

WHAT'S ONE ASPECT OF YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER THAT MAKES YOU PROUD?

In 2019, I was one of the people who got to open the climate march in Montreal, alongside Greta Thunberg. I'd been organizing climate justice demonstrations with young people for several years, but we never expected half a million people to turn out for the event.

At one point, I turned around and saw all the people marching with us. It was so amazing, I thought I was going to faint!

WHAT CAUSES OR VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Issues surrounding access to justice are close to my heart. I'm a law student and a coordinator at an organization that provides free legal services to organizations in Montreal. I coordinate about 40 student members, and we work with 13 different community organizations that host our legal information workshops.

HOW HAS YOUR DESJARDINS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP HELPED YOU?

It's really changed a lot for me. For one thing, it's meant less financial pressure. But it's also a very nice pat on the back. It's rewarding

to feel that my involvement with all these different organizations is recognized and valued. The Desjardins Foundation scholarships have really helped me in my academic career.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST DREAM?

To become a lawyer and work on issues involving violence against women. I want to help build a legal and political system that's better at dealing with violence. There are too many femicides.



Desjardins Foundation Prizes: Creating positive experiences that get young people excited about school

We all remember the teachers who made a difference in our lives. The Desjardins Foundation Prizes support today's inspiring teachers with grants of up to \$3,000 to fund initiatives for kindergarten, elementary or high school students.

The goal is to give these exceptional people more power to implement simple initiatives that get kids excited about going to school. 772 projects will be made possible in 2025 thanks to financial backing from the Desjardins Foundation Prizes, and 158,000 young people will take part in these inspiring activities.

The selected projects are almost as varied as the people who submitted them! Here are a couple of examples:



An edible garden project takes root at Joseph-Hermas-Leclerc high school

Corinne Dion's class at Joseph-Hermas-Leclerc high school planted flowers and plants in front of their school. She sees it as a great way to teach young people about the environment and the importance of respecting it. The financial assistance paid for plants and equipment like shovels and gloves for students to get involved in the project, plus a workshop with a botanist.

What did the students enjoy most? Having fun with their classmates, beautifying their school, and learning there are lots of simple things we can all do every day to help improve our planet.

"Desjardins Foundation Prizes benefit everyone: students, teachers and schools. That's why whenever someone asks me if they should submit a project, I always say yes!" said Anne-Marie Ménard, Principal of Joseph-Hermas-Leclerc high school.

See the students in action in [this video](#) (available in French only).





A group of students who took part in the Cobden District Public School project.

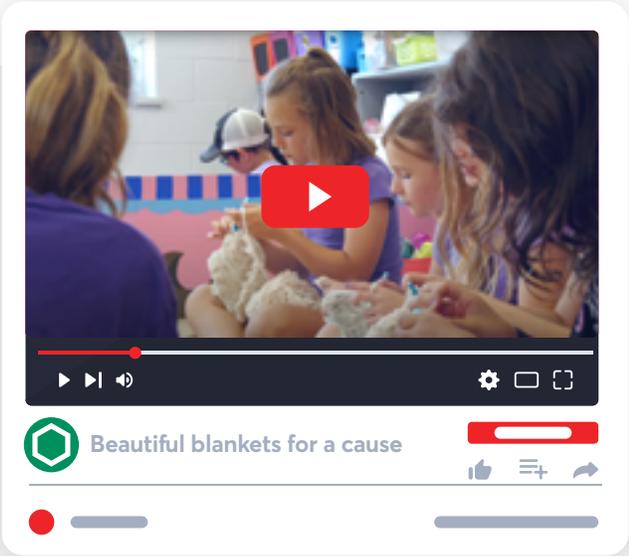
Building community connections at Cobden District Public School

At the start of the school year, Cobden District Public School teachers J. Bell and S. Wylie gave their students an opportunity to talk about how they could make their small, welcoming community a better place. The students came up with the idea of crocheting blankets to donate to the village's seniors' residence and people in need. The students soon became dab hands in the art of crocheting. Each student made a small square, which would later be assembled with others to form a blanket. The students dove right into the work. Some practised crocheting at home, and others shared tips with their classmates. The crochet sessions at school were fun for everyone.

"It was so touching to see how proud the students were when they talked about their project and the impact it was having on our community. That's what I loved the most!" said Principal Samantha Noack. "The most important thing they learned was definitely to keep on going, even after they realized that making blankets was harder than they thought," said Ms. Bell.

Check out the students in action in [this video](#).

It was so touching to see how proud the students were.



Partners recognized for their influence on young people

We're proud to support organizations that are renowned experts in their field. They take an innovative approach to helping students stay in school by meeting one or more of their essential needs:

- **Prevention:** Their work ensures that early childhood learning gaps don't increase year after year.
- **Support:** They're there for students from day one to graduation.
- **Intervention:** They take action at critical points in young people's lives.

These organizations all have one thing in common—they play a meaningful role in the lives of many young people. Here's a closer look at a few of them.



Jeunes musiciens du monde: Changing society one note at a time

Jeunes musiciens du monde offers free music classes to young people from vulnerable backgrounds. The classes foster feelings of belonging, competence and autonomy. With the right encouragement, these students are able to cultivate their ambitions, follow their dreams and have a positive impact on the world.

Between September 2023 and May 2024, the Desjardins Foundation helped 866 young people take nearly 5,500 weekly classes.



Kids Help Phone: A lifeline for 35 years

For the past 35 years, **Kids Help Phone** has offered a 24/7 mental health hotline for young people across Canada. It's a free, confidential service available in multiple languages that provides an opportunity for young people in difficulty to express their feelings. It was used 4.3 million times in 2024.

And Kids Help Phone isn't just a hotline anymore. It now has a website with tons of mental health resources, including videos, games and tools to help young people learn more about well-being.





A group of young people at the CFER scholarship ceremony.

CFER network: Where students go for a fresh start

"We give students exceptional experiences."

That's what Guillaume Leduc, Executive Director of [CFER network](#), writes down every time he starts a new to-do list.

"It's an important message, because it really represents what we're trying to do. We welcome students who've experienced trauma at school or in their personal or family life, or suffered other hardships related to economic circumstances, relocation or immigration. They don't feel welcome in the education system and they've had negative experiences at school.

At the end of the day, our job is to transform their negative experience into something that matches their abilities, to give them exceptional experiences."

Every year, some 1,000 students attend the network's 22 school/business facilities across Quebec. The training program is recognized by the Quebec's provincial education department and enables young people who are having trouble at school to develop their full potential.



Guillaume Leduc
Executive Director,
CFER Network

Guillaume. "We take students who aren't normally comfortable speaking in public and get them involved in raising awareness about the environment. It's a great way to help them develop self-esteem."

The CFER program is invaluable because it helps young people find the best possible job for them. But that's not all. The organization also aims to help students become more autonomous and socially engaged. For example, the CFERs have mandatory volunteer programs that help young people get involved in their communities and a caravan program that raises awareness about sustainable development.

"The caravan program is exceptional for young people who are dealing with challenges," said



Auberges du cœur: Shelters for young people in need

For over 50 years, the **Auberges du cœur** have been playing a critical role in helping young people who are going through tough times and experiencing homelessness.

The organization supports young people and helps them rebuild meaningful connections that can inspire them to invest in themselves, like going back to school. They provide help in lots of different ways, including by covering things like tuition, school supplies, tutoring and public transit.



Desjardins provides more than just financial assistance. For example, this year our Hardware Asset Management Team distributed some 200 computers to the shelters to help young people returning to school. Employees at Desjardins Business also teamed up to donate gift bags with basic necessities.

Over 80,000 young people have stayed in the 32 Auberges du cœur shelters throughout the years.

THIS APPROACH IS GAINING STEAM

Desjardins Philanthropic Funds

More and more people are looking to provide long-term support for causes that matter to them. To meet these growing needs, the Desjardins Foundation makes it possible for people to set up their own personalized philanthropic fund.

It's an increasingly popular solution because it's simple and flexible. It also maximizes the impact of donations because the funds are managed professionally and sustainably. Whether the cause is education, healthcare or homelessness, philanthropic funds provide a personalized, strategic and effective way to give back that reflects the donor's values.

"Helping donors set up their fund is really meaningful work. Sometimes they come to us with the intention of making donations through their will, but quickly realize that with the right planning, they can start donating today and witness the impact of their generosity. We work with them to maximize the potential of their donations by developing strategies aligned with their values and goals," said Nancy Lee, Executive Director of the Desjardins Foundation.



▮▮ From a very young age, my parents taught me the importance of giving back to my community. It's a value I still hold dear. ▮▮

Éric Leclerc

Creator of a Desjardins Philanthropic Fund



▮▮ It's simple, but not simplistic. Having a close working relationship and open lines of communication with the Foundation's team made me feel comfortable, even when we were making complex financial transactions. ▮▮

René Roy

Creator of a Desjardins Philanthropic Fund

For more information about Desjardins Philanthropic Funds, visit DesjardinsFoundation.com/PhilanthropicFunds.

Many thanks to our exceptional partners

The Desjardins Foundation's success relies on a long list of people and partner organizations who help young people succeed in school. Thanks to this community, the impact of our actions keeps getting bigger, year after year.

Thank you so much!

Our sincere thanks to:

- Desjardins Group and its subsidiaries
- The 18,000 employees, board members and retirees who donated to the Cares and Shares campaign
- All the caisses that join forces with us to make an even greater impact in our communities
- The Desjardins teams that organize fundraisers for the Foundation
- The 1,519 jury members who evaluated the applications for our scholarship programs and the Desjardins Foundation Prizes, giving a total of over 7,700 hours of their time
- The 150 board members appointed Desjardins Foundation Allies by their caisse to ensure their boards work closely with the Foundation
- All our partners who provide services free of charge, like PwC, which audits our financial statements, and our portfolio manager, Desjardins Global Asset Management, which covers a large part of the portfolio management fees for the Foundation's capital fund
- Everyone who helps young people learn about our programs and our partners' resources
- All our business partners and individual donors who sponsor scholarships, including: the Desjardins Group Security Office, Sagen Mortgage Insurance Company Canada, LTIMindtree Canada, Synergie Hunt International, Fonds Hamelys, Fonds Michel Dion, Fonds Brunelle-Brown and Fonds Gisèle et Réjean Girard
- All the Desjardins teams who share their expertise with us

Fundraising activities: Employees coming together to support our youth

People who push their limits in support of a worthy cause deserve to be celebrated for their dedication. The Desjardins Foundation is fortunate to have enthusiastic supporters who raise sizeable funds to help young people reach their full potential. Here are two remarkable fundraisers that have received lots of support and are an inspiration for anyone thinking about raising money for a worthy cause.



Participants at the starting line for the On the Road event in Lévis.

On the Road, year eight

In 2016, a small group of people embarked on a race from Lévis to Montreal to raise money for the Desjardins Foundation. Eight years later, the On the Road initiative has covered a lot of ground! This year, nearly 700 Desjardins employees walked or ran in a 24-hour relay to encourage young people to stay in school.

The initiative is led by Desjardins's Procurement, Accounting and Administrative Services Division and has grown each and every year—even during the pandemic. In 2024, the event set a new record, raising a whopping \$235,000 for the Foundation. Over the past 8 years, it has raised a total of more than \$1.2 million. That money has enabled the Desjardins Foundation to support 38,000 additional young people through scholarships and school projects. A portion of the funds was also donated to the YMCAs of Québec Foundation to offer free day camps to young people in vulnerable situations in Montreal and Quebec City.

Every year, employees who participate in the event feel a strong sense of pride. "Everyone wants to do their part," said Nadia Malek, Vice-President of Procurement, Accounting and Administrative Services. "Throughout the whole 24-hour event, day and night, people are sending us pictures of them running or walking with their kids, their parents. Sometimes they bring their pets. One person even brought their llama along! So you can see why I absolutely love it."

"I'm extremely proud to see all the great things we've accomplished as a team," said the event's founder, Louis-Philippe Bolullo. "We've done a lot over the years, and the event has continued to grow. And that's what motivates me: seeing what next year has in store!"



Read the full story behind this inspiring initiative: [On the Road | Hundreds of employees coming together to support young people.](#)



The 8 women atop Mount Kilimanjaro.

Eight remarkable women: The 2024 Mount Kilimanjaro adventure

Some people move mountains. Others, through hard work and determination, accomplish an equally impressive feat—climbing them!

In September, eight women, all current or retired employees of Desjardins, reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for the Desjardins Foundation. The group got together 5 years ago, but they had to put their plans and training on hold during the pandemic. They did a number of climbs in Quebec, the US and even in Ecuador to make sure they were ready for the challenge.

"The thing we had in common, right from the start, was a desire to push ourselves," said Nathalie Tremblay. She was the driving force behind the project and also happens to be the General Manager of Caisse du Complexe Desjardins.

The women also wanted to use the expedition to raise funds for the Desjardins Foundation. "That was crystal clear. We're fortunate to have a closeup look at all the work the Foundation is doing. So we were all behind the idea of helping young people succeed. The Foundation helped us organize the fundraising aspect, right from day one. And that was key," said Louise Bergeron, Vice-President of Director Support and Caisse Governance. Not only did the group raise \$140,000 for the Desjardins Foundation, they also raised money for the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation.



Learn more about their unforgettable adventure: [Climbing Africa's highest peak to support the Desjardins Foundation.](#)

These two initiatives are just the tip of the iceberg! So many of our dedicated employees have come up with creative ideas to raise funds for a worthy cause. Our sincere thanks go out to each and every one of them. We'd also like to give a shoutout to everyone behind the **Récûp** program and the **Huîtres en affaires** fundraiser, which is organized by Desjardins Business – Montreal. They have been steadfast in their support, year after year.

Caisse activities that promote our commitment to youth

All of Desjardins Group is engaged in helping kids succeed in school. Here are some initiatives carried out by our caisses to help local schools and showcase our scholarship winners' hard work and success.



Scholarship winners and their guests during the gala event hosted by Caisse Desjardins de D'Autray.

An inspiring journey

The journey to becoming an entrepreneur is often an interesting one. That's what the 51 scholarship winners from Caisse Desjardins de D'Autray and the Desjardins Foundation learned at a very special gala event held in their honour. The featured speaker was David Hervieux, President and CEO of Devolutions, a global leader in remote connection and password management with over 350,000 users in some 140 countries. Scholarship winners and their guests had the opportunity to meet this fascinating entrepreneur who's deeply involved in the community.



Guests having fun taking very "spatial" pictures!

A very "spatial" event with Farah Alibay

When Caisse Desjardins des Bois-Francs decides to celebrate its scholarship winners, it really goes all out. Its latest event was truly out of this world.

Over 500 attendees were treated to an immersive experience with a mobile planetarium, a virtual reality station and a space-themed photo booth. But the real highlight was a talk by Farah Alibay, the engineer who landed the Perseverance robot on Mars.

[Check out this video](#) for a behind-the-scenes look at the September 2024 event (in French only).

AVAILABLE
in French
only



Support for schools in Montérégie

The sky's the limit when five caisses join forces to support local schools!

The Châteauguay, La Prairie, Ouest de la Montérégie, Moissons-et-de-Roussillon and Seigneuries de la frontière caisses have launched a substantial investment program for local schools, which allows them to support projects submitted for the Desjardins Foundation Prizes. This year, the five caisses handed out nearly \$84,000 to support an additional 32 initiatives in the region.



Winners during the event hosted by Caisse Desjardins des Moissons-et-de-Roussillon

A spine-tingling celebration for our scholarship winners!

It's not every day you get a deep sense of pride and some hair-raising thrills. But that's just what was in store for 89 well-deserving scholarship winners from Caisse Desjardins de Joliette et du Centre de Lanaudière. They had the opportunity to hear from and meet Patrick Senécal, Quebec's undisputed king of the horror genre. Each winner went home with an autographed book and a picture with the author.

Here's a [video recap](#) of this special—and spooky—evening (in French only).



Scholarship winners from Caisse Desjardins de Joliette et du Centre de Lanaudière with author Patrick Senécal.

A night to remember for scholarship winners in the Mauricie region

The Desjardins caisses in Mauricie pulled out all the stops to celebrate the 82 post-secondary students who received scholarships from the Desjardins Foundation and through the regional caisse program, which includes the Trois-Rivières, Est de Trois-Rivières, Mékinac-Des Chenaux, Centre-de-la-Mauricie, St-Boniface, La Tuque, Ouest de la Mauricie and Maskinongé caisses.

First on the menu was some well-received coaching on financial literacy, with a focus on the importance of budgeting to achieve your goals. And, of course, a special evening of celebrations was also in order!

Learn more about the [Mauricie caisses' initiatives](#) (in French only).



Gala event hosted by the Mauricie caisses.

Our Board of Directors

We'd like to thank our board members for their unwavering support in helping the Desjardins Foundation reach its goals.



CHAIR

Guy Cormier
President and CEO
of Desjardins Group



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populaire Desjardins
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des caisses Desjardins
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Desjardins du Québec



Paula Parhon
Director of Caisse
Desjardins de Beauport

Member of the Board
of Directors of the
Fédération des caisses
Desjardins du Québec

Our Advisory Board

We'd also like to thank the members of our advisory board on educational success for their involvement with the Foundation and for sharing their expertise. Their contribution guides our decisions and gives our work greater impact in meeting needs and addressing issues in the community.

- **Sylvain Bourdon**, Adjunct Professor, Career Counselling Department, Faculty of Education, Université de Sherbrooke
- **Tya Collins**, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa
- **Éliane Dulude**, Interim Director and Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa
- **Julie Gagné**, Director, Observatoire sur la réussite en enseignement supérieur
- **Michel Janosz**, Dean, Faculty of Continuing Education and Full Professor, School of Psycho-Education, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Université de Montréal
- **Simon Larose**, Full Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning Studies, Faculty of Education, Université Laval
- **Mélanie Marsolais**, Executive Director, Regroupement des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte au décrochage
- **Andrée Mayer-Périard**, Executive Director, Montreal Hooked on School and President, Réseau québécois pour la réussite éducative
- **Séverine Parent**, Professor, Education Departmental Unit, Université du Québec à Rimouski



For more information, see [The Desjardins Foundation has a new advisory board on educational success.](#)

Friends of the Desjardins Foundation are individuals who have made a donation of \$500 or more. We'd like to thank each and every one of them for their trust and support.

Debbie Abel
Marie-Andrée Alain
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Christian Amireault
Sonia Amouamvouri
Véronique Amyot
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